

1259 Dryden Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
March 30, 2007

Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton
106 East Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

Dear Assemblywoman Lifton,

I was curious how you'd voted on the Civil Commitment bill, as you'd expressed concerns about it at your meeting in Cortland. I was disturbed to find that there appears to be no way to find roll call vote information on the New York State Assembly web site, which is about the most basic information that voters need to have available in order to be informed about how we're being represented in Albany.

Am I just missing it, or is this information not considered important enough to share with the public? The Ithaca Journal and other papers do occasionally publish "How they voted in Albany" pieces, but it doesn't appear to be a regular feature. Calling or writing a legislator all the time to find out how they voted is both inefficient and discouraging.

Other legislative bodies, notably the United States Congress (even at its most dysfunctional) appear to publish such information immediately and keep it available.

See, for example:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/rollcallvotes.html>

Could the Assembly please join in sharing this basic information?

Sincerely,

Simon St.Laurent
<http://livingindryden.org/>

P.S. As usual, please consider this letter and any response to it public.