



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN KENNETH RONK DECLARES APRIL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**



Kingston, NY - Kenneth Ronk, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature declared April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month and presented Vincent McLaughlin of Saugerties with a proclamation to deliver to Autism Society of the Hudson Valley at their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk an Expo on Sunday April 24, 2016.

McLaughlin is a dedicated activist and role model for people with disabilities. In addition to advocating for people with Autism, he serves on the Ulster County Community Services Board and represents the Village of Saugerties on the Ulster County Planning Board.

This year's Autism Walk and Expo is scheduled on Sunday April 24, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck, NY. This event is sponsored by the Hudson Valley Autism Society, Chapter #512, a non-profit agency devoted to making a difference in the lives of the Hudson Valley Autism Community. They encourage supporters to sponsor signs to show support for the cause that will be placed along the path of the walk.

Earlier this year, McLaughlin presented Chairman Ronk with a stained glass "Puzzle Piece" symbolic of the struggles people with Autism face as a gesture of thanks. In addition to honoring Chairman Ronk, McLaughlin reflected on the support he has enjoyed from past legislative Chairmen, his family and friends. "I want to thank them all," he said, "and I look forward to continuing to partner with the Legislature for years to come!"

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