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TOBY ANN STAVISKY Senator, 16th District ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

> COMMITTEES EDUCATION FINANCE CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS TRANSPORTATION AGING TOURISM, RECREATION & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

July 2, 2010

Dear Friends:

I want to congratulate you as you celebrate the Bengali New Year at the International Bangla Festival, International Bengali Festival Parade and Bengali Heritage Rally.

Over the past few decades, Bangladeshi American communities have grown across North America, and in particular Queens, New York. The contributions to our city from individuals of Bengali and Indian descent are significant and spans across all walks of life.

It is a pleasure to use this opportunity to recognize the achievements of the Bengali and Indian community and celebrate the Bengali New Year.

I am pleased to hear that, as the first of its kind to be held in North America, this year's festival will bring together thousands of Bengali and Indian community members from around the globe and will feature an impressive range of distinguished guests including writers, poets, intellectuals, governmental officials and civic leaders. The diversity of participants and attendees will be a source of inspiration to our whole community. In addition, the Muktadhara Foundation deserves special congratulation for making this a successful event.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to celebrating the achievements of the Bengali and Indian community for many years to come.

Sincerely yours

Joy a Starry