



Rep. James Albis with Allison Mahon of Donate Life CT.

Capitol Briefs

Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness

I helped to pass a law that would aim to increase the number of registered organ donors in the state. Currently, Connecticut lags behind the national average at only 40% of eligible donors being registered. The more registered donors in our state, the more lives we can save.

Sunday Sales

The legislature eliminated one of the last vestiges of the state's Blue Laws, allowing package and grocery stores to sell alcohol on Sundays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. It also allows them to sell on Memorial, Independence and Labor Days, and on Mondays following any Independence, Christmas or New Year's Days that fall on a Sunday.

Gas Tax Cap

The legislature acted in a bipartisan manner to cap the state petroleum gross receipts tax on motor fuels and enacted new price gouging laws to protect consumers from oil companies and gasoline dealers that try to exploit abnormal market conditions for profit.

Online Voter Registration

We passed a law this year that would help bring Connecticut into the 21st century by allowing folks to register to vote online through a secure website as long as they have a valid Connecticut driver's license. Additionally, the law allows for voter registration on Election Day.

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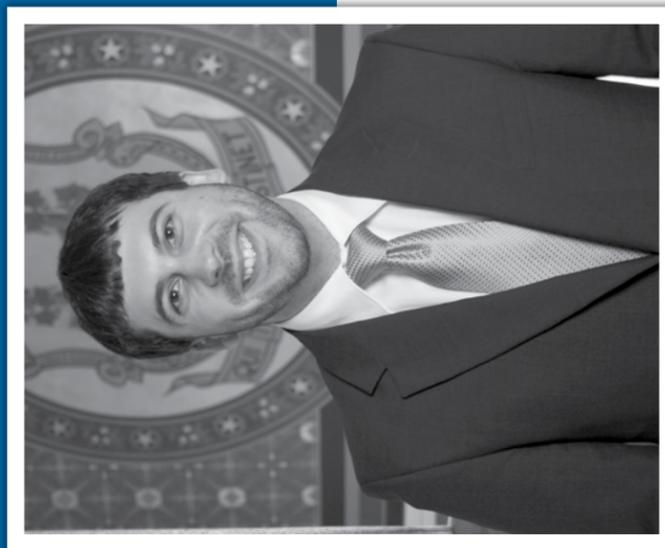
Rep. James Albis
Legislative Office Building, Room 5005
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



State Representative
James Albis

Proudly Serving East Haven | 99th District

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State Representative James Albis

Proudly Serving East Haven | 99th District

Dear Neighbor,

The 2012 session of the General Assembly was a truly historic session, and brought exciting changes to education, utility storm response, and the state's Blue Laws.

We made sweeping changes in education policy aimed at improving student achievement and focusing on early childhood development. I helped ensure that East Haven was eligible to receive nearly \$500,000 more in education assistance from the state so that our children will have a better learning environment. Additionally, I supported increased aid for Family Resource Centers (FRCs), such as the one we have at D.C. Moore School. FRCs are instrumental in preparing our children and families for grade school.

The 2012 session also proved to be consumer friendly. I supported laws improving utility companies' storm response, limiting price gouging, and allowing package stores to be open on Sundays.

I hope this report is informative. I am happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state. Together we can continue to move East Haven forward.

Best,

East Haven Fiscal Year 2012-13 Aid

PILOT: State Owned Property	\$252,734
Town Aid Roads	\$201,362
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$225,354
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$173,318
Adult Education	\$489,821
School Transportation	\$289,270
Educational Grant Funding	\$19,253,992
Total State Funds to East Haven	\$20,885,850

CAPITOL UPDATE 2012

State Representative James Albis

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Representatives Matt Ritter(left), James Albis, and Greg Haddad in the House Chamber.

Education Reform

Our education initiative will provide new support to help improve student achievement. The education reform package has long-term implications for our children and for the state's economic well-being – the better we prepare our children for the 21st century workforce, the stronger we'll make our economy. The bill:

- Includes more aid for school-based health centers and Family Resource Centers such as the one at D.C. Moore School.
- Recognizes the critical importance of early childhood education by underwriting 1,000 school readiness slots for preschoolers and implementing initiatives to improve early reading success.
- Establishes East Haven as an Alliance District, making the town eligible for nearly \$500,000 in assistance if certain achievement-raising initiatives are implemented.

Business & Job Growth

We gave more young people the opportunity to work with new funding for Youth Employment Summer Jobs and adult evening education programs. We also strengthened the Small Business Express Program and established a "Connecticut Made" initiative to promote products from local businesses.

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Protecting Condominium Owners

For the past two years I have worked hard to protect condo owners from abuse. This year, I drafted and passed a law that:

- Requires association managers to be trained in current condominium laws.
- Promotes criminal background checks for those that wish to be association managers.
- Requires Realtors to be knowledgeable about current condominium laws so that they may pass their knowledge on to prospective condo owners.
- Ensures that a condo owner may not be discriminated against for putting certain religious decorations on their doors or entryways.



Rep. James Albis chairing a meeting of the Task Force on Shoreline Preservation.

Coastal Management

Though the Shoreline Preservation Task Force that I chair is ongoing, this year the legislature made important changes to our Coastal Management Act that protects property owners and the safety of our shorelines. The new law:

- Requires the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to provide alternative solutions to homeowners if their coastal site plan is denied.
- Promotes "living shoreline" projects to protect our beaches and beach front properties.
- Asserts that personal property rights must be respected in coastal decision-making.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

I helped pass legislation dealing with emergency preparedness and response. The bill includes:

- Emergency plans every two years.
- Utility performance standards.
- Evaluation of utility performance after storms.
- Micro-grid pilot program to preserve power in critical areas.
- Procedures for expediting road clearing.
- Promoting undergrounding of power lines.

CAPITOL UPDATE 2012

Senior Focus

Protecting the quality of life for our senior citizens is a top priority of mine.

PRESERVING MEDICARE

ELIGIBILITY – This legislation ensured thousands of seniors and people with disabilities could continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles by raising the income limit for MSP to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1.

HOSPICE CARE - This new law will permit hospices to follow federal standards, which allows smaller hospice facilities the opportunity to provide high quality services to patients and their family and friends.

GRANDPARENTS' RIGHTS - Grandparents can sometimes be separated from their grandchildren's lives particularly when divorce or disagreements occur. This new law helps grandparents seeking visitation rights in the court if they can show a parent-like relationship exists, and that a denial of visitation rights could cause harm to the child.



Rep. Albis with his grandmothers, Helen Albis and Lucille Zorena.

State Representative

JAMES ALBIS

To receive more information on any of the following issues, e-mail, call or mail me the completed form. Make sure to give your name, address and email, and indicate which issues you're interested in.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2012 Major Acts | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business & Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime & Public Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Utilities | |

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