

## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

In 2013, I have received the following honors for fighting for our citizens at the Capitol. I promise to remain a champion for seniors, utility consumers, the environment, and condo owners.



- AARP Legislator of the Year Award
- Communication Workers of America Patron of the People Award
- Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Legislative Champion
- Community Associations Institute Legislator of the Year Award
- Henry Toll Fellowship Leadership Award

For the 2014 Legislative Session convening on February 5, I will remain in my leadership position as an Assistant Majority Leader as well as the Vice Chair of the Environment Committee and a member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding and the Judiciary Committees.

## HELPING SHORELINE HOMEOWNERS REBUILD

I was proud to join Governor Malloy recently to announce new support for Connecticut shoreline communities. We are in the process of establishing the Connecticut Shoreline Resiliency Fund - a loan program to help shoreline residents and businesses who are still struggling to recover from Superstorm Sandy and Tropical Storm Irene. These low-interest loans will make it possible for residents and business owners to raise their homes and businesses out of the flood zone.

For buildings along the shoreline, the best defense against flooding is to build up, or build back. New changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) mean that if you don't do so, your insurance premiums could increase astronomically - and for many families the new premiums will be simply unaffordable. The Connecticut Shoreline Resiliency Fund will give homeowners an opportunity to elevate their homes in an affordable manner, and become safer in the process.

The fund will be a revolving loan program, so that as loans are paid back with interest, they can be reused for new loans. This ensures that shoreline homeowners can continue to get the assistance they need at a price that is cost-neutral for taxpayers.



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE James Albis PROUDLY SERVING THE 99TH DISTRICT OF EAST HAVEN

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# CAPITOL NEWS 2013



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# JAMES ALBIS

PROUDLY SERVING EAST HAVEN | 99TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS,  
PLEASE CONTACT ME:

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### BRINGING YOUR STATE TAX DOLLARS HOME

I worked hard to make sure that East Haven receives its fair share of state aid and we will receive a small funding boost in direct aid. This includes money for our schools, payments to the town to make up for tax exempt property, local capital improvement and road improvement funds.

### EAST HAVEN FISCAL YEAR 2014 AID

Education Grant Funding	\$ 19,665,083
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$ 351,644
Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRSA)	\$ 40,912
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$ 166,042
School Transportation	\$ 289,496
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$ 222,964
Town Aid Roads	\$ 404,419
Adult Education	\$ 492,370
<b>Total State Funds to East Haven</b>	<b>\$21,632,930</b>



Rep. Albis embraces his responsibility to provide for East Haven Seniors

### DO YOU HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?

Connecticut's Health Insurance Exchange (also known as Access Health CT) is open, working properly, and accepting enrollments. Due to changes in federal law, if you do not currently have health insurance you will be required to purchase it from Access Health CT, and many will be able to receive financial assistance to do so. On the exchange's website, [www.accesshealthct.com](http://www.accesshealthct.com), you are able to compare different plans, find out if you qualify for discounts, and purchase insurance. You have until December 15th to purchase insurance for it to be effective on January 1, 2014. Even if you are already covered you may be eligible for a significant reduction in the cost of your health insurance.

Call 1-855-805-4325 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Or visit: [learn.accesshealthct.com/faqs/](http://learn.accesshealthct.com/faqs/)

If your employer is threatening to terminate your current coverage please contact me immediately at [james.albis@cga.ct.gov](mailto:james.albis@cga.ct.gov).

### HELPING SENIORS STAY IN THEIR HOMES

The legislature continued to reinforce its commitment to our seniors. The Livable Communities initiative demonstrates the state's commitment to giving seniors a choice in their long term care and support services. This legislation requires the Commission on Aging to establish and facilitate partnerships with municipal leaders, planning and zoning boards and social service organizations to encourage collaborative efforts for long term care planning. By January 1, 2014, state resources will be available that facilitate aging-in-place and the creation of livable communities, and the Commission will be required to establish a website that acts as a single portal for disseminating information on nationwide initiatives. Helping seniors stay in their homes is important to their well-being.



Rep. Albis reads *Horton Hatches an Egg* to the second grade class at Overbrook Elementary School

### EDUCATION

This year we passed many laws to address education issues statewide from promoting local community schools to ensuring our children's safety through school security grants. East Haven's public schools will be receiving \$331,519 for security enhancements. The installation of exterior surveillance cameras, electric locks, buzzer or key card entry systems, and panic alarms are non-intrusive ways of ensuring that our schools remain focused on educating while becoming safer at the same time. When children feel safe they are more likely to be engaged in the learning process.

Speaking of the learning process - standardized tests have long been a part of the school experience, but how well do they work to measure what our students are learning? New legislation now requires the Department of Education to conduct a study to examine the fiscal, administrative, and educational impact of these tests on our students. The law also allows the state's students to take their final Mastery Test in grade 11 rather than grade 10.

### RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

It is imperative that we provide hard working people in this state with a living wage. That is why I led the effort to pass a minimum wage increase to \$9.00 over two years. Small business owners know that paying their workers more than the minimum required by law leads to dedicated, happier employees who can also afford to be consumers.

Over 3,000 households in East Haven have a minimum wage earner. The vast majority of these workers are over 20 years old and work more than part-time hours. Even a full-time minimum wage earner makes less than the federal poverty level, and most work at big companies like McDonald's and Walmart. I supported increasing the minimum wage because it assists those who need help the most by putting money into the pockets of people who will go out and spend it at small businesses in our community. This is a victory for workers and for small businesses in Connecticut.

VISIT MY WEBSITE: [WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/ALBIS](http://WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/ALBIS)