

# MINIMUM WAGE

I am proud that Connecticut became the first state in the nation to approve raising the minimum wage above \$10 an hour. I have seen how families in East Haven struggle while working full-time jobs at minimum wage rates. Mothers and fathers should be able to have peace of mind that their full-time job will in fact keep their children from living in poverty.

Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2017 is a step in the right direction for those mothers and fathers, while putting most of those hard earned dollars right back into our local economy to help our local East Haven businesses.



## EAST HAVEN FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 STATE AID

Education Cost Sharing	\$20,004,233
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$378,650
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$161,888
School Transportation	\$261,508
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$223,273
Town Aid Roads	\$403,741
Adult Education	\$458,898
MRSA Payments	\$40,912
<b>Total State Funds to East Haven</b>	<b>\$21,933,103</b>

*Without state aid East Haven's mill rate would increase from 32.05 to 42.25.*



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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE **JAMES ALBIS**

CONTINUING TO SERVE EAST HAVEN

# CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

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CONNECTICUT  
HOUSE DEMOCRATS

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE **JAMES ALBIS** CONTINUING TO SERVE EAST HAVEN



Greetings Friends:

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful summer and staying safe. The 2014 legislative session is over and I wanted to share with you some of our accomplishments. I remained committed to fighting for the hard working people of East Haven by advocating for raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2017, increasing the number of preschool slots available for our children, and reinstating the Renters' Rebate Program for eligible seniors and individuals who are permanently disabled. I also led the charge to address one of the hottest topics in energy production and the environment – the potential danger posed by byproducts of hydraulic fracturing, a relatively new and dangerous process to extract natural gas from underground – by putting a three-year moratorium on the storage of fracking waste in the state to give us time to develop stringent regulations.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

State Representative

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JAMES ALBIS**  
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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

### RENTAL REBATE

The Renters' Rebate program has been re-opened for eligible seniors and individuals with permanent disabilities to receive partial reimbursements of expenses related to rental payments. If you are a renter and think you may qualify for this assistance, please call my office toll free at 1-800-842-8267.

### Veterans Security Deposit Guarantees

The Veterans' Housing Program allows the Commissioner of Housing to prioritize our state's veterans' housing needs and provide eligible veterans a security deposit guarantee. An eligible veteran may receive a security deposit equal to two months' rent. If you think you may qualify for this assistance, please call my office toll free at 1-800-842-8267.



### FRACKING WASTE

This year I was proud to lead the charge on a bipartisan compromise to impose a three-year moratorium on the storage of toxic fracking waste in the state of Connecticut while we develop stringent regulations. Hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking"), where a mix of water and other fluids is pumped into the ground, cracking rock to release gas and shale oil, has become a controversial issue, in part because the byproducts of this process have been found to contain harmful chemicals and/or radiation. With New York likely to begin fracking in the near future, it was vital that we passed this type of legislation in Connecticut to protect our drinking water and our citizens.

We also banned the sale, manufacture, distribution, or use of any fracking product for the purpose of spreading on roads, which some other states have begun to do, endangering their water supplies. Other environmental laws we passed last year will result in less trash burning, more recycling, and more energy-efficient buildings.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

During this legislative session we formally established the Office of Early Childhood, which will administer programs and funding that affect our children from birth until elementary school. We have increased school readiness reimbursements and added 1,020 new preschool slots this year while the Office of Early Childhood develops a plan to achieve universal pre-K in Connecticut. Early childhood education is critical to a child's development, providing a solid foundation for future learning. Pre-K helps prepare children for grade school and is a great long-term investment for taxpayers and parents.

Having the Office of Early Childhood to help deliver this coordinated system of care will better utilize state resources, better educate, and better care for our most impressionable population.



### ELECTRIC CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

The energy market can be very confusing for consumers, and this year we added much-needed transparency to predatory energy practices.

Connecticut electric ratepayers were overpaying for electricity by an estimated \$13.7 million a month. Many consumers, after signing up for low introductory rates from suppliers, soon discovered that their rates increased and they were paying more.

Energy suppliers are now prohibited from offering consumers short-term "teaser" energy contracts with low rates, then switching to much higher variable rate contracts.

Termination fees will be capped at \$50 under the law, and you can now switch back to the standard rate charged by United Illuminating within 72 hours. More transparent billing practices and faster switching, so a customer can fire a company quickly and easily, and prohibitions of coercive and deceptive sales practices, will empower consumers.

