

Unemployment Is  
**DOWN**

Labor  
Force is

**UP**

## UNEMPLOYMENT HITS 7-YEAR LOW

Connecticut's unemployment numbers are down and its jobs numbers are going up! This past July, Connecticut's unemployment rate dropped to 5.4%, its lowest rate since May 2008. This drop is occurring at the same time that our labor force is growing – we have 90,000 more people employed and 50,000 fewer people unemployed than we did this time 3 years ago. These are positive trends for our state's economy.

While these are good signs for the overall health of our economy, not everyone who wants to be back to work has found a job. Here are some great local and statewide resources that can assist you in your job search:

**CT Workforce Alliance**

[www.workforcealliance.biz](http://www.workforcealliance.biz)

**CT Department of Labor**

[www.ctdol.state.ct.us](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us)

**Office for Veterans Workforce Development**

[www.ctdol.state.ct.us/veterans/](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/veterans/)

**Connecticut Jobs**

[connecticut.us.jobs](http://connecticut.us.jobs)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**JAMES ALBIS**

PROUDLY SERVING EAST HAVEN | 99<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**JAMES ALBIS**  
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PROUDLY SERVING THE 99<sup>TH</sup> HOUSE DISTRICT  
& THE PEOPLE OF EAST HAVEN



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JAMES ALBIS**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your support. It has been an honor to represent you in the General Assembly for another term. As your state representative I am constantly fighting for hard working families, ensuring that our society is a fair and just one for those who want to better themselves.

That's why I fought for legislation to create a system for paid family and medical leave in our state. For families who need to care for a newborn child or an ailing parent, it is not always possible to take time off of work to do so without fearing that you may not be able to continue to pay your bills. Thankfully, we are now beginning to address that problem.

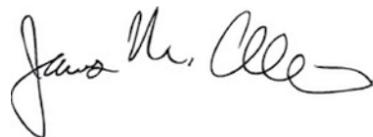
I am also proud to have continued to support Connecticut's Small Business Express Program, which has succeeded in helping to grow our small business community. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and provide great opportunities for entrepreneurs, workers, and consumers.

In addition, I have advocated to improve educational opportunities for our children by helping to expand pre-k for East Haven schools, supporting funding which brought a School-Based Health Center to Momauguin School, and pushing for reductions in redundant standardized testing in high school.

These initiatives are critical to growing our economy by providing a good, smart, and stable workforce to attract and promote 21st century jobs.

I hope you find this information to be of use and please do not hesitate to call my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



James Albis  
State Representative

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## What I've Been Fighting for...

### EXTENDING THE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Foreclosure Mediation Program has provided vital services to consumers facing foreclosure since 2008, helping many East Haven families avoid foreclosure. This year I co-sponsored legislation to extend the Foreclosure Mediation program to July 2019, ensuring that this essential program can continue to function. For more information about this program go to: [www.jud.state.ct.us/foreclosure](http://www.jud.state.ct.us/foreclosure).

### CAPPING PREDATORY VARIABLE ELECTRIC RATES

This year I co-sponsored legislation to make Connecticut the first state in the nation to protect residents from electricity providers who offer a low introductory rate that increases rapidly afterwards. I have spoken with many East Haven residents, particularly senior citizens, who were duped by these electric plans. A new law requires competitive electric suppliers to give their customers a 60-day notice before the end of their contract. Suppliers cannot charge these customers a termination or early cancellation fee and must allow customers who want to switch to standard service the ability to do so within 72 hours.

### PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

The United States is the only advanced country in the world to not guarantee paid maternity/paternity leave or paid sick leave for its workers. This session, I introduced a bill to establish a Paid Family and Medical Leave Program in Connecticut. We made great progress on this issue and it will remain a top priority of mine when the legislature reconvenes in February 2016.



REP. ALBIS ON THE STEPS OF THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING LEADING AN EARTH DAY RALLY.



### CREATING A STUDENT LOAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Applying for college loans can be complicated and confusing. I supported the creation of the nation's first Student Loan Bill of Rights, which creates an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman to assist students in navigating the loan process. The Ombudsman will also be responsible for handling student issues and investigating complaints about their loan servicers.

### LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD



Tax Rate For Household Earning \$48,000 Is Almost 24%  
Tax Rate For Household Earning \$62,000 Is Almost 14%  
Tax Rate For Household Earning \$2 Million Is Almost 8%  
Tax Rate For Household Earning \$13 Million Is Almost 6%

The median income for those living in the 99th Assembly District is an estimated \$62,000. That means many East Haven families are paying higher tax rates than those making millions of dollars each year. That is not right. In this budget we asked those who can truly afford it – individuals and families making more than \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 a year, respectively, to pay just a little bit more. Our top tax rate still remains lower than those of New York and New Jersey. There is still much work to be done to ensure that Connecticut's tax system is fair and just.