

2013 Legislative Update



State Representative

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We are more than halfway through this year's legislative session, and I wanted to give you an update on some of the work that we have done so far this year in Hartford.

Again, thank you for granting me the honor of serving you. Best wishes for a happy and healthy spring and summer!

David Alexander

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Aging

This session the Aging Committee passed several bills that will rebalance and redesign the long term care system by giving seniors more options to age in their own homes and communities. Giving seniors the option to stay in their home as they age will save seniors money and alleviate nursing home overcrowding. One bill that the committee passed increases the income eligibility for the Connecticut Home Care Program so that seniors will have the ability to age at home. However, while aging in their own homes may be ideal, some seniors are unable to do this, and that is why the committee also passed an expansion of the Small House Nursing Home Pilot Program. This program better supports patient centered care rather than the institutionalized care of larger nursing homes.

Transportation

As a member of the Transportation Committee, I have been a passionate advocate for getting a train station placed in Thompsonville on the proposed New Haven to Springfield line. In February, the Transportation Committee held a public hearing regarding the bill I proposed on this issue. In early March, Department of Transportation Commissioner James Redeker came to Enfield to meet with town leaders regarding a proposed train station, and in mid-April Senator Chris Murphy visited Enfield regarding this issue. Currently, I am working with my colleagues within the General Assembly to statutorily require a train station in Thompsonville.

Public Health

As a member of the Public Health Committee, I worked with committee members to better prevent and respond to chronic illness. One bill we passed would establish an advisory board to recommend best practices for preventing, diagnosing and treating Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses. A second bill convenes an Alzheimer's Task force to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to address Alzheimer's disease. A third bill requires newborn screening for Adrenoleukodystrophy which is a devastating genetic disease that can be life-altering and deadly if not detected early. Screening for this illness would allow doctors to cure or greatly mitigate this horrific disease.