

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
**MATT
BLUMENTHAL**

YOUR VOICE AT THE CAPITOL

Dear Friends,

Now that the 2019 legislative session has ended, I wanted to update you all on some of the legislation I have worked on this year as Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee and a member of the Education and Government Administration and Elections Committees. I have truly enjoyed representing and hearing from many of you throughout my first session.

Among other priorities, we've passed numerous bills to fight gun violence, improve public health, counter the opioid crisis, and continue criminal-justice reform.

I'm proud of the many initiatives we've passed to make Connecticut a better and safer place to live, work, and grow.

Sincerely,

Matt



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MATT BLUMENTHAL
PROUDLY SERVING STAMFORD AND DARIEN - 147TH DISTRICT



YOUR VOICE IN HARTFORD



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MATT BLUMENTHAL
PROUDLY SERVING STAMFORD AND DARIEN
147TH DISTRICT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE MATT BLUMENTHAL



Rep. Blumenthal attends a bill signing with gun violence prevention advocates for legislation he authored to ban ghost guns.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

This session, we took important measures to reduce gun violence. Public Act 19-5, known as Ethan’s Law, requires the **safe storage of all firearms in a home** with a minor. The law was passed in memory of 15-year-old Ethan Song of Guilford, who was killed by an unsecured gun.

Public Act 19-7 requires the **safe storage of handguns in motor vehicles**. This measure will reduce the numerous guns stolen from vehicles in crimes of opportunity, which are then used in crimes throughout our state each year. Just this past year, for instance, a 10-year-old girl in Hartford was killed with a gun stolen from an unlocked car in Glastonbury.

Public Act 19-6 **bans “ghost guns”**—untraceable, unserialized weapons sold over the internet as disassembled kits to circumvent our background-check laws. Numerous ghost guns have already been seized or found on our streets. The bill also regulates 3D-printed guns.

COUNTERING THE OPIOID CRISIS

This session, we passed Public Act 19-38, which increases the **penalties for the sale, manufacture, transport or improper prescription of fentanyl** so that they are now aligned with penalties for other narcotics. We also passed HB 19-191, which **improves prescribing policies, treatment, training, and controls regarding opioids and opioid addiction**. These measures will help address the profound human and economic costs of the opioid crisis and limit the crisis’s future scope.



INCREASING HEALTHCARE QUALITY, DECREASING COST

We passed Public Act 19-159, which establishes **mental health and substance-abuse parity** by mandating that treatment for those conditions must be covered by health insurance just like other healthcare. Public Act 19-134, meanwhile, requires health insurance to **cover preexisting conditions**. Provisions in Public Act 19-117 (the budget) **limit copays, coinsurance, and deductibles**, and require **coverage of mammograms and breast ultrasounds**. Public Act 19-133 requires **coverage of hearing aids**. We also passed Public Act 19-25, which establishes employee-funded **Paid Family and Medical Leave**, so that no one must choose between a paycheck and their health or caring for a sick loved one.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

We passed several important measures to increase trust between Connecticut residents and our law enforcement and agencies. Public Act 19-59 increases **fairness and transparency in our criminal-justice system** by establishing a first-of-its-kind program to collect statewide data on prosecutorial decision making and criminal-justice outcomes. The data collected under this program will help ensure that our state’s criminal-justice system is as smart, fair, and just as it can be, and likely inform reforms across the country. Public Act 19-20, An Act Concerning the Trust Act, **clarifies the circumstances under which Connecticut law enforcement and agencies may conduct immigration enforcement activities**. It will improve our public safety by helping our police focus on their job: keeping us safe from dangerous criminals. It will also establish trust with our immigrant communities by allowing them to cooperate with police when they are victims of crime or witnesses to crimes.

In my role as Vice-Chair of the Judiciary Committee, I worked on legislation important to our state alongside House Chair Rep. Steve Stafstrom (Bridgeport D-129th)



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