

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MICHAEL D'AGOSTINO

2019 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As many of you know our regular legislative session adjourned on Wednesday, June 5th. The session was marked by many positives – such as passing a \$15 minimum wage bill. There were a few disappointments – such as not being able to pass a public option bill that would have significantly lowered healthcare costs for many individuals and businesses.

We also worked on legislation that will have a direct, positive, and meaningful impact on Hamden residents in the form of additional education funding, additional town aid and securing a commitment for the state to convey the 50 acre High Meadow property to the town.

This session, as Chair of the General Law Committee, I was also very proud of legislation that we were able to pass that will overhaul all our craft beer, wine and cider industry. In just a few years, that industry has grown from a few hundred jobs to several thousand and generates hundreds of millions for the state economy. We've now made it easier for those small businesses to thrive and grow – including two Hamden originals: Counterweight Brewing Company and No Worries Brewing Company.

I hope you find this mailer informative and, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of assistance in regards to any matter concerning Hamden or the State of Connecticut.

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely,



Michael D'Agostino
91st District

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PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN - 91ST DISTRICT



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STATE BUDGET AND INCREASED EDUCATION AID FOR HAMDEN

The State Budget I voted in support of does a lot of good things – a plan for students to attend community college for three years or take 72 community college credit hours without accruing debt, expanding Husky A Medicaid to 4,000 people who lost coverage, stabilizes the teacher’s pension fund, and increases the rainy day fund to now over \$2 billion. Most importantly and of direct impact to the Town of Hamden, the budget also increases Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding. The town will see an additional \$1.2 million for FY 20 and an additional \$2.5 million for FY 21. Overall, the town will see \$34,393,207 in total state aid for fiscal year 20 and \$36,496,944 for fiscal year 21.

STATE BONDING PROJECTS

Not included in the State Budget are two projects we continue to advocate for through State Bond funding. They are: much needed renovations to the Keefe Community Center to expand educational, recreational, and social services; and a new Fire Station No. 2 which is the town’s 100 year old firehouse and busiest fire station. We hope the Governor will approve those projects this summer.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Hard-working families in Connecticut will get a boost with legislation that Governor Lamont signed into law that will increase the state’s minimum wage in increments all the way to \$15 by 2023. I am very proud to support this wage increase for my district and for residents in our State. I believe anyone working a full-time job should not have to live in poverty. This legislation is a step in the right direction and benefits over 320,000 employees many of whom are single working parents.



PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank many of you who took the time to contact me throughout the legislative session on many issues. One of the issues I heard most about was Paid Family Medical Leave and making sure that no one should have to choose between work and taking time off to care for a new child, a family member with serious health condition, or their own serious health issue. The legislation will provide up to 12 weeks of wage replacement benefits for state residents who are eligible. Thanks to your advocacy, we were able to pass this legislation to benefit workers, their families, and the small businesses that do not have the resources to pay for leave programs for their employees.



HIGH MEADOWS PROPERTY LAND ACQUISITION

This session, we introduced and successfully negotiated a land conveyance bill transfer of the 50 acre High Meadows Property located on Hartford Turnpike from the State of Connecticut. We were able to make the case that because the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has not used the property in close to 10 years that the property should be transferred back to the town at below its market value. The prime piece of real estate will be ideal for economic development, housing or other purposes that will greatly benefit the town.



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Phone: 800.842.8267 | e-mail: Michael.DAgostino@cga.ct.gov
Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106
www.housedems.ct.gov/DAgostino