

Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to share with you this update following the 2013 legislative session. Every session offers its own set of challenges, but this year was unique. With the extreme sadness of the Newtown tragedy weighing on everyone, the 2013 legislative session was a very trying time. In the spirit of bipartisanship, we passed a gun violence prevention bill with several other landmark bills that will protect our children and address critical mental health issues while respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners. We passed legislation supporting first responders and protecting the privacy of victims of violent crimes.

I am proud to say that we passed a number of measures to make lives easier for residents of Connecticut. We passed legislation promoting small business expansion, making it easier to hire veterans, and enabled health care cost cutting measures and expanding access to insurance coverage through Access Health CT.

Nothing makes me prouder than representing your needs and working on legislation that will help you. To continue doing this I need your feedback. Please call my office at 860-240-8500 or email me at Stephen.Dargan@cga.ct.gov with your questions, concerns, comments, and suggestions. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Steve Dargan



Please Keep In Touch

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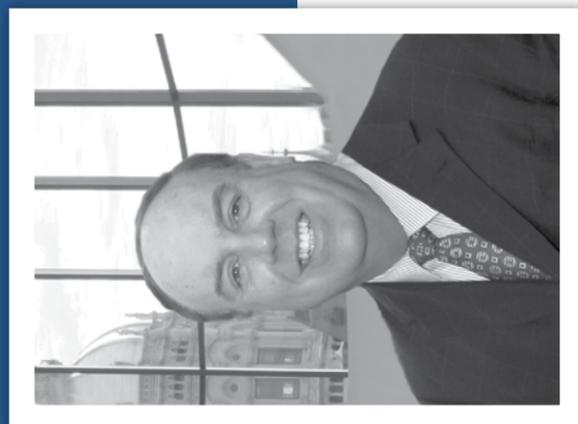
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE DARGAN
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEVE DARGAN

PROUDLY SERVING WEST HAVEN | 115TH DISTRICT



Signing of School Pool Safety Bill Into Law



Rep. Dargan Speaking at the West Haven Train Station Dedication

CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ASSAULT

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault now have new protections and advocacy tools. Changes include: Improvements to victim notice requirements when an offender has violated probation; extending the ability to terminate a rental agreement because of violence to victims of sexual assaults; and requiring the Judicial Branch to study the feasibility of permitting a sexual assault victim who is not a perpetrator's family or household member to apply for a civil restraining order. Because many abusive relationships include financial abuse, this law also requires the Judicial Branch to develop a plan to include temporary financial support orders as part of restraining orders, as several other states already do. The law also contains provisions requiring the Judicial Branch to maintain separate space in certain courthouses for victims and their advocates and revises the protocol for surrendering a firearm by a person who is subject to a restraining or protective order.

SYNCHRONIZING PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

This law protects patient's drug coverage by requiring that insurance companies cover prescriptions filled in a synchronized manner as long as the patient, their doctor and their pharmacist approve this medication plan. By simplifying the prescription refill process this legislation helps small pharmacies that traditionally offer home delivery of prescriptions, allowing them to cut down overhead costs by only delivering to a specific home once a month.

HELPING VETERANS

Streamlining access to programs and assistance for our veterans was one of our priorities this session. A new law requires cities and towns that do not have a veteran's service contact person to appoint a town employee to serve as one who acts as an ombudsman and can guide veterans to the appropriate local, state or federal resources.



MAKING POOLS SAFER

I championed a law that establishes and phases in statewide safety standards for all public school swimming pools. It is now required that a "qualified educator," "qualified swimming coach" or "qualified lifeguard" be present, in addition to the individual who is instructing the group. The qualified individual's sole responsibility will be to observe the safety of participants in a qualified pool activity. Extracurricular activities will require that there is a qualified lifeguard present to observe safety. Physical education classes will require that a physical education teacher and at least another qualified educator, swimming coach or lifeguard be present.



West Haven High School Pool

SCHOOL SAFETY

Parents need peace of mind knowing that their children are safe in their schools. Many districts have armed school resource officers and others have security guards. This law requires that an armed guard working in a school must meet certain requirements. If they are not a police officer, they must be a retired police officer or state trooper who was in good standing at the time of their retirement. They must receive training from the Police Officer Standards and Training Council on school security in compliance with recent firearms legislation. This law ensures that if an armed guard in a school is not a current police officer he or she is receiving the same training on school security and firearms as active duty police officers.

PROTECTING SENIORS

Homemaker companion agencies must now notify a client in writing that a background check was performed before a companion is sent to a home. It is also now prohibited to bill for higher skilled services than needed.

HOME SAFETY

All residents should be assured that the homes we live in are safe. To help prevent another tragedy similar to the one that took the lives of a Stamford family on Christmas Day 2011, we passed legislation that promotes the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detection equipment in all residential buildings.



Rep. Dargan Discussing Newtown First Responders Bill

PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

This law takes several steps to assist homeowners with problems reported after the recent historic storms. Firstly, it prohibits insurers from declining, cancelling or failing to renew a homeowner's policy solely because of damage due to a catastrophic event such as a hurricane. It also requires that insurance policies cover repairs that match the undamaged areas of a house in color, size, quality and type of material. The law also increases from three to five calendar days the time a homeowner has to rescind a contract they have signed with a public adjuster and requires that this right to cancel be disclosed on the first page of the contract.

PROTECTING OUR COASTLINE

Recent severe storms have reminded us how West Haven's coastline is an important and cherished natural resource. It's vital that we be prepared for a scenario in which sea levels rise and, as a consequence, the reconstruction of coastal structures is needed. This legislation helps us to develop proper plans for development, conservation and emergency management. The law also facilitates the reconstruction and repair of structures on our coastline that have been affected by the recent series of severe storms, and helps protect coastal structures in future storms by allowing towns and property owners to temporarily fortify property before the start of a hurricane or tropical storm with temporary structures, including sand bags, blocks and other suitable materials.