

Dear Neighbor,

A number of you have contacted me regarding the tragic crimes committed in Cheshire last July. To prevent similar crimes from occurring, the General Assembly adopted a criminal justice reform package. Details of this legislation are printed in this flyer.

This reform package was the result of recommendations by the legislature's Judiciary Committee and a task force convened by the Governor. The proposals were subject to public hearings and serious debate in both the House and Senate. It is my hope that this legislation will improve our judicial system, particularly parole policies, and make our communities safer.

In the coming months I will work with colleagues to address concerns about prison overcrowding, mental health and addiction treatment for inmates, and improvements to the law just passed.

Sincerely,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**STEPHEN D. DARGAN**  
PROUDLY REPRESENTING  
WEST HAVEN 115TH DISTRICT



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# Making Our Community Safer

## **NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM LEGISLATION PASSED**

- Creates the crime classification of *home invasion*, a Class A felony punishable by a minimum of 10 years and up to 25 years in prison, a fine of up to \$20,000 and mandates that 85% of the sentence be served before eligible for parole;
- Reworks our state's persistent offender statutes ("three strikes law") so that they are more usable for prosecutors;
- Alters the composition, qualifications, and process for appointees to the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP);
- Prohibits parole hearings from being conducted until the chairperson certifies that all available pertinent information has been obtained;
- Establishes a statewide automated victim notification system to provide registered crime victims with relevant offender information and status reports, assigns two full time victim advocates to assist crime victims appearing before BOPP panels;
- Limits eligibility for parole by administrative review and sets standards for reentry furloughs;
- Increases the number of reentry, diversionary and staff-secure beds for sex offenders;
- Requires the Judicial Branch to post certain arrest warrant information on the Internet;
- Requires global positioning system (GPS) monitoring of an additional 300 parolees.



Representative Stephen D. Dargan