

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PATRICIA DILLON

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This legislative session was mixed.

We made progress on policy, but the budget dominated. In one small agency alone – the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner – the spike in opioid overdoses caused a deficit well over \$1 million.

Many of you came to testify against cuts to vital programs, and we heard you. After much negotiation, aid to New Haven’s budget was largely protected; line items for arts programs and Westville Village were restored, youth programs survived, and large cuts proposed to health were partly restored. The Governor, however, retains the authority to make further cuts at his discretion.

New Haven was welcoming to placing people in the community when state hospitals were closed; cutting supports upends decades of progressive policy.

Listening to your concerns, I am focusing on food security, jobs, and aiding local efforts. If you have other concerns, please let me know.

If we work together and find common ground, our community has the talent and drive to meet challenges.

Thank you for your support and confidence.

Sincerely,

Patricia Dillon

EST. NEW HAVEN FISCAL YEAR 2017 AID

Education Cost Sharing	\$154,551,977
Grants for Municipal Projects	\$1,369,123
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$6,013,572
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$40,688,189
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$5,794,422
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,603,034
Town Aid Roads	\$1,248,795
Adult Education	\$2,716,010
MRSA Payments	\$13,741,745

Total State Funds to New Haven \$227,726,867

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2016



Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Dillon



Rep. Dillon views artist Susan McCaslin's installation at Goffe Street Armory for Citywide Open Studios.



Roundtable on children at Clifford Beers.

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Clowning around at Barnard School with the Spell family.



Rep. Dillon and Rev. Todd Foster at a press conference advocating for mentoring programs for youth.

Rep Dillon - In the News

- Spoke at a press conference with New Haven leaders supporting youth mentoring.
- Toured Jewish Family Services' food pantry.
- Met with the Farm Bureau on energy costs to local growers.
- Participated in a roundtable at Clifford Beers on cooperation with New Haven schools to aid students facing suspension.
- Kicked off volunteer efforts to improve habitat at the site of the former dam, and celebrated that the West River is running free.
- Hosted a hearing with Westville Village Renaissance on the proposed design for traffic calming in Westville Village.
- Spoke at the signing of a treaty for New Haven's designation as a refuge for migratory birds.

Pollinator Health

Hive collapse and the decline of honeybees threaten our food supply. That's why we passed legislation to address the risk to agriculture from collapse of bee colonies. The bill relies on restricting the use of certain pesticides, and building habitat by encouraging the planting of pollinator friendly vegetation. In addition, we learned that budget cuts might remove current staff, so I fought to make sure that the Agricultural Experiment Station can protect our hives and access to fresh food.



Rep. Dillon, DEEP staff and US Fish and Wildlife Service at volunteer planting. Plants stabilize habitat after removal of the Pond Lily dam.

Upbeat volunteers and clients from Leeway visited the state capitol and thanked Rep. Dillon for advocating for prevention, testing, and care of people with HIV.



More Minority Teachers

Increasing minority teachers in the classroom is more complex than simple outreach; it requires collecting data and identifying potential barriers to teaching. This year we placed new requirements on the State Board of Education, and altered the way the Praxis is used for the training of teachers.

Youth Programs

When the economy is under pressure, youth programs suffer, just when they are most needed. Some provide mentoring, arts, and environmental programs.

This year, a proposed amendment would have eliminated funds for Solar Youth, Police Athletic League New Haven, New Haven Symphony Free Family Concerts, Arte, Mi Casa, Boys and Girls Club, and some in other cities. The amendment failed, but the bill itself passed by only one vote.

The climate at the Capitol is challenging. Those of us in New Haven need to work together, and support those working with our young people.



Visiting with advocates for education funding.



Rep. Dillon with Justin and Carl, Chapel Haven students who successfully lobbied legislators to pass PA 16-60, which establishes procedures for Department of Developmental Services regarding wait lists for clients.



Rep. Dillon and Misty Hanscom toured the space planned for Lotta Studios on Whalley Ave and Blake St. Artists have moved in, and Lotta hosts West River Arts and Second Saturdays.

Desmond's Law

This year, we enacted Desmond's Law, prompted by the case of an adopted boxer mix who was abused and died as a result of injuries. Many demonstrated at New Haven's Superior Court, claiming the verdict, given the nature of the injuries, was too lenient. In the future, malicious, intentional animal cruelty is a class C felony, with possible jail time or a fine of up to \$10,000. Judges will be permitted to appoint volunteer legal advocates to assist prosecutors in animal cruelty cases.

Restraining Orders

Connecticut was a pioneer in aid to domestic violence victims, but possession and use of guns has proliferated. Also, we learned that in some areas of New Haven, restraining orders are less likely to be served.

This year the legislature added protection to those applying for a temporary restraining order (TRO) in cases where there is a threat of a firearm, and makes a person ineligible to possess firearms or ammunition upon receipt of legal notice that he or she is subject to an ex parte order. In addition, service of TRO's will be tracked, and the state marshal commission is required to adopt rules to improve service of restraining orders.

Access to Legal Services

Reliable access to legal services should not depend on wealth. That's why the legislature ensured funding for legal services for the poor. Although counsel for criminal defendants has not been a problem, access to civil court is a problem. A task force will report on this issue later this year.



Constituents visiting the capitol praised Yale New Haven Hospital's care of families. As of 2013, the hospital employed 3,300 New Haven residents.



Westville neighbor Roz Hamilton brought a young visitor to see the Capitol.