



FROM THE DESK OF
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
LOUIS P. ESPOSITO, JR.



Dear Neighbor,

The 2008 session of the General Assembly has come to a conclusion, and I am certain our experience has helped to facilitate legislation which addresses concerns that many of us are currently facing.

As you read this newsletter, take a moment to notice that this year we have worked hard to pass legislation addressing the safety of our teen drivers, the safety of our children's toys, and a variety of other issues facing different segments of our population.

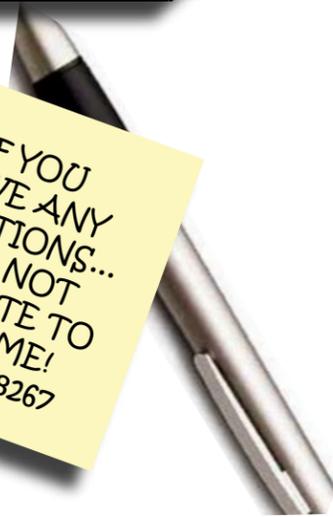
It is important to me that your voice be heard at our State Capitol. The work I continue to do here is a testament to your beliefs and our community's commitment to a better Connecticut. If you would like additional information on any laws that affect seniors, veterans, children, etc., please contact my office.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions and comments. Thank you for the opportunity to proudly serve you.

Sincerely,



IF YOU
HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS...
...DO NOT
HESITATE TO
CALL ME!
(800) 842-8267



*** PROUDLY SERVING THE 116TH DISTRICT OF WEST HAVEN ***

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State Representative
Louis P. Esposito, Jr.



2008 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



15-Year-Old Workers

The law allowing 15-year-olds to work as baggers, cashiers, or stock clerks in retail businesses under strict work-hour restrictions has been reinstated.



Toxic Toys

In view of the unprecedented number of toys recalled in the past year, we decided it was time for Connecticut to adopt stricter limits for lead in children's products. We also banned the sale of toys and other articles marketed for children under 16 that contain asbestos.

Retailers selling banned items must complete a certificate that accounts for disposal. As of October 1st, the Department of Consumer Protection will be posting a list of toxic products on their website. Check the list before you shop!



Motor Vehicle Repairs

Automobile repair shops must post a notice informing customers they have the right to choose any licensed repair shop to repair accident damage to their vehicle. Insurance companies are prohibited from requiring that a person use a specific repair shop unless the consumer agrees.



Insurance Coverage for Autism Therapy Services

This bill requires health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut on or after January 1, 2009 to cover physical, speech, and occupational therapy services provided to treat autism spectrum disorders if the policies cover these services for other diseases and conditions. Due to federal law, this requirement does not apply to self-insured plans.



Representative Louis P. Esposito, Jr.



Rep. Esposito introduces Mike Mercuriano of West Haven in the House Chamber on the first day of session.

Teen Drivers

Recently, we have been hearing news all too often regarding teen driving accidents. In an effort to prevent further accidents and encourage responsible driving, numerous changes have been made to the teen driver graduated license. Changes include:



- ◆ Extension of the passenger restrictions for new drivers from six months to one year;
- ◆ Establishment of a curfew of 11 PM for teen drivers; and
- ◆ Requirement that seat belts be worn by all passengers in a car operated by a teen driver.

In addition, teen drivers will be required to have 40 hours of behind-the-wheel training, instead of 20 hours, and parents must also attend a two-hour class with their child.

Finally, this new legislation enables police officers to confiscate a teen driver's license for 48 hours for violating any of the graduated license restrictions, as well as for excessive speeding, reckless driving and street racing.

Unemployment Benefits for Military Spouses

Too often, we forget the financial sacrifices that a call to active duty imposes on our veterans and their families. When military families are forced to relocate, military spouses through no fault of their own find themselves unemployed. We recognized the burden this creates, and we extended unemployment compensation benefits to military spouses who were forced to relocate under these circumstances.



Medicaid Eligibility for Pregnant Women

This session the legislature passed a bill that replaces the existing expedited Medicaid-eligibility process for pregnant women with a presumptive eligibility process. This will allow the Department of Social Services (DSS) to grant immediate health care coverage to these women and then verify if they are eligible.



Sales Tax Free Week

This year's sales tax-free week for back to school shopping will run from Sunday, August 17, to Saturday, August 23.



Gold Star License Plate

Last year, we authorized a Gold Star License Plate for immediate relatives of state residents killed in action. This year, I am happy to report that we eliminated the additional \$10 plate fee that was added to the normal registration fee.



Domestic Violence Victims

The tragic death of a Plymouth mother, who fled the state with her three children to escape an abusive relationship, spurred passage of legislation to allow court testimony in any family relations matter to be taken outside the physical presence of the other party.



Your Choice...

"Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit any person who will have attained the age of eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election to vote in the primary for such regular election?"



Voters have the final say. If a majority of those voting in the general election approves this amendment, it will become part of the Constitution of Connecticut.

Proudly Representing West Haven's 116th District