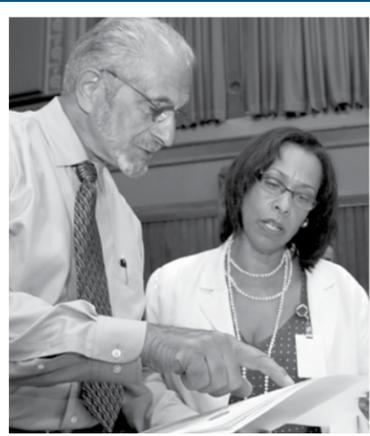


CAPITOL UPDATE 2012



Grandparents' Rights – protects the rights of grandparents seeking child visitation through the courts. The bill recognizes the often-complicated relationship between grandparents and children and visitation for the ultimate benefit of the child.

“Caylee’s Law” – sets criminal penalties for failure to report the disappearance of a child. The law is in response to the circumstances surrounding the death of Florida toddler Caylee Anthony, and applies to any parent, guardian or person who has custody or supervision of the child.

Medicare Eligibility Preserved – ensures that thousands of seniors and people with disabilities can continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles. The legislation, which passed unanimously, raises the income limit for the MSP in order to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1. It would have been a tragic irony if a welcome increase in Social Security benefits caused Connecticut residents to become ineligible for these Medicare benefits.

Place
Stamp
Here

Representative Louis P. Esposito, Jr.
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



Dear Neighbor,

From jobs to education to improved response to natural disasters, the legislature helped citizens across our state in many ways in 2012.

It started last October when we passed comprehensive, bipartisan jobs legislation that invested hundreds of millions of dollars in small businesses, gave firms hiring incentives, aligned education programs with jobs-in-demand, encouraged entrepreneurship and innovation, and eliminated red tape for growing companies.

Historic changes were made to our educational system so our children can succeed. We made it easier for people to exercise voting rights, and demanded that utility companies respond better when storms and crises hit. We further protected victims of domestic violence.

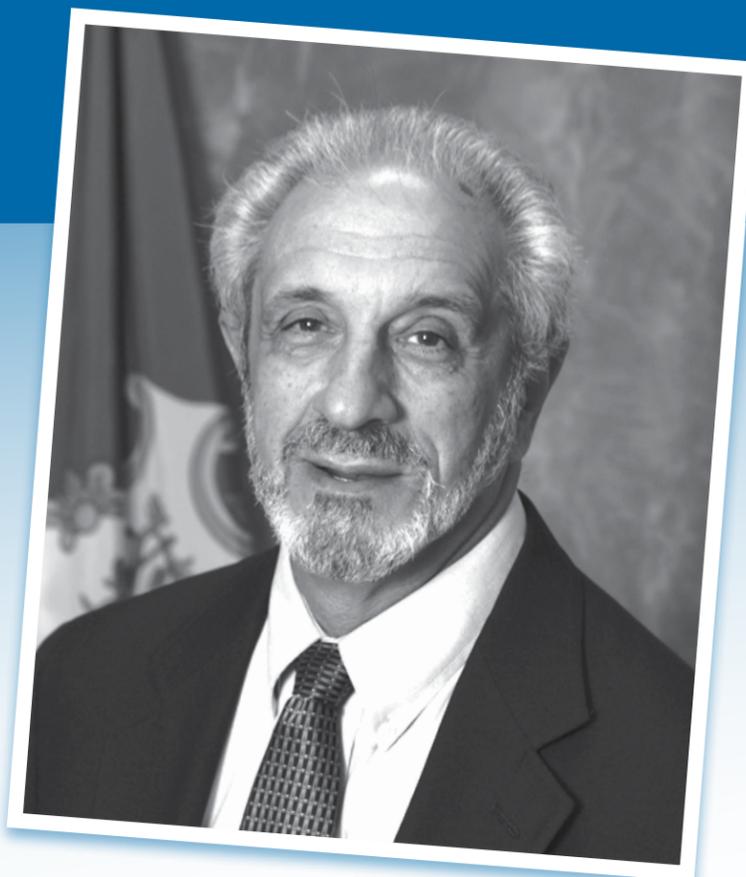
We helped children with special needs by improving Individualized Education Plans and creating a study on workforce development, training and employment of young adults with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. Along the way, we gave new hope to those suffering from debilitating illnesses by legalizing medical marijuana.

In addition, I worked on several issues important to our town, such as getting reimbursement of over \$800 thousand that was held up for more than four years. I was able to secure funding of over \$500 thousand for the improvement to the Front Avenue area. Finally, I also obtained \$110 thousand for the Allingtown Fire District to help purchase a new rescue unit.

I am proud to have supported a budget that includes \$49,145,184 in state funding for West Haven, including funding for education and vital services to help stabilize our property taxes.

I hope this report is informative. I’m happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future for our families.

Regards,



State Representative
LOUIS P. ESPOSITO, JR.

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
In District: 203-397-8588
www.housedems.ct.gov/Esposito

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937



State Representative
LOUIS P. ESPOSITO, JR.
 West Haven | www.housedems.ct.gov/Esposito

Veterans

Desecrating Veteran Memorials

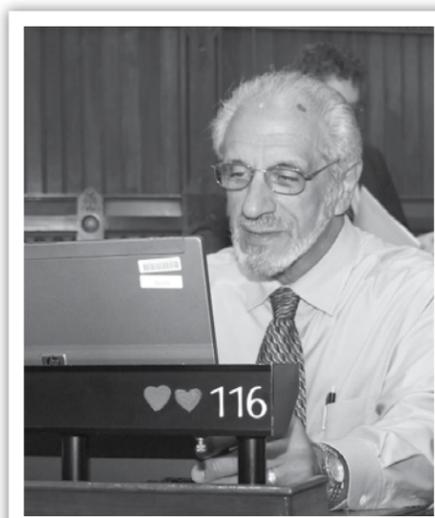
Honoring the present and past sacrifices of our veterans is one of my highest priorities. It is shocking to see an increase in thefts and vandalism of veteran memorials. We increased penalties for desecrating veteran's memorials beyond the monetary value of what was vandalized.

Custody Orders While on Deployment

In order to reduce the psychological trauma a parent feels when they leave a small child for an extended period of time, we protected parents' permanent custody orders in the event of deployment. We provided an opportunity for the military parent to create temporary custody orders that remain in effect only as long as they are away on deployment and for as much contact as possible between children and the parent who is absent while on military duty by providing contact by phone or email.

CT Veterans Charity Network

Fraudulent charity groups often misrepresent veterans, trying to take advantage of our good will toward those who serve our country. We helped protect consumers from these fraudulent groups by creating a legitimate charities list on the Department of Veteran's Affairs website.



State Representative **Lou Esposito**
 Legislative Office Building
 Hartford, CT 06106-1591
 Capitol: 800-842-8267
 In District: 203-397-8588
Lou.Esposito@cga.ct.gov

Jobs are Priority #1

We created new job opportunities for young people by funding the Youth Employment Summer Jobs program. We also supported adult evening education programs, as well as the Small Business Express program and a Connecticut Made initiative to promote products from local businesses. Additional, high level job opportunities will result from economic development funding for the Jackson Labs project that builds on our decision to become a world leader in bioscience and biotechnology.

We recognize the challenges facing cities and towns and secured funding for municipalities, relieving pressure on local property taxes.



Storm Response and Power Outages

In the aftermath of the October Nor'easter and Tropical Storm Irene that left much of the state without power, the legislature passed sweeping reforms to better prepare for future severe storms and avoid wide-spread and lengthy loss of utility service, where:

- Utilities will be held to minimum performance standards for emergency preparation and response
- Noncompliance could result in penalties of up to 2.5 percent of an electric or gas company's annual distribution revenue, approximately \$25 million in the case of Connecticut Light & Power

Racial Profiling – strengthens an existing law aimed at stopping police from profiling motorists based on race during traffic stops. Too many individuals in our communities continue to suffer from bias based on their appearance.

Education Reform – ensures all of our children have a brighter future by supporting teachers' development and providing students with effective educators, increasing Pre-K slots, and building a framework for meaningful intervention in our lowest-achieving schools. This legislation also allows the commissioner of education to assist struggling schools.

Hurricane Deductibles – protects homeowners by prohibiting insurers from applying hurricane deductibles if a hurricane is downgraded to a tropical storm before it strikes Connecticut. This bill responds to complaints from consumers who were charged large hurricane deductibles for property damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene after it was downgraded from a hurricane before entering the state in August 2011. Under the new law, homeowners and businesses are also protected from price gouging by vendors overcharging for goods and services during unusual weather events.

Hospice Care Improves – with just two licensed hospices in the state, this new law will permit hospices to follow federal standards, giving smaller hospice facilities the opportunity to provide high quality services that allow patients to stay closer to family and friends. This bill will help our state to ensure that residents have access to health care services across the full continuum of care.

**Return The Attached Card To Me, Reply At My Website
 Or Call My Office.**

**Please check the boxes below and indicate
 which important issues you would like more information about.**

Seniors Business Children
 Education Insurance Energy

Name _____

Address _____

Town & Zip _____

Your E-Mail Address _____