



Dear Neighbor,

It has been an honor to represent you in Hartford in this year. I am proud to say that we passed a number of measures to make the lives easier for residents across this great state from raising the minimum wage to making mattress recycling easier. 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.

I fought to include West Haven High School (WHHS) in the school project authorization bill put forth to the Connecticut General Assembly on June 5. This \$100 million project to renovate the aging high school will improve the quality of educational facilities for West Haven students. The bill also enabled \$2.5 million to be allocated for site work for the Engineering and Science University Magnet School. The school will educate pupils in grades 6-12 from New Haven and West Haven.

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 800-842-8267 or email me at Lou.Esposito@cga.ct.gov with your questions, concerns, comments, and suggestions. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Lou Esposito



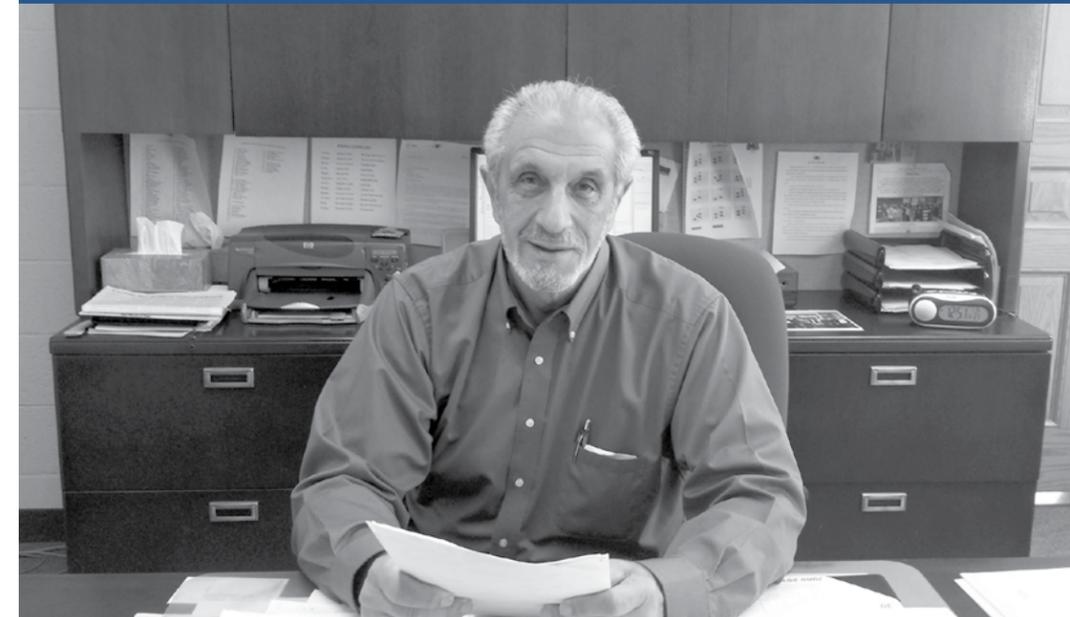
State Representative
LOU ESPOSITO
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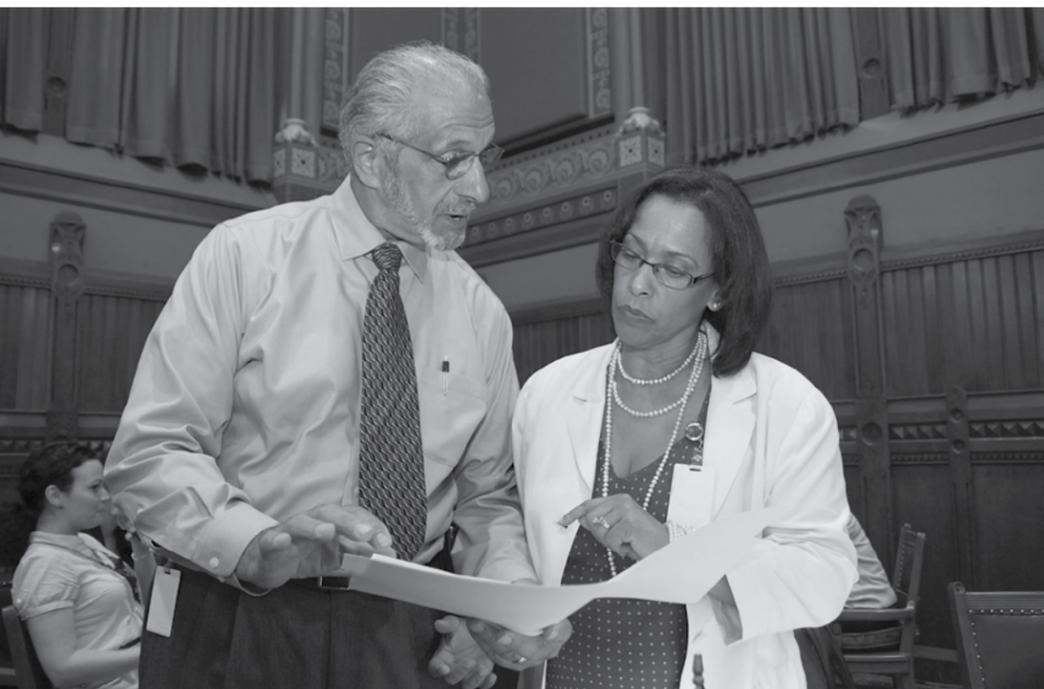


SYNCHRONIZING PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

Prescription refill synchronization means that all of a patient's prescription refills are coordinated to occur on the same day every month. 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.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

The newest version of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V), which was released in May 2013, eliminates the formal diagnoses of Asperger's disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorders (both considered part of the autism spectrum). This change worries many doctors, therapists, patients and their families because it could create barriers to needed services. This law protects people previously diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders by allowing them to continue to qualify for statutorily required services on their private health insurance plans after the release of the DSM-V.



Representative Lou Esposito (center) with U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (left) & Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (right).

HOMEOWNER PROTECTION RIGHTS

The ability to own a home is part of the American dream, but financial hardship can threaten that dream for families, sending them to the brink of foreclosure. We worked hard this past session to protect homeowners and facilitate a fair and speedy foreclosure mediation process by passing An Act Concerning Homeowner Protection Rights. A more streamlined process helps both the banks and the homeowners come to a quicker solution to keep homeowners in their homes, while fulfilling their obligation to the bank or lender. The provisions include: At least three mediation sessions before referring a case to a judge, a requirement that banks mediate in good faith, which helps remove blighted properties from neighborhoods by shortening the foreclosure timelines for abandoned property, and requirements that the bank treat a homeowner's most recently submitted financial package as current which will end the burden of constant requests for new documents. Finally, the law provides the Department of Banking with the authority to create regulations that require banks to disclose various foreclosure related information.

HOMEMAKER COMPANION AGENCIES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

This law helps to protect some of our most vulnerable residents, requiring that homemaker companion agencies notify clients in writing that a comprehensive background check was performed on the employee. This must occur before sending an employee to a client's residence for the first time. The legislation also adds additional consumer protections to agency contracts, including specifying payment obligations and when contracts between the agency and client are enforceable and can be cancelled.

PROHIBITING PRICE GOUGING DURING SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

When catastrophic weather events hit our state, it is important that the people have access to the goods and services necessary to restore normality. This law extends the ban on excessive price increases to goods and services sold during any severe weather emergency, as declared by the governor. During one of these events no one can sell or offer to sell a good or service for an "unconscionably excessive price." A violation of this act is an unfair trade practice and can result in civil or criminal penalties.



HONORARY DIPLOMAS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

Many Connecticut veterans put their own lives on hold to serve our country during times of war. This year the state legislature continued a tradition of recognizing these individuals by allowing local and regional school boards to award high school diplomas to Vietnam Era veterans who left high school for military service before graduating. The act covers honorably or generally discharged veterans who served actively from February 28, 1961 to July 1, 1975 in the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force or any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard performing duty under U. S. Code Title 32 (e. g. , certain homeland security missions).

POOL SAFETY AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Making sure that our children are safe at school was a priority during this last legislative session. Schools that have their own swimming pools present a new set of challenges when it comes to providing a safe environment for our children. This law establishes and phases in statewide safety standards for all public school swimming pools, required that among other things a "qualified educator," "qualified swimming coach" or "qualified lifeguard" be present, in addition to the individual who is instructing the group. By July 1st, 2014 schools will be required to develop a pool safety plan for each activity.