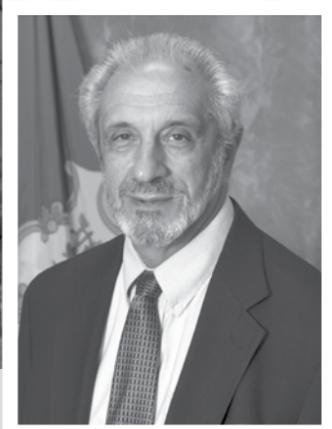
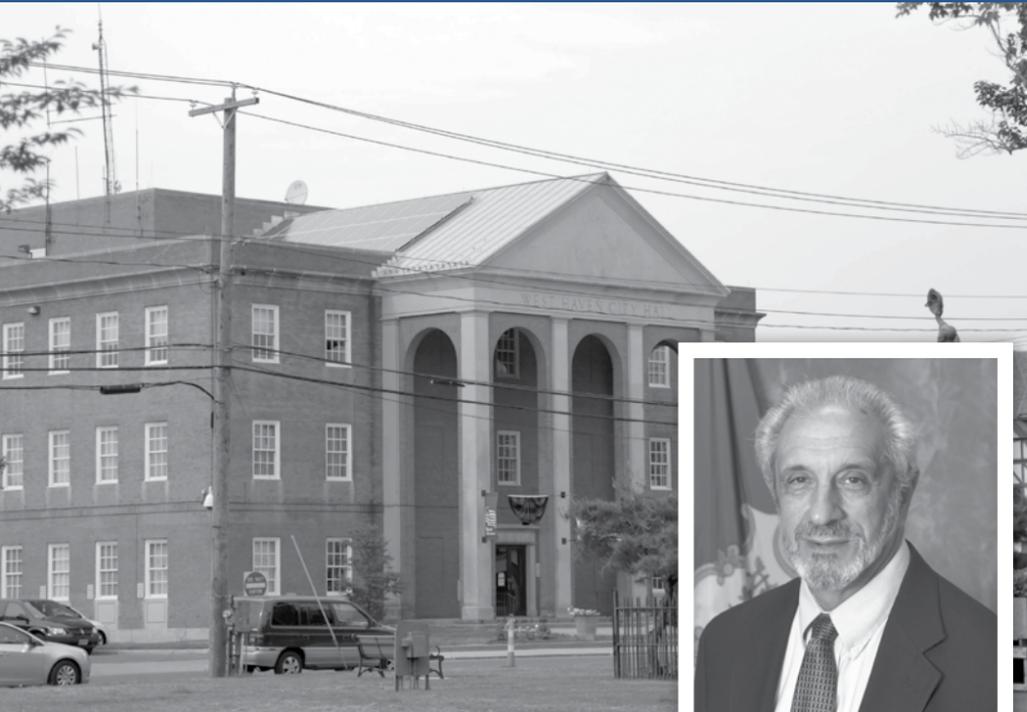


STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LOU ESPOSITO

PROUDLY SERVING THE 116TH DISTRICT | WEST HAVEN & NEW HAVEN



Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share with you this update on the recently concluded legislative session. Each year brings a new set of challenges, and the 2014 session was no different. There was a clear need to encourage economic growth, help working families, and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state.

Meeting these priorities while also adopting a balanced budget with no new taxes took a lot of hard work, but I am happy to report to you that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals. I hope you find the enclosed information helpful. Please feel free to call or email me for any reason — legislative or otherwise. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

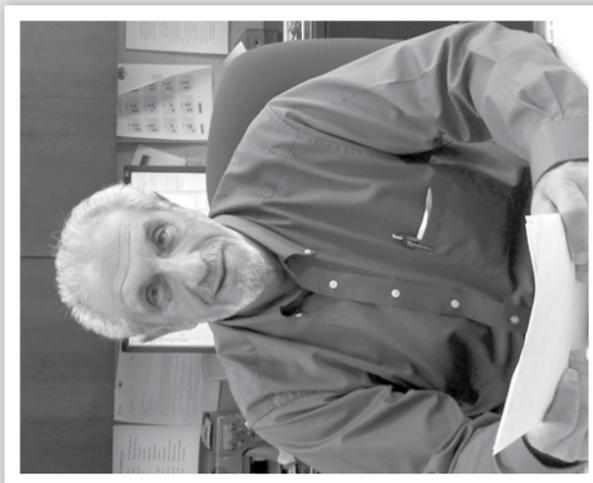
Thank you,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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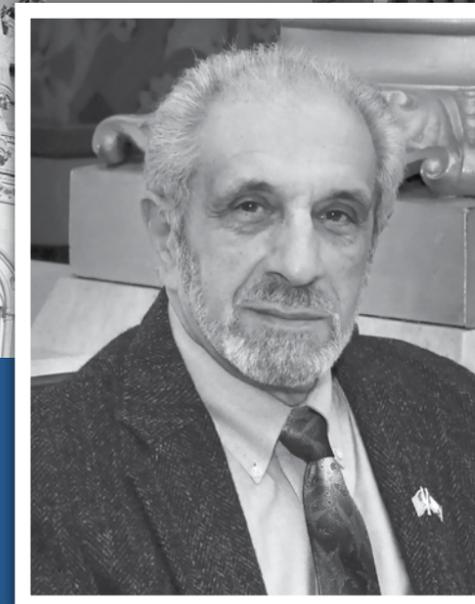
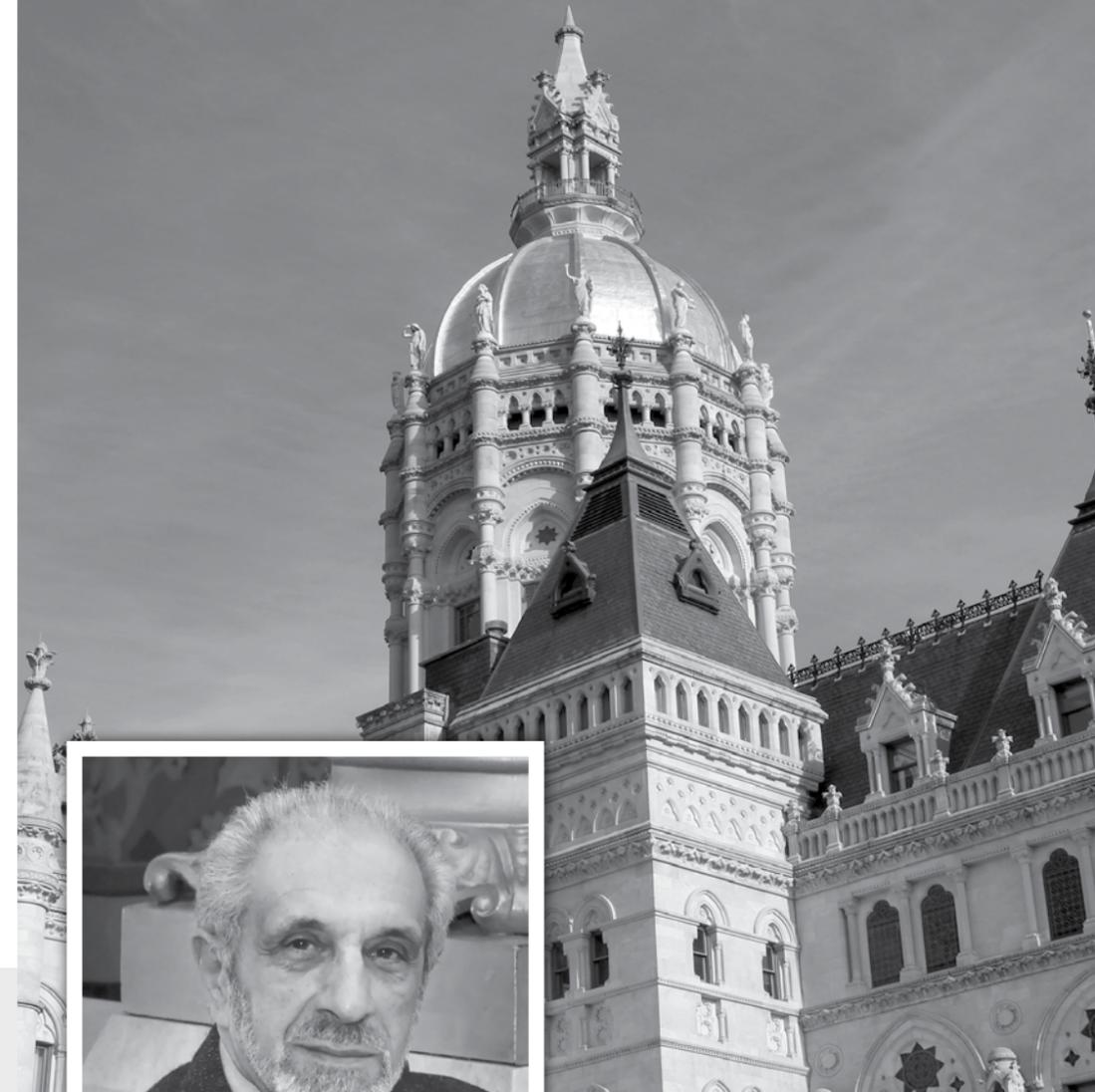
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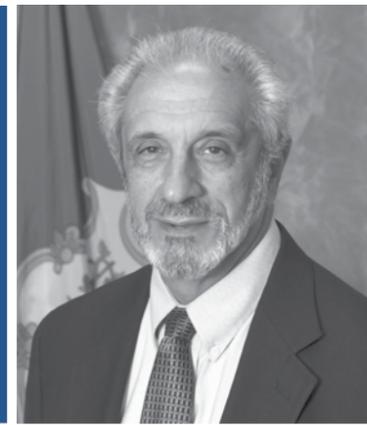
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www.housedems.ct.gov/Esposito

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LOU ESPOSITO

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WEST HAVEN & NEW HAVEN



MONITORING TASER USE BY POLICE OFFICERS

The recent death of a man who had been tasered while in police custody led legislators on the Public Safety and Security Committee to review laws regulating police use of electronic defense weapons. Based on model policy established by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, we passed a measure that will require police departments to adopt policies to oversee their use of tasers. Additionally, police officers must document the use of their electronic defense weapons and submit an annual report to the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management.

NEW LAWS AGAINST THE “KNOCKOUT GAME”

There’s a new troubling and dangerous internet fad called the “knockout game.” The objective is to walk up to a stranger and hit them with so much force that the unsuspecting person falls unconscious. In accounts from victims and as seen in video evidence, these attacks come unprovoked and are irrespective of age, with seniors being some of the victims of this vicious “game.” The legislature sent a strong message to those interested in perpetrating this kind of attack on another human being by criminalizing the act in and of itself under the law. If a person is found to guilty of participating in this deadly activity they will be subject to a charge of assault in the second degree, which is a class D felony.



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CLARIFYING THE USE OF DEBIT CARDS FOR GASOLINE PURCHASES

Many gas stations offer a discount to their customers who pay for their gasoline with cash. However, although many people consider their debit card to be the same as cash, many gas stations treat them as credit cards and do not give the discount, but it is not always clear from the wording at the pump. It is now required that gas stations provide clear notice at the pump on whether debit card transactions are treated as cash or credit.

INCREASING THE FINES ON ROBOCALLS

Unsolicited pre-recorded telephone calls, referred to as robocalls, are intrusive and annoying. This year we increased the fine to \$1,000, from \$500, when a company’s robocall fails to disconnect when you hang up.

Complaints can be submitted to the Public Utilities Regulation Authority through their website: www.ct.gov/pura or by phone: 1-800-382-4586.

ELECTRIC CUSTOMER CONSUMER PROTECTION

This year we added much-needed transparency to an issue that I heard about from many state residents regarding predatory energy providers and confusing energy bills.

Energy suppliers will now be prohibited from offering consumers short-term “teaser” energy contracts with low rates, then switching to much higher variable rate contracts within weeks. Termination fees would be capped at \$50 under the law, and a consumer could switch back to the standard rate charged by UI or CL&P within 72 hours.

More transparent billing practices and faster switching, so a customer can fire a company quickly and easily, and prohibitions of coercive and deceptive sales practices, will empower consumers.

We also passed legislation that gives consumers rights when utility companies decide to cut down tree to protect lines. The tree-trimming bill gave citizens more say in the process and limited their liability if they chose not to have trees removed.

PORT AUTHORITY CREATED

Connecticut’s three deep-water ports have long been underutilized. This year we established a Connecticut Port Authority to improve our ports, increasing trade throughout our state, growing our maritime economy with newly created jobs, and reducing the strain and congestion on our roads and bridges. The Port Authority will take advantage of Connecticut’s unique geographic position to offer niche services for freight shipping across the eastern US, and serve as an alternative to New York and Boston. This quasi-public agency will be fully operational in October 2015 and will promote commerce and thoughtful development along our major coastal cities.



Rep. Esposito attends a presentation at UNH

STREAMLINING PAID SICK LEAVE BENEFITS FOR BUSINESSES

In 2011, we required employers to provide paid sick leave benefits to their employees. This session we updated the paid sick leave law to allow businesses to administer paid sick leave annually, the way they do other benefits. The law also allows employers to determine the number of employees in the same way as they do for the state’s Family and Medical Leave Act, to make it easier to provide this benefit.