

CHILDREN

INCLUDING HEARING TESTS IN THE BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM

Beginning this year, hearing tests will now be included in the Birth-to-Three program. This program offers parents and guardians a variety of tools to ensure that their toddlers and children are properly screened and cared for if they are found to have a disability during this essential developmental period. Early detection of a delay or disability help parents and guardians make use of early intervention services for their infant or toddler.

BIG NEWS IN COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Student loan debt is an issue that impacts many Connecticut families. Sixty-four percent of college graduates in our state have student loan debt. This year, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to create a Student Loan Bill of Rights, which establishes an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman. This office will regulate student loan servicers, compile data on borrower complaints, develop a financial literacy education course for students, and will help student borrowers and their parents navigate the loan process.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

We are always looking for ways to help servicemen and women and their families. One way is to make sure that their families are able to get the same kind of life insurance coverage that civilian families get. Starting in October, insurers will be prohibited from issuing a life insurance policy or annuity that excludes coverage for the military service member in the event that his or her injury or death is related to military service or war.

ROGER'S SCHOOL EXPANSION

Stamford Public Schools enrollment has grown to over 16 thousand students. That demand has strained existing schools to their limits. Our legislative delegation secured funding for a critical expansion of the Rogers International Inter-District Magnet School which will help meet the growing demand for classroom space in our city. \$62 million will help refurbish the building at 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue so we can ease overcrowding in our school system and make sure that our children get the education they need.



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DANIEL J. FOX

PROUDLY SERVING THE 148TH DISTRICT, STAMFORD

CAPITOL UPDATE 2015

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

First of all, let me again thank you for the opportunity and honor to represent you and your neighbors as a State Representative from the 148th district.

This past year has been a difficult one for me and my family. In February, I became ill with a rare form of encephalitis. This illness impaired my mobility and speech and took me away from the remainder of this year's legislative session in Hartford.

With the help of a truly terrific group of physicians and therapists, my strength, mobility and speech are improving every day, and I am confident that I will soon resume my legislative duties and work in the community.

Thanks to so many of you for the outpouring of kindness, prayers and support that you have shown me and my family during this difficult time. It has given us great strength and proven to us once again what a special community we live in, a community that I have the honor and privilege of representing in the State Legislature.

Sincerely,



Dan Fox

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DANIEL J. FOX

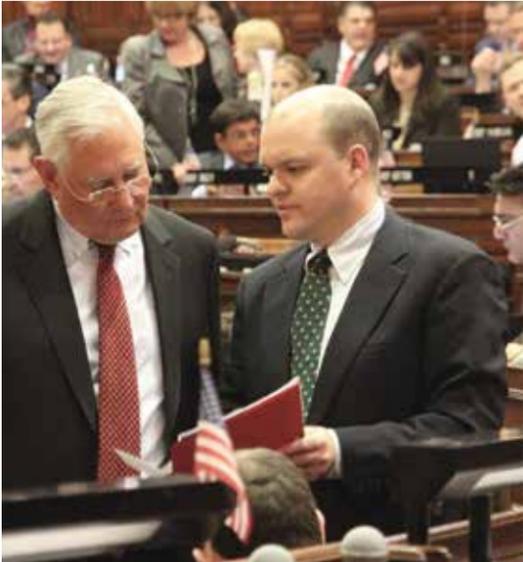
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PROTECTING SUSPECTED ELDERLY ABUSE VICTIMS

This year we also focused on protecting our seniors from elder abuse. In situations where abuse or neglect of an elderly person is suspected, the Department of Social Services is now able to petition a probate court to gain access to that person’s premises to make an assessment. For the purpose of DSS investigations and services, the definition of neglect is also expanded to include elderly people who do not live alone but whose caretaker fails to provide or arrange to provide for services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the elderly person. To protect residents of nursing homes, the Department of Social Services must notify a resident’s designee or legal guardian of any suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment within 24 hours of receiving notice from a medical provider or other mandated reporter.

LONG ISLAND SOUND BLUE PLAN AND RESOURCE AND USE INVENTORY

Long Island Sound remains one of our most precious state resources. To protect the Sound, the “Blue Plan” will inventory the resources, uses and conservation areas of our portion of Long Island Sound. With this plan in place, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection along with the newly established 16-member Long Island Sound Resource and Use Inventory and Blue Plan Advisory Committee will be able to more clearly and effectively manage our offshore waters through a data-driven process. It will also help streamline, allocate and coordinate our resources, including state agencies, academic institutions, and other stakeholders. Plans similar to this have been instituted by a number of our neighboring coastal states with great success.



PATIENT-DESIGNATED CAREGIVERS

Some patients end up returning to the hospital soon after discharge because they had not been instructed properly on their follow-up care or were unable to follow instructions. This law the CARE, (Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable) Act, requires a hospital to document a caregiver in the patient’s discharge plan, designated by the patient. They must attempt to notify the caregiver of the patient’s discharge, and instruct the caregiver on any post-discharge tasks with which the patient will need assistance.



CITY OF STAMFORD STATE AID FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 & 2017

Education Cost Sharing	\$21,994,590
Priority School Districts	\$6,374,824
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,594,310
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$3,790,890
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$1,861,575
School Transportation	\$318,898
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,643,216
Town Aid Roads	\$2,408,522
Adult Education	\$617,525
Grants and Sales Tax Revenue Shares	\$4,799,531
Total State Funds to Stamford	\$46,403,881

BETTER LABELING ON PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES

To better protect and inform consumers we are now requiring that pharmacists include with generic drugs the manufacturer’s name, the website and telephone number for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s drug safety and reporting program (MedWatch). If the patient is given a generic drug, the pharmacist must include the brand name on the label. This will help to ensure that patients are aware of what drugs they are taking, where these drugs come from and where to report adverse effects of the drugs.



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