

Liquor Reform

This seems to be the year for reform. First Education and then Liquor; better known as Sunday Sales.

As soon as the legislation came out, I held a meeting for package stores and permittees from Stratford, New Haven, North Haven, Cheshire and Wallingford, to name a few. The original bill established a medallion program which would have helped the "big guys," the Costco's, the BJ's, etc. because they could buy huge pallets of liquor and the "Mom and Pop" stores could not. If this remained in the legislation at least 300 package stores would go out of business.

A belief circulated at the Capitol that people would no longer go across the borders to purchase alcohol if Connecticut package stores were open on Sundays. When I testified before the General Law Committee, I provided a chart which clearly showed our taxes on liquor were much higher so... that out of state liquor was going to always be cheaper.

The final legislation removed the medallions and other punitive measures for the package stores. In the end, the package stores made a major concession by opening on Sunday. It is not mandatory!

To quote a friend of mine - "This was a solution without a problem." The package stores were saved.

I have also been asked to serve on the Competitive Alcoholic Liquor Pricing Task Force which was created by the legislation. I certainly will keep all your input in mind as I serve.



Working for you

Domestic Violence

As you know, I have been a member of the Speaker's Domestic Violence Task Force since it began. I have fought for and was successful in putting the G.P.S. system in place to protect victims.

This year my focus was on restraining orders and how difficult it was for victims to have them put in place. Over and over again victims went to court with affidavits and were denied a restraining order. Reason? No bruises, stitches or broken bones! I called it the "Hatchet in the Head" syndrome!

Yet, these victims had been threatened! Their children were threatened and property had been violently destroyed. The judges did not believe that threatening rose to the level of a restraining order! So I changed that!

Now threatening is more clearly defined as a reason for a restraining order. This is very necessary, since we all know that violent acts - even on property - always escalates and the next step is bodily harm. Life is tough enough! Nobody should have to live with this burden of fear.

Keep In Touch With Mary Fritz

At the Capitol:
1-800-842-1902
In the District:
(203) 269-1169

2012 Senior Laws
2012 Children Laws
2012 Business Laws
2012 Major Public Acts

State Representative
Mary G. Fritz



News for the 90th

Cheshire • Wallingford

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CLIP AND SAVE!

Important Telephone Numbers	
Medicare Hotline	1-800-633-4227
CT Partnership for Long-Term Care	(1-800-MEDICARE) 1-800-547-3443
Commission on Aging	1-860-240-5200
Medicare Advocacy	1-800-262-4414
Connecticut Legal Assistance For Elders	1-203-946-4811
New Car "Lemons"	1-860-713-6120
Consumer Protection	1-800-842-2649
Tax Department	1-860-297-5962
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1-800-833-7318

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARY G. FRITZ
News for the 90th - 2012
CHESHIRE • WALLINGFORD



Dear Neighbor,



This session, although a short session, covered many issues that, I believe, were important to you. We addressed issues ranging from the repeal of the death penalty to the problems related to the fall storms.

I did not vote to repeal the death penalty. I have always supported the death penalty, so why would I vote to repeal it! I strongly believe that because this repeal did not reach back to the men on death row, the state is going to spend millions of dollars defending against the appeals from death row.

I did not vote for the budget again this year because I could not and would not validate last year's budget and tax package that I opposed.

Although, it was a very busy session, we did some great things for you and your families.

As always, it is a great pleasure and privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Fritz
Assistant Deputy Speaker

P.S. Remember, I am only a phone call away - (203) 269-1169

Education Reform

As you all know, Education Reform became a very hot topic during this session.

On opening day, the Governor made it clear that this issue was at the top of his "to do" list. However, his proposal made teachers a target and based the qualifications of a teacher on the results of the Mastery Tests. This was not reality because in any given year a teacher could have outstanding students and the following year have a class from "another planet."

The Education Committee passed a different bill but it needed a great deal of work.

In the end, there was a compromise that I believe tried to address the achievement gap. It even made provisions about parent involvement which you and I know is critical in the education of all children.

It set up 1,000 new slots for pre-school education which we all know is very important.

Additionally, this legislation creates an intensive reading program for students in kindergarten - to - grade three reading programs. There will be routine reading assessments as well as reading intervention strategy and summer school reading programs. Those doing the reading intervention strategy will be paid by state funds.

We all know that children who cannot read after third grade often give up and we lose them; hence the achievement gap. This is the most valuable piece of the Education Reform Bill.

AROUND AND ABOUT



Coverage for Breast M.R.I.

If a mammogram is insufficient in dense breast screening then insurance will have to cover an M.R.I. for the breast. Early detection is so important in this disease. This is help for health.

Silver Alert System

This is modeled after the Amber Alert System for children only. This is for missing seniors or mentally impaired adults. The missing person's family can contact public safety authorities who will distribute information to the media and general public without delay. Saving Seniors Safely!

Massages - Legal and Illegal

A handful of massage parlors have been unlicensed and also performing illegal practices. Protecting legitimate massage parlors and massage therapists were the reasons for this



bill. If unlicensed people are employed then it's a class C misdemeanor. Complaints will be investigated by the Commissioner of Public Health.

Beechport

One of 9 projects under the Housing Trust Fund from D.E.C.D. - was Beechport Low Income Affordable Housing. It will be 20 units and the fund gave Cheshire \$3,350,000.

North Farms Reservoir Dam

This is state owned and in bad shape. Concerns arose about Rt. 68 being flooded if the dam was breached. Engineering will be done not only on the dam, but also on several other dams to the tune of \$1,150,000. Next step - let's get rid of the bloom and algae there!



Newborns and Heart Disease

Starting 1/1/13 health care facilities that care for newborns will screen them for congenital heart disease as soon as appropriate. This condition often results in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. This is Prevention and Protection.



Hospice Care

This bill requires the Department of Public Health to revise the hospice regulations. This will allow more small residential hospices to become licensed so that more families can have the much needed end of life care. Remember - the hospice in Branford was the first in the country.



MONEY COMING HOME



Cheshire

<i>Grants</i>	<i>FY 12-13</i>
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,333,156
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$142,485
Town Aid Roads	\$203,918
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$184,598
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$2,042,579
Adult Education	\$32,806
School Transportation	\$181,021
Educational Cost Sharing	\$9,376,495
Total State Aid	\$14,497,058

Wallingford

<i>Grants</i>	<i>FY 12-13</i>
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$48,051
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$371,582
Town Aid Roads	\$273,774
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$294,525
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$179,640
Adult Education	\$269,315
School Transportation	\$284,372
Educational Cost Sharing	\$21,712,580
Total State Aid	\$23,433,839

FOR YOU

Money, Money

Like the song from "Mamma Mia," the phosphorous removal program meant millions for our towns: \$7.2 for Cheshire, \$18.5 for Southington, \$13.5 for Meriden and \$19 for Wallingford. Cheshire received the \$7.2 million from the clean water fund. The other towns will receive funding through grants and low interest loans.



I attended many meetings with the towns and D.E.E.P. working to help the towns and to make sure that they had input in the language for the memorandum of understanding.

Also, I combined two bills so that the term "nutrient" was used to protect the towns from any new changes from the E.P.A. I learned a great deal and the towns benefitted and so will you!

FOR YOU

Storm Response

We all remember the storms of the fall of 2011. We also remember the great damage and lack of response. Many hearings were held and legislation was produced.

The communities not harmed were 6 in number - the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (C.M.E.E.C.) - which means these communities all have their own public utility companies who answer to their own towns.

However, the proposed legislation kept putting additional work and reporting demands on these towns and cities. The communities knew what to do, especially in Wallingford - not even a flicker. Reason? Constant maintenance so power lines and people's electricity are not in jeopardy.

Every version of the legislation had a new way of making these C.M.E.E.C. communities do more. It was a constant fight but in the end I won and the towns like Wallingford will not have to duplicate their efforts that served us so well in the storms. (Saved us money too!)