

Dear Neighbors,

A number of you have contacted me over the past few months regarding the tragedy in Cheshire last July. Your General Assembly has acted to prevent any similar crimes, and we made substantial changes to our criminal laws and their enforcement.

Let me remind you, overall, violent crimes in our state continue to decrease. However, that happy news does not mean we can rest in our battle against criminals. We learned that in spite of state law, prosecutors were not delivering copies of sentencing transcripts to the Parole Board. No one doubts that if the Board had these copies, they would *not* have paroled the convicts charged in the Cheshire murder. We now do not permit the Board to grant parole without having that information

I'm proud of our work on this new law, which included the active participation of Democrats and Republicans, prosecutors and defenders, the Executive and Judiciary branches, and most of all, many of our fellow citizens. This issue is too important for partisanship and phony rhetoric. In the coming months I will work with my colleagues addressing unanswered questions about prison overcrowding and mental health treatment of inmates, in accordance with your choices, and on any refinements of the law just passed.

Thanks for all your help,

Henry



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HENRY GENGA
PROUDLY REPRESENTING
EAST HARTFORD'S 10TH DISTRICT



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 5007
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
(860) 240-8585

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

Making Our Community Safer

NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM LEGISLATION PASSED

- Creates the new crime of *home invasion*, a Class A felony requiring a penalty of 10 to 25 years with a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence and a fine of up to \$20,000;
- Increases the penalty for burglary of a dwelling at night from a Class C felony (up to 10 years in prison with a fine of up to \$10,000), to a Class B felony (up to 20 years in prison with a fine of up to \$15,000);
- Alters the composition, qualification requirements, and appointment process for the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP) and prohibits parole hearings from being conducted, unless the chairperson has certified that all pertinent information has been obtained;
- Updates the crime victim notification law allowing the parole board to permit family members of living victims to make statements at pardons and parole board hearings;
- Implements an automated victim notification system that, among other things, can notify interested victims when the court is considering whether to accept a plea bargain, and assigns two victim advocates to assist crime victims appearing at BOPP hearings;
- Limits the reasons that the Department of Correction (DOC) can grant an inmate early release furlough;
- Establishes staff-secure “re-entry” beds for sex offenders leaving prison at the end of their sentence;
- Requires the Judicial Branch to post certain arrest warrant information on the Internet;
- Requires global positioning system (GPS) monitoring of 300 more parolees.



Representative Henry Genga