

EASING TAX BURDENS ON FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES

This year, we helped to ease the property tax burden on Connecticut’s families by requiring private colleges and massive healthcare systems to pay their fair share.

Private colleges that own off-campus property will now be required to pay taxes on any property used to house students, just like any other homeowner in town.

Connecticut’s largest health systems will pay taxes on all taxable property purchased after October 1, 2015.

By enacting this law, private colleges and large hospitals will help pay for the services they use, such as fire, police, and public works, just like the rest of us.



Rep. Genga at the historic groundbreaking for Pratt & Whitney’s new state-of-the-art engineering building which will result in 450 new jobs

Please contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas for how to improve East Hartford and the State of Connecticut

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HENRY GENGA

PROUDLY SERVING THE 10TH HOUSE DISTRICT | EAST HARTFORD

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2015

Dear Neighbor,

I am thrilled to report that in this year’s legislative session we adopted a state budget that will greatly benefit residents of East Hartford. Under the new budget, East Hartford will receive an additional \$700,000 for general government in 2016 and \$1.9 million more in 2017.

And because of my efforts, and those of the other East Hartford legislators, an additional \$915,000 in grants will go towards our magnet schools. This will provide relief against property taxes and future increases.



In another victory for East Hartford, the motor vehicle tax will be capped at 32 mills for 2016 and 29.36 mills in 2017. Currently, our East Hartford motor vehicle tax rate is 45.86 mills. Owners of motor vehicles in East Hartford will save a lot of money as a result of the new budget.

I worked hard this year to develop a state budget that represents the wide-ranging priorities of our diverse state and sets us on a path that encourages continued economic growth and promotes fairness. The budget protects hard-working, middle-class families by providing property tax relief through additional aid to our communities, and funds vital services that people rely on every day by asking millionaires and corporations to pay a little bit more.

Essential funding was protected for families that need it most, including social services, libraries, before-and after-school programs, developmental services and state parks.

To protect our financial future, I fought hard to institute over one billion dollars of budget cuts and to control state spending by prioritizing the needs of Connecticut’s families and the residents of East Hartford.

All the best,

Henry

Henry J. Genga
State Representative



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PROTECTING SENIORS FROM ELDER ABUSE

This year, I focused on protecting our seniors from elder abuse. Now, when abuse or neglect of an elderly person is suspected, the Department of Social Services (DSS) will be able to petition a probate court to gain access to the residence to investigate. A new standard for elder abuse now includes that of elderly people who do not live alone but whose caretaker fails to provide or arrange to provide for services necessary to maintain the patient’s physical and mental health. If you need to report elder abuse, you can call DSS offices at 1-800-842-1508.

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. The new CARE (Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable) Act, requires a hospital to include a caregiver in the patient’s discharge plan, if they have been designated by the patient. The hospital must attempt to notify the caregiver of the patient’s discharge and instruct the caregiver on any post-discharge tasks the patient will need assistance with.

GIVING ELECTRIC CONSUMERS THE UPPER HAND

I am proud to have put more power in the hands of consumers by supporting a ban on variable rate electricity, protecting Connecticut residents from electricity providers who offer very low introductory rates that rapidly increase. Competitive electric suppliers must now give their customers a 60-day notice of the end of their contracts and must allow customers who want to switch to standard service the ability to do that within 72 hours. Connecticut is the first state in the nation to enact this important consumer protection law.

EXPANDING COMMUNITIES’ ACCESS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Connecticut has some of the highest electricity rates in the nation. To combat this, we need to prioritize investments in renewable energy. With this in mind, I voted to expand the Connecticut Green Bank and to require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to authorize up to 5% for the purchase of major solar energy components. The Green Bank’s residential solar energy program will offer renewable energy credits, funding assistance and critical training to city officials. This useful tool will help communities like East Hartford develop a smart permitting process that will promote solar energy.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The budget is balanced, under the spending cap, and it invests in Connecticut’s transportation infrastructure which is critical to our future economy. By investing in transportation projects, such as the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line, the widening of Connecticut’s highways, expanding the busway in East Hartford, and the I-84 Viaduct in Hartford, roads, bridges, and ports, we are encouraging smart growth, addressing traffic congestion, and bringing sustainable jobs home to Connecticut.

A SECOND CHANCE SOCIETY

Connecticut’s drug policies have filled our prisons with nonviolent drug offenders who struggle to reintegrate into society upon release. The Second Chance Society will ensure public safety, save money, and help end the culture of mass incarceration by lowering sentencing for nonviolent offenses. This initiative will give ex-offenders more opportunity to get back into the workforce – and will also save millions in taxpayer dollars.



Rep. Genga with Governor Malloy and Jackson Laboratory President Dr. Edison Liu at a Jackson Laboratory’s Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Students from East Hartford STEM Program visit the Capitol

MORE STEPS IN CLOSING CT’S EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT GAP

One of my top priorities is closing Connecticut’s sizable education achievement gap and improving outcomes for our lowest performing students. This year, new laws demand that more teachers be certified in shortage areas, that greater numbers of minority teachers be recruited, and all educators be given strategies to build better relationships with students of different cultures. The Office of Higher Education will annually report to the Education Committee on the demographic background of teachers-in-training.

UPDATES TO OUR EDUCATION LAWS

Each year the State Department of Education and the legislature consider new ways to improve programs and policies. Some of the more significant improvements this year include encouragement of more participation in agricultural internships, allowing national exam results (like ACT and SAT scores) to count toward graduation requirements, and improving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility notification process. The administration of epi-pens in schools will also be improved, and schools will be allowed to better manage internet access throughout their libraries. Finally, local schools will be given more flexibility to regionalize, and thus cut costs.

IMPROVING MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

This year, I worked hard to enact several pieces of legislation that will improve Connecticut’s mental health care system. The newly created Children’s Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board will bring professionals together to help the state monitor how we are taking care of our young children. The Board was created in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook tragedy. This implementation plan is critical to meeting the mental, emotional, and behavioral needs of our children.