

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Henry Genga

PROUDLY SERVING THE 10TH DISTRICT | EAST HARTFORD

Dear Neighbor,

On March 8th, Connecticut had its first confirmed case of coronavirus. On March 9th, the Governor declared a state of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies. And our lives have been radically changed ever since.

My commitment to you and your family has not changed. We will get through this period, and I know our state will be stronger on the other side.

This newsletter is intended to provide you with helpful information and resources, as well as an overview of some of the work my office has been doing during this time.

If you have any questions, concerns, or if I can be helpful to you in working with any state agency or understanding how any of our state laws or regulations can affect your work, our schools, or your opportunities, please call or email me anytime.

Best,



Henry Genga



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PROUDLY SERVING THE 10TH DISTRICT | EAST HARTFORD

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CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES

For the most up to date information please visit:
portal.ct.gov/coronavirus

The CDC and Governor Lamont are continuing to require individuals wear masks in public when you are unable to “social distance” more than 6 feet away from others.

If you are out of work, you have the right to file for unemployment insurance. Visit www.FileCTUI.com to file your claim or call: 860-263-6975, 203-455-2653, 860-263-6974 or 203-455-2650.

If you are a business owner, the Department of Economic and Community Development is developing and updating guidelines on safe ways to operate your business: business.ct.gov/Recovery. They have also opened a small business hotline: 860-500-2333.

If you notice a business not operating in a safe manner, call 2-1-1.

If you are having trouble paying your residential mortgage or rent, we have worked with banks and landlords to provide you additional time to put together payments. For more information on these programs, visit: portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/information-for/homeowners-and-renters.

In addition, we have worked with the federal delegation and the Governor’s office to develop and fund a number of smaller assistance programs ranging from funding for artists to farmers, to helping our schools deal with unexpected expenditures. For more on these, please visit my website: www.housedems.ct.gov/Genga.

I know that working with state agencies and our partners during this time can be complicated. Phone lines are crowded, applications may be confusing. My office is here to help. Call or email me anytime, and I promise I will get you help.



ADVOCATING FOR YOU DURING THIS TIME

This has been a remarkably challenging time for all of us. My office has worked with many of you to fix issues with your unemployment applications, helped your business apply for financial aid and worked with the DMV to get your car registered. I know that it is during these challenging times when we need government help and services the most.

That’s why I have worked with my colleagues to advocate for all of you with the Governor and his administration. I am proud to say that because of our advocacy, we have expanded tele-medicine, brought additional COVID-19 testing sites to our community, expanded affordable childcare options for front-line workers, and delayed due dates for state income taxes and municipal property taxes. If there are more ways that we can make state government work better for you, please let me know.

THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT WASN’T

When we began this year’s legislative session on February 5th, I expected to be working on many of the issues that you all have prioritized for me including reducing the cost of health insurance, making it easier to exercise your right to vote, and bringing back more support for our schools. As a member of the Education, Public Health, and Public Safety and Security Committees, I was deeply involved in public health issues. This work continues now, and will continue through any special session of the legislature this summer or fall, and into next year.

One of the few votes we took this year in the House of Representatives was for the bond act. I am proud to say that this legislation contained authorizations for state aid for our town. The town of East Hartford received \$1.4 million more in state aid than the town expected and budgeted for. The town has put this additional money in its reserve account, which can be used to reduce next year’s property taxes.

	FY 20	FY 21
LOCIP (LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS)	\$449,404	\$449,404
TOWN AID ROAD	\$579,436	\$579,436
GRANTS FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS	\$6,308,383	\$6,308,383

In addition, the bill contained funds for workforce development, launching the Paid Family Medical Leave insurance program, funding transportation improvements. It is now up to Governor Lamont and the Bond Commission to release these funds, and I will hold them to that.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

While we continue to be guided by public health experts on the steps we need to take to safely “reopen”, we also have an opportunity to build a stronger and more robust state. Already we are working to ensure hospitals and health care providers such as nursing homes have adequate stock of personal protective equipment. And we are working with farmers and food banks to protect and localize our food supply chain.

Furthermore, there are other pieces of legislation we are focusing on in our upcoming special session: voting with an absentee ballot and police reform. Voting is an essential right for everyone. With this in mind, during our public health crisis, I will be supporting legislation that will give every voter the ability to vote with an absentee ballot. This legislation will ensure that everyone will stay healthy and safely vote. Also, I believe in the fight to end systemic racism in our community and state. Recognizing these biases, we as a legislature will push for comprehensive police reform to ensure that all of our residents feel safe. We must make sure that the policies implemented are thoughtful, reasonable and effective.

Your stories and experiences are important to helping us improve the quality of life for you. How well did the safety net work for you and your family? How can we do better? What services were not available that you really needed? I want to hear from you!

SIGN UP FOR CTALERT, THE STATE’S EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM, WHICH PROVIDES TEXT MESSAGE NOTIFICATIONS TO USERS.

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