



2012 Legislative Session Preview

This past year Connecticut turned a corner on the road to economic recovery. The economic growth and fiscal challenges we faced were significant and we took action to create jobs and balance the budget. This year, jobs and business growth will certainly remain my top priorities.

There are many other important issues being considered this legislative session. I remain committed to working toward a leaner and more efficient government while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens and keeping essential services properly funded.

I am convinced that with your input and support we can address the most pressing needs of our community. Thank you for the honor of serving you.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Henry Genga".

State Representative

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State Representative **HENRY GENGA**

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Reducing Domestic Violence

We have made sweeping changes to our domestic violence laws in recent years. Now we are working at strengthening civil restraining and criminal protective orders to better meet the needs of victims. We are proposing to:

- Clarify state law to let minors get restraining orders
- Extend restraining orders from 180 days to one year
- Require bail commissioners to evaluate safety in offender releases
- Improve victim notification when a case dismissal is entered, an offender violates probation or the terms of an offender's probation are altered
- Maintain funding for 24/7 staffing at shelters

Health Insurance for Small Businesses

Small businesses consistently tell us that the high cost of health insurance is an impediment to expansion and job growth. That's why I will be supporting a bill allowing small businesses, including the self-employed, to purchase employee health care

coverage through the state employee health plan. We can help businesses control these costs and doing so will strengthen and stimulate our economy.

Reforming Our Schools

This year we have introduced sweeping education reforms to help ensure that all of Connecticut's children have access to a top quality education. These proposals include expanding access to pre-school and establishing a quality rating system for all pre-school programs. The legislature will be working at reducing red-tape faced by schools and districts that demonstrate consistently strong academic results for their students. We are also looking at increasing support for schools and school districts such as East Hartford that need to help their students achieve an acceptable level of academic growth — without reducing support for other schools.

Storm Response

We all agree that our utility companies did not meet our expectations during and after last year's

storms. Clearly, they need to be more accountable in restoring service and meeting customer needs. There are several proposals that I'll be supporting that will improve storm and emergency response of our utilities by establishing benchmarks for service restoration and imposing significant fines on the utilities if they fail to meet those standards.

Jobs for Mid-Size Companies

We created aggressive legislation last fall to support the efforts of small businesses across the state to expand and grow jobs. Now we need to increase the number of businesses that qualify for hiring incentives and tax breaks. To do that, I support changing the definition of small business from 50 employees to 100 employees. That will greatly increase the number of businesses that can take advantage of these growth incentives. I'll fight to do all I can to help businesses get access to capital for equipment purchasing and improvements that will allow those businesses to grow and create jobs.