

CONNECTICUT RANKED NO. 1 PLACE TO LIVE

Our state is the best place in the United States to live when it comes to your overall well-being, health and education. According to a nonpartisan study by Measure of America, states were ranked on the basis of the American Human Development Index, which took into account various metrics of health, education and earnings, and Connecticut was ranked No. 1. It also measured well-being in the three key areas – life expectancy, educational attainment, and median earnings – that shape the opportunities available to everyday people and enable them to live freely chosen lives.

According to the 2015 U.S. News & World Report – Best High School rankings, East Hartford’s Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy ranked No. 1 in our state and 34th in the nation. In order to be eligible for a state ranking, a school must be awarded a national gold or silver medal. The report also stated Connecticut has 14 gold medal schools, 35 silver medal schools and nine bronze schools.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Henry Genga

Representing East Hartford | 10th Assembly District

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Dear Neighbor,

There were many issues this year that demanded our attention, but two in particular stood out as most deserving: our children and those who have dedicated their lives to protect our country – the military veterans.

Students who lose their way and have to be disciplined is an unescapable fact of life in growing up and becoming productive adults in the community. So, how do we address that? This year, my colleagues and I decided that we have to place more emphasis on prevention instead of punishment especially in the early years.

For our veterans, we cut state income taxes and we took steps to develop veteran programs specific to the needs of women.

As your legislator, I want to assure you that I will continue to work hard to improve the quality of life for everyone in East Hartford. I hope you find this information to be of use, and please know that I will represent East Hartford to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,



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DECRIMINALIZING STUDENT BEHAVIOR

This year, we made efforts to promote prevention over punishment in our school systems. These changes will keep students safer and focused on learning. We addressed the unclear role of School Resource Officers (Police Officers in schools) by requiring that boards of education reach an agreement with their resource officers as to their roles and responsibilities within the school. These agreements may include a graduated response model that would outline several alternative interventions before resorting to the criminal justice system. In addition, rather than punish young children by taking them out of the classroom, we prohibited out-of-school suspension or expulsion for students in preschool, kindergarten, and first and second grade. Schools are encouraged to implement early detection and prevention programs, via school-based primary mental health programs. Exceptions to the suspension and expulsion ban will be made for a student whose behavior endangers others or is overly violent or sexual, or involves weapons or drugs.



PROTECTING SCHOOL CHILDREN

We passed a new law that strengthens penalties for people who work with children (mandated reporters). It is now a felony crime for mandated reporters to not report suspected child abuse. The law also makes interfering with the reporting of child abuse a felony.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION FOR YOUTH ATHLETES

In order to improve and promote safety for young athletes, a new law was passed which makes written or electronic information on concussions available to every child athlete, as well as his or her legal guardian. Such information must be presented to the athletes and their families yearly. By providing information on concussions, the symptoms will be more identifiable, and sports safety will consequently improve.



TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY

This year, we cut taxes for Veterans effective for tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2015 - giving a 100% CT state income tax exemption for military retirement pay. The exemption applies to federal retirement pay for all retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and CT Army and Air National Guard.

THE CONNECTICUT WOMEN VETERANS' PROGRAM

Longstanding programs for veterans were developed without the unique needs of women veterans in mind, and this bill acknowledges the need for information and services tailored for female vets. This bill was passed unanimously.



A SECOND CHANCE SOCIETY

Connecticut's drug policies have swelled 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. The Second Chance Society will also give ex-offenders more opportunity to get back into the workforce and save millions in taxpayer dollars.

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