



GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

Connecticut is the first state to pass a genetically modified organisms (GMOs) labeling law. This law requires that certain foods that contain GMOs be labeled as such. This law becomes effective once it is enacted in four states, including one that borders Connecticut. This allows consumers to make individual and informed decisions about what is in the food they eat.

Rep. Haddad at the Storrs Farmers Market discussing the new GMO law with Jonathan Janeway from Sweet Acre Farm

GUNS

This session the legislature passed one of the strongest gun violence prevention bills, now law, in response to the tragedy in Newtown last year. It bans all future purchases of magazines larger than 10 rounds, and the future purchases of assault weapons. The law also puts in place new mental health training and screenings and mandates that all schools come up with a safety plan in case of emergency. That safety plan will help law enforcement better plan a response.

SIMPLIFYING FINANCIAL AID

Students and parents will soon be able to do side-by-side comparisons on each school's financial aid package, allowing the applicant to make a more informed decision on which school is right for them. This year I proposed legislation that requires every higher education institution in Connecticut to use the financial aid shopping sheet developed by the Federal Consumer Financial Bureau and the U.S. Department of Education.



Scan this QR Code using your smartphone app. to directly access website.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE Gregg Haddad PROUDLY SERVING MANSFIELD | 54TH DISTRICT

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Gregg Haddad

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

Dear Neighbor,

As your Representative in the State House, I've worked hard to solve the challenges we face in Connecticut. This report shares information about some important changes to the law from the 2013 session.

As always, please contact my office if you have a perspective to share on an issue important to you. I welcome your comments because they allow me to better represent our town and its residents.

Sincerely,

Gregory Haddad
State Representative



Rep. Haddad and Sen. Williams with a young inventor at the Connecticut Invention Convention's Day at the Capitol

Discussing Storrs Downtown's new housing



STATE REPRESENTATIVE GREGG HADDAD

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ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

In an effort to continue the state's initiative of streamlining services for the rapidly aging population and assess the state's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this law requires the Department of Administrative Services to provide a progress report on accessibility into and within state buildings.

VOTING RIGHTS

In order to provide greater flexibility in voting, the legislature passed a resolution that puts a constitutional amendment on the 2014 general election ballot for a vote by the public. The amendment removes the current restrictions on absentee voting and allows the legislature to explore different forms of early voting.

HOMEMAKER AGENCIES

Homemaker companion agencies are now required to notify clients in writing that a comprehensive background check was performed on their employees. Also, we added protections to agency contracts to further protect the consumer.



Rep. Haddad at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Storrs Center

CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This session we established the Governor's Scholarship program which simplifies the state financial aid program for all Connecticut residents at in-state higher education institutions by consolidating the existing undergraduate student aid program including: CT Aid to Public College Students Grant, Connecticut Independent College Students Grant and the Capitol Scholarship.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

We passed several laws this session to help victims of sexual assault, human trafficking and/or domestic violence.

- Broadened the crime of human trafficking.
- Redefined sexual assault as any sexual contact with a person whose ability to resist or to communicate consent is impaired because of their mental or physical condition.
- Improved the notification requirements when a domestic violence offender has violated probation; extends the ability to terminate a rental agreement because of violence to victims. We also require the Judicial Branch to develop a plan to include temporary financial support orders as a part of restraining orders.

INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE

Connecticut residents who earn minimum wage have gone three years without seeing an increase in their salaries. This increase allows these families to earn approximately \$900 more a year if they work full-time. By increasing the minimum wage the legislature is helping low wage earners and is boosting local economies.

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DRIVER'S LICENSES

Allowing every Connecticut resident to obtain Connecticut driver's licenses makes our roads and families safer, is good for the economy, and is the right thing to do. That is the purpose of this legislation that recognizes the reality of the estimated 54,000 people who, despite their immigration status, contribute to our communities and economy every day. They are our neighbors, our fellow taxpayers, and our friends.



Rep. Haddad with two students from Mansfield Middle School who came to testify on a bill they proposed

HELP FOR OUR MILITARY

We updated two laws relating to our armed forces including expanding the group of eligible recipients of the Military Relief Fund which provides grants to help immediate family members of Connecticut's armed forces pay for essential household goods or services. And with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" we passed a law this session to restore state benefits to military veterans who were previously denied benefits based solely on their sexual orientation.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and UConn are required to report back to the legislature on the possibility of establishing the Connecticut Center for Coasts which will gather data and plan for future storms and sea level rise.

STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT

In order to streamline state government and increase effectiveness, we eliminated 32 boards and commissions. We also reconstituted the Metro-North New Haven Rail Commuter Council as the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council, to show that commuter rail is not just a regional issue.



Rep. Haddad in the House Chamber



Rep. Haddad walking with other elected officials. Photo credit: Kim Bova