

OTHER IMPORTANT LEGISLATION

- **HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES:** The Small Business Hotline provides entrepreneurs and existing small business owners with customized advice, education, and network resources in one place. Running a small business is hard work, and we must give entrepreneurs the tools and resources they need to succeed. **(PA 17-158)**
- **WORKING TO RECRUIT BUSINESSES TO CONNECTICUT:** In order to make Connecticut a more attractive and business friendly state we established a working group to look at public-private marketing partnerships to recruit businesses to the state and issue a report on its findings and recommendations to the Commerce Committee. **(SA 17-18)**
- **DEVELOPING A "CONNECTICUT-MADE" LOGO:** From Pez to Whiffle Ball to Munson's Chocolates, CT manufactures many well-known products. The Department of Economic and Community Development will develop a Connecticut-Made or CT-Made Logo that Connecticut businesses can use to promote products that they manufacture or produce in the state. **(PA 17-132)**
- **CONSUMER ADVOCATE FOR METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF HARTFORD COUNTY CONSUMERS:** An independent consumer advocate will now have a place at the table with the Metropolitan District Commission to represent consumers when the MDC addresses rates, water quality, water supply and wastewater service quality to ensure any decision is in the best interest of the consumers. **(PA 17-1)**
- **SOCIAL SECURITY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS:** As a part of the budget, we passed a provision phasing in an exemption of social security and pensions from the state income tax starting in 2019. This will help provide much needed tax relief to those who most need it and allow them to keep more of their own money. Another new law requires landlords to return any security deposit that exceeds one month's rent if the tenant turned age 62 after paying the deposit, upon request of the tenant. **(PA 17-236)**
- **RENTERS' REBATE:** An unfortunate change that came with the state budget was transferring the administration of the Renters' Rebate program to the towns, which had resulted in a delay of renter's rebate checks going out this year to the many seniors and those eligible who rely upon it. The good news is that after we spoke to our legislative leadership we were able to pass legislation to fix and restore the program. Renters should see no difference and those who have already applied can expect to see checks in December.
- **CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES:** With the State budget that passed we were able to restore funding to the Care 4 Kids child care subsidy program. This funding will allow for the program to reopen enrollment and begin to address the 5,769 families who have been on the waiting list. This is a program that helps low-income families afford safe, quality child care and allows parents to remain in the workforce.

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**CAPITOL UPDATE 2017**

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you this update on the 2017 legislative session. Since elected, my goal has been to forge a path for a stronger Hartford, and stronger Connecticut. I worked to pass bipartisan legislation that improves the lives of working families, encourages economic growth, and makes critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state.

The policies we passed support our small businesses, spur workforce development and ensure that we are making Connecticut more affordable for our young people and our seniors. I am committed to fighting for you and building a solid Connecticut for future generations. Although the regular session has concluded, I will continue to work to keep Connecticut a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Our future is stronger when we work together, so please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if I can ever be of help to you or your family. I hope you find the enclosed information helpful. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

Estimado amigo,

Me complace compartir con usted este boletín actualizado de la asamblea legislativa del 2017. Desde que fui electo, mi meta ha sido forjar un camino que conduzca a un Hartford y a un Connecticut más fuerte. Trabaje para aprobar leyes bipartidistas para mejorar las vidas de familias trabajadoras, que promueven el crecimiento económico y hacen inversiones críticas en el futuro de nuestros niños y estado.

Las pólizas que aprobamos apoyan nuestros pequeños negocios, estimulan el desarrollo de la clase trabajadora y afirma que estamos trabajando para hacer de Connecticut un lugar más económico para nuestros jóvenes y ancianos. Estoy comprometido a luchar por usted y construir un Connecticut sólido para usted y para futuras generaciones. Aunque la asamblea regular ha terminado, yo continuare trabajando para mantener a Connecticut un mejor lugar para vivir, trabajar y sacar la familia adelante.

Nuestro futuro es más fuerte cuando trabajamos unidos, así que no dude en llamarme si puedo ser de ayuda a usted o a su familia. Deseo que encuentre esta información útil. Es un placer y honor servir como su representante estatal

Sincerely / Sinceramente,



Getting sworn in

Leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of Session

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | REPRESENTANTE ESTATAL JOSHUA HALL PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD | SIRVIENDO HARTFORD



Speaking with a constituent

Reading through legislation

PREVENTING OPIOID ABUSE

The maximum opioid drug prescription for minors has been decreased from a 7-day to a 5-day supply. Also, health insurers are now required to cover medically necessary detox treatment, and medical providers are required to discuss opioid risks with patients. This year in Connecticut, more people will fall victim to drug overdoses than from car accidents and gun violence combined. We hope this legislation will help combat drug abuse and addiction. **(PA 17-131)**

IMPROVING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We have created a one-stop office for any business that is moving to or expanding in Connecticut. Businesses will now be able to work with professionals from across state government and private agencies to develop a custom recruitment and training program. An additional working group was established to coordinate existing business support services. All this helps create a talent pipeline to ensure Connecticut residents are properly trained and prepared to work careers in their region, such as manufacturing, insurance, and bioscience. **(PA 17-207)**

REFORMING THE BAIL SYSTEM

Under our current system of pretrial detention, low risk offenders are routinely held in jail simply because they cannot afford bail. Under new legislation, judges are barred from requiring cash-only bail and can no longer require bail for minor crimes unless that person poses an immediate threat or is being held for a family violence crime. **(PA 17-145)**

REVISING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In 2010, the number of credits a student must earn to graduate high school increased from 20 to 25. This new law helps ease the struggle to implement this change by allowing towns more flexibility in determining which high school courses are appropriate to reach that increased number of credits required for graduation, so long as those courses align with state standards. This law also allows more mastery-based courses to satisfy state requirements; and eliminates end-of-year requirements for certain courses. **(PA 17-42)**

REFORMA DEL SISTEMA DE FIANZAS

Bajo nuestro sistema judicial actual de detención pre-juicio, los ofensores de bajo riesgo se quedan rutinariamente en la cárcel por no poder pagar fianza. Con esta ley, será prohibido que un juez requiera que la fianza se pague con dinero en efectivo solamente y tampoco puede fijar fianzas por delitos menores a no ser que el juez determine que esa persona posee peligro inmediato o que haya sido detenido por un crimen de violencia familiar. **(PA 17-145)**

REVISANDO LOS REQUISITOS DE GRADUACIÓN DE ESCUELA SUPERIOR

En el 2010, la cantidad de créditos necesarios para graduarse de escuela superior aumentaron de 20 a 25. Esta nueva ley ayuda a aliviar la lucha al implementar estos cambios permitiéndoles a los pueblos más flexibilidad al determinar que cursos son apropiados para alcanzar el nuevo número de créditos necesarios para graduación siempre y cuando estén alineados con el estándar del estado. Esta ley también permite más cursos basados en dominio para satisfacer los requisitos del estado y elimina los requisitos de fin de año de algunos cursos. **(PA 17-42)**

PREVENCIÓN DE ABUSO DE OPIÁCEOS

La prescripción máxima de medicamentos opiáceos ha sido reducida de 7 días a 5 días. También exige que los planes de seguro médico cubran tratamientos de desintoxicación necesarios, y los proveedores de salud tienen que discutir los riesgos de opiáceos con los pacientes. Este año más personas en Connecticut caerán víctimas de sobredosis de drogas que por accidentes automovilísticos o por violencia de armas combinados. Es nuestro deseo que esta ley ayude a combatir el abuso y adicción a drogas. **(PA 17-131)**

MEJORANDO EL DESARROLLO DE LA FUERZA LABORAL

Hemos creado una oficina para ayudar a cualquier negocio que se mude o expanda en Connecticut. Ahora los negocios podrán trabajar con profesionales de agencias privadas o estatales para desarrollar planes de reclutamiento y entrenamiento personalizados. Además, se estableció un grupo de trabajo que coordinara servicio de apoyo a negocios existentes. Todo esto ayuda a crear una fuente de talento para asegurar que los residentes del estado estén propiamente entrenados y preparados para trabajar en profesiones regionales como manufactura, seguros y biociencia. **(PA 17-207)**

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

No longer will a business be able to deny women employment opportunities because of pregnancy, or retaliate when reasonable accommodations are requested. **PA 17-118** strengthens current protections for pregnant and nursing women, requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for these employees, and sets up protections that prevent an employer from discriminating against pregnant women. These protections are critical to women's financial security and are good for families and the economy.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This law strengthens CT's human trafficking laws by broadening the crime of trafficking in persons to include sex trafficking, enhances the penalty to a class A felony, and creates the felony crime of commercial sexual abuse of a minor for those who patronize or solicit minors who are trafficked for sex. The law also requires the posting of services for trafficking victims in additional businesses. **(PA 17-32)**

DERECHOS DE MUJERES

Ya nunca más un negocio podrá negarles oportunidad de empleo a mujeres por estar embarazadas, o tomar represalias cuando se solicita algún acomodo razonable. **PA 17-118** refuerza las protecciones existentes para mujeres embarazadas o que estén lactando, requiere que los empleadores provean acomodaciones razonables para estas empleadas, y establece protecciones que impiden a empleadores discriminar en contra de mujeres embarazadas. Estas protecciones son valiosas para la economía, la seguridad financiera de las mujeres y para el bienestar de sus familias.

VÍCTIMAS DE TRATA HUMANA

Esta ley refuerza las leyes de trata humana en Connecticut ampliando el delito de tráfico de personas para incluir tráfico sexual, categoriza el delito a clase A, y crea el delito de abuso sexual comercial de menores a aquellos que son complacientes o que solicitan a menores que son víctimas de tráfico sexual. Esta ley también exige que más negocios publiquen servicios para víctimas de trata humana. **(PA 17-32)**