

GOOD NEWS FOR SIMSBURY

SIMSBURY VETERANS MEMORIAL

Working with the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 1926 and the American Legion Post 84, I was able to help Simsbury secure a \$150,000 STEAP grant to complete the construction of the Simsbury Veterans Memorial. The memorial will recognize and honor the 104 Simsbury residents that gave their lives to serve and protect our country.



SENIOR HOUSING GRANT

Simsbury was recently approved for a Community Development Block Grant from the state that will provide important upgrades and improvements to senior housing. Both the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments and Virginia Connelly Senior Residence Project will receive a combined total of \$775,580. The Simsbury Housing Authority will use the money for site improvements at the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments and a roof replacement at the Virginia Connelly Residence. Both properties include 110 affordable housing units serving seniors and people with disabilities.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOHN HAMPTON

PROUDLY SERVING THE 16TH DISTRICT, SIMSBURY

CAPITOL UPDATE 2015



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Dear Friends:

I am honored and privileged to be your State Representative and your voice at the State Capitol.

The 2015 legislative session adjourned after dramatic deliberations over the state budget. The Connecticut General Assembly adjourned on June 3rd but reconvened on June 29th to implement the budget, finishing our work on June 30th.

I remain a strong advocate of fiscal restraint and responsibility, voting in opposition to a budget that increases spending, raises taxes and places unnecessary burdens on our business community.

From continuing to focus on revitalizing the economy and job creation to small business growth, I am proud of my accomplishments on behalf of our community.

As Vice Chairman of the Committee on Children, I introduced legislation with a Simsbury mother that establishes a Rare Disease Task Force. The task force will look at research data, diagnoses, and treatment of rare diseases.

As a member of the Aging Committee, I championed significant legislation on behalf of senior citizens that protects them from abuse and exploitation.

As a member of the Banks Committee, I supported the creation of a Student Loan Bill of Rights that ensures that borrowers who take on student loans have adequate resources at their disposal and regulates student loan servicers in Connecticut.

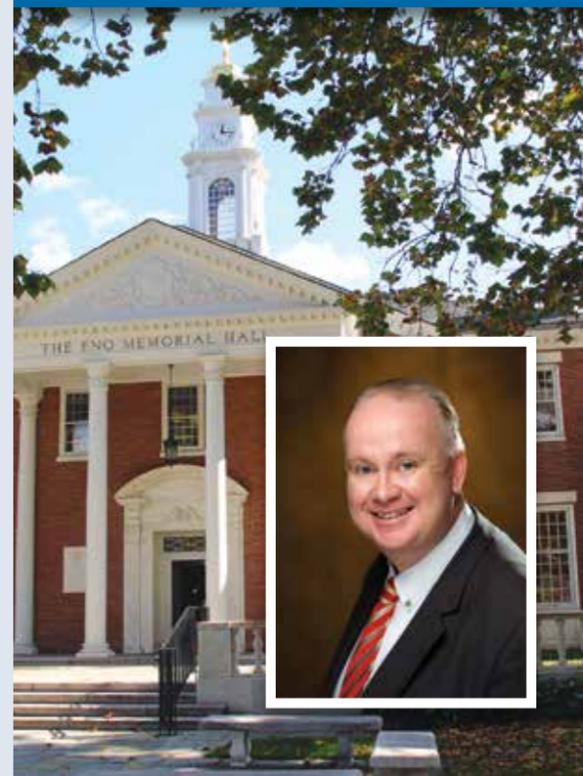
My favorite part of being State Representative is serving my constituents. I encourage openness and transparency in government and welcome hearing from you on all of the issues that matter most to you. I have included a summary of other highlights from the session in this newsletter which I hope you will find informative. If you would like further information about these topics or have any questions or concerns, please call me at 860.240.8585 or e-mail me at John.Hampton@cga.ct.gov. Thank you!

Best,

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOHN HAMPTON

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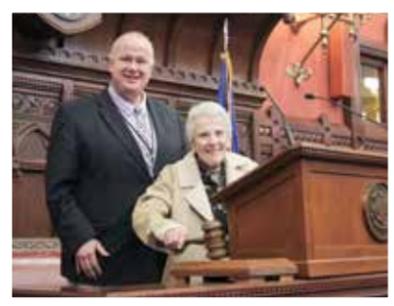
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STANDING UP FOR SENIORS, CAREGIVERS & VETERANS

PATIENT DESIGNATED CARE GIVERS

Some patients end up returning to the hospital soon after discharge because they had not been instructed properly on their follow-up care or were unable to follow instructions. I was a proud co-sponsor of a new law, the CARE (Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable) Act, that requires a hospital to document a caregiver in the patient's discharge plan, designated by the patient.

They must attempt to notify the caregiver of the patient's discharge, and to instruct the caregiver on any post-discharge tasks with which the patient will need assistance.



TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY VETERANS

This session, I introduced legislation along with retired Army Veteran Jason Lill of Tariffville, exempting veterans from paying taxes. I am glad to report that our idea became law as military veterans' retirement pay will now be 100 percent exempt from the state income tax.

ADVOCATING FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS & TEACHERS INCREASED EDUCATION FUNDING FOR SIMSBURY

Through my efforts with other suburban legislators, Simsbury will be receiving an additional \$953,476 in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding over the next two fiscal years.

Historically, Simsbury was one of several towns that received less than 50 percent of funding under the ECS formula, unfairly penalizing our community and placing constraints on our outstanding school system.

As an advocate for Simsbury students, parents and teachers, I championed more equitable funding to towns that have changed economically since the ECS cap was established and have been negatively affected.

This additional education funding for the Town of Simsbury will help enhance the quality of our schools while providing property tax relief for residents.

LIFE THREATENING FOOD ALLERGIES

This session, I worked with Jennifer & Gregg Seiderer of Simsbury to address a concern they had regarding the safety procedures in place for their child with food allergies when travelling to and from school. Current practices require that a school bus return all the way back to the school in the event of an allergic reaction or wait until first responders arrive. Knowing that in these circumstances every second counts, I crafted legislation that would require a trained adult (bus driver or bus monitor) to be able to administer an Epi-pen or medication. Although this bill did not ultimately pass, the issue has been added to the agenda of the new Food Allergy Task Force that will make recommendations to establish stronger emergency protocols for children with allergies through future legislation.

FOCUSING ON ENERGY

KEEPING EVERSOURCE SIMSBURY WORK AREA OPEN

On behalf of my constituents, I was outraged by Eversource's proposal to close the Simsbury Area Work Center. With grave concerns regarding this move's potential effect on public safety and customer service in Simsbury, I vigorously led the opposition to this measure. I offered testimony before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to reverse this short-sighted decision, noting the impact of the 2011 October storm on our residents and citing future emergencies and the potential extended response times if the Simsbury Area Work Center was shut down. Through my intervention, Eversource will keep this critical work center open for the time being, protecting our citizens in the face of disaster. I will be monitoring this situation going forward.

ENERGY RATES

This year, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to protect residents from electricity providers who offer a low introductory rate that increases rapidly afterwards. The protections enacted require competitive electric suppliers to give their customers a 60-day notice before the end of their contracts. Suppliers cannot charge these customers a termination or early cancellation fee and must allow customers who want to switch to standard service the ability to do so within 72 hours. We also set up a process for PURA to further investigate and take measures to completely eliminate variable electric rates when a customer's contract expires.

SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN

INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (I/DD) CAUCUS

The I/DD Caucus has generated immense momentum towards ensuring those with intellectual and developmental disabilities have equal footing in the pursuit of lives of dignity and personal fulfillment while providing their families hope, security and certainty for the future of their loved ones. During the 2015 legislative session, we worked hard to preserve funding for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and advocated for changes that protect and enhance services for individuals and families, such as reducing the waiting list. We did not do this alone. The hard work and heavy lifting has been done by thousands of I/DD families across the state who have come together with one strong united voice.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL, EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLAN

In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook tragedy, the state got to work on an implementation plan to meet the mental, emotional, and behavioral needs of our children. The newly created Children's Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board will bring professionals together to help our state monitor how we take care of young children.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SOLAR

Developing renewable energy sources is key to creating a sustainable energy future. Towns may now submit proposals to develop renewable energy source facilities (such as solar, wind, fuel cells, geothermal and hydropower). Accepted proposals will be funded through the Economic Development Commission. Developing these sources will conserve energy, grow jobs and save money for communities and residents.

REDUCING PESTICIDE USE

Children are particularly vulnerable to the health risks of pesticides. We have now taken steps to deal with these harmful chemicals by banning the use of pesticides on public land. School websites and social media will now be used to notify parents and students of an application of pesticides at least 24 hours before it's applied. Integrated pest management solutions and safer alternatives to using pesticides will also be encouraged.

TOWN OF SIMSBURY

STATE AID FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 & 2017

State Property PILOT	\$123,399
Mashantucket Pequot Grants	\$70,085
Public School Transportation	\$79,618
Non-Public School Transportation	\$15,848
Adult Education	\$20,794
Education Cost Sharing	\$12,219,620
Town Road Aid	\$722,468
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$309,426
Grants for Municipal Projects	\$155,296
PILOT Increased & Addt'l Sales Tax Revenue	\$797,038
Total State Funds to Simsbury	\$14,513,592