

## HELPING SENIORS REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES

Most seniors would prefer to live at home as long as possible. This year we created a \$6 million grant program for home modifications and other assistance technology for aging adults to adapt their homes to accommodate their needs. The program is open to eligible seniors and persons with disabilities who are at risk of being unable to live independently.

## RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM

We reopened eligibility to the rental rebate program for seniors and people with total and permanent disabilities to receive partial reimbursements on their rental payments. A \$6.5 million state investment in the program will allow an additional 12,700 citizens to receive a renter's rebate. If you have questions about the Renters' Rebate Program please call the program hotline at 860-418-6377.

## SAFE DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED MEDS

The Consumer Protection Department, with the Pharmacists Association and Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, will provide a lockbox available to the public at police stations for the safe disposal of unused medication.

## ELECTRIC CUSTOMER CONSUMER PROTECTION

Many consumers, who counted on paying less for energy after signing up for low introductory rates from suppliers, soon discovered that their rates jumped and they were paying more. Energy suppliers will now be prohibited from offering consumers short-term energy contracts with low rates, then switching to much higher variable rate contracts within weeks. Termination fees will be capped at \$50 under the new law, and a consumer can switch back to the standard rate charged by CL&P within 72 hours.



Rep. Hennessy addresses constituents at the North Branch Library



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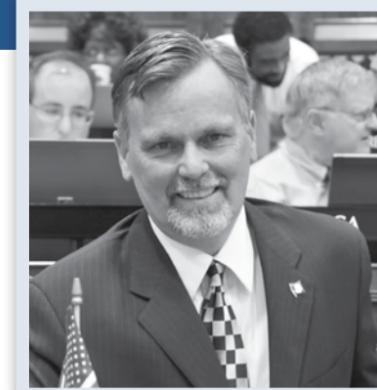
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JACK HENNESSY**  
PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT | 127TH DISTRICT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# JACK HENNESSY

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT | 127TH DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor,

The 2014 legislative session ended recently and I want to update you on what I have been up to in Hartford. This year was a short three-month session, but I am proud of the work that we got done in such a short period of time.

Meeting our priorities while also adopting a balanced budget with no new taxes took a lot of hard work, but I am happy to report to you that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals. We kept funding for municipal aid intact to keep Bridgeport taxes in check.

In an effort to continue to help Connecticut's struggling economy, I was pleased to support a minimum wage increase, which will rise to \$10.10 by January 1, 2017. Working parents deserve a livable wage and simply cannot afford to support their families at the current minimum wage, which is \$8.70 per hour.

I also fought for an extra \$3.5 million in funding for education to Bridgeport, plus an extra \$1.5 million for school construction. I will also continue the fight to begin the much-delayed Ox Brook Flood Control Project in our district. The Ox Brook is a small stream, a tributary to the Rooster River, which flows throughout the North end of Bridgeport. Due to overdevelopment in the area, unregulated construction and encroachment on the wetlands, the Ox Brook now floods whenever there is a sustained torrential downpour.

It is my honor to serve as House Chair of the Veteran's Committee – our work is to make sure government listens to the need of veterans. This session, we were able to pass critical laws that help address the plight of homeless veterans, the creation of jobs and increased educational opportunities for our veterans.

Finally, I will continue my commitment and fight for the "Conflict of Interest Bill" and will reintroduce it next session. It is high time we address this blatant departure from ethical standards the city administration supports.

I hope you find the information helpful – please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jack".

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
CAPITOL: 800-842-8267  
[JACK.HENNESSY@CGA.CT.GOV](mailto:JACK.HENNESSY@CGA.CT.GOV)

# CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

## STOLEN VALOR

It is a crime to lie about receiving a military medal or other Congressional decoration with the intent to fraudulently obtain money, property or other tangible benefits. It is also a crime to wear a military uniform with the intent to commit fraud. Violators will now receive a fine between \$500 and \$1,000, be sentenced up to six months imprisonment, or both.



## MORE JOBS FOR VETERANS

Creating job opportunities for veterans continues to be one of our top priorities. New initiatives include creation of the Veteran's Opportunity Fund, a pilot program to help veterans re-enter the workforce. Another new law allows veterans to apply their military training toward qualifying for various occupational licenses, including public safety positions and a variety of trades. In addition, college credits can be awarded for specialty training and apprenticeship credits applied to specific trades.

## VETERAN HOSPITAL SERVICES

Hospitalized veterans may miss out on available financial assistance, simply because they are unaware of all the programs available to them. We made sure that hospitals ask whether a patient is a veteran and investigate available veterans' programs before sending out a bill. This is about protecting those who protect our freedoms.

## SUPPORTING MILITARY CHILDREN

When parents or legal guardians are deployed to combat zones, it is a stressful situation for their children. To help ease some of the stress that students take into the classroom, any child age 5 to 18 will be granted 10 days of excused absences during the school year if their parent or legal guardian is on active duty, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from a combat zone or combat support posting.



## FUNDS FOR DISCOVERY MUSEUM

I am pleased to have been instrumental in securing \$1,118,000 to finance upgrades to facilities and exhibits at the Discovery Museum and Planetarium in Bridgeport.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# JACK HENNESSY

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## MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED

Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2017 will help thousands of struggling working families in our state, add hundreds of millions of dollars to our economy, and is the right thing to do. Connecticut led the national discussion on raising the national minimum wage to \$10.10. I was proud to cosponsor legislation making Connecticut the first state in the country to have a minimum wage over \$10 and I hope Congress follows our lead.

## INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER ED

We committed \$125.5 million to our community colleges and four state universities to improve the student experience and foster degree completion. The Go Back to Get Ahead initiative will allow any Connecticut resident who began their degree but has been out of the classroom for at least 18 months to enroll in a free course for each course they take, up to three free college courses.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As many of you know, my "conflict of interest" bill faces many challenges in Hartford. I am told this is a "Bridgeport" issue and does not belong before the legislature. I disagree. I believe you elected me to represent you and to seek the best interests for the city of Bridgeport - even if that means fighting with my colleagues to close a loophole in state statute that allows our city charter to be trampled by allowing city employees to serve on the City Council. We cannot allow the same old patronage machine to continue to hold Bridgeport and other towns in Connecticut back and I am going to continue to work toward changing it.



## BRIDGEPORT FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 STATE AID

Education Cost Sharing	\$179,600,148
Priority School Districts	\$7,544,651
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$3,010,594
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$8,094,497
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$6,204,071
School Transportation	\$1,485,004
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$2,271,379
Town Aid Roads	\$1,379,983
Adult Education	\$1,835,456
Combined MRSA Payments	\$1,997,881
<b>Total State Funds to Bridgeport</b>	<b>\$213,423,664</b>

## OX BROOK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Over two years ago, I secured \$255,000 to fund the engineering phase to replace the failed earthen berm in Elton Rogers Park. The resulting overflow from the Ox Brook floods many backyards and basements in the district. After over two years of stonewalling, it seems the project is finally emerging from Bridgeport's bureaucratic limbo.



Elton Rodgers Park earthen dam

## ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

We created the Connecticut Port Authority to realize the economic potential of our deep water ports of Bridgeport, New Haven, and New London. This will allow Connecticut to market the advantages of our ports to domestic and foreign shippers, seeking private investments, and pursuing state and federal funds for dredging and infrastructure improvements to increase cargo capacity.