

## Paid Sick Leave

This year, we passed the first in the nation employee paid sick leave bill to let employees earn time off without fear of losing pay or their job. The bill includes exemptions for manufacturers and certain non-profit organizations. This landmark bill will help prevent the spread of disease at restaurants, daycare centers and within the workplace for both employees and the public.

## Reducing Domestic Violence

Considering about 30 percent of the state's criminal court dockets involve domestic violence, finding new ways to reduce its occurrence is an ongoing challenge. We passed legislation to lessen the incidence of domestic violence by:

- » Increasing access to restraining and protective orders
- » Improving information sharing between state agencies
- » Facilitating victims' access to support services
- » Providing police with more tools to protect communities
- » Requiring the judicial branch to recommend long-term solutions

To further protect victims, reforms were made to the bail bond process that eliminate "undercutting," which occurs when bondsmen compete for business by discounting the bond premium by not charging clients the statutorily required amount. As a result, defendants post bond more easily and are quickly released back into the community without any "cooling off" period.

PLACE  
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HERE

Rep. Ernest Hewett  
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Hartford, CT 06106

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State Representative

# Ernest Hewett

Serving New London | 39<sup>th</sup> District

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State Representative

# Ernest Hewett

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39<sup>th</sup> District



Dear Neighbor,

As we turn the corner from recession toward economic recovery, I see opportunities to build on the successful business and job growth initiatives passed by the legislature this year.

Your input helped shape my votes during the last regular session of the General Assembly. I protected the services you expect and state aid to cities and towns that support New London's budget, repairs roads and helps keep your local property taxes down.

This report highlights legislation important to you. First, our highest priority was job creation and retention. Second, we saved taxpayer dollars by encouraging innovative approaches to regionalizing services. Some of our other legislative advances include; electric rate reform, education enhancements, health insurance reform and help for veterans, the environment and domestic violence victims.

In addition, I worked on several bills important to New London and the State of Connecticut. I have worked hard to secure bond funding to Allyn Art Museum for repairs to the flood damaged auditorium, boiler replacement and related mechanical improvements in the amount of \$104,690. Also, the Garde Art Theater was able to receive \$300,000 in state funds to support operational expenses. Without these funds, the Theater would have had to drastically limit its much-needed services to the public.

**I am proud to have stabilized your property taxes by supporting \$32,162,337 in state dollars to New London.**

I hope this report is informative. I'm happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state this year. Together we can work to create a better future for our friends and families.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

# CAPITOL REPORT 2011

State Representative

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## CAPITOL REPORT 2011

### Stop for School Buses

There are over 600,000 children in Connecticut using roughly 6,200 school buses every school day – we want them all to arrive home safely. School bus passengers will be better protected from reckless drivers through the use of video surveillance and fines. Under existing law, drivers must stop at least 10 feet from a school bus displaying flashing red signal lights. The new law allows towns and school boards to install cameras on school buses to record motor vehicles that ignore stopped buses and issue fines from \$450 or more. 80 percent of that revenue is sent back to cities and towns.

### Care 4 Kids

The Department of Social Services (DSS) must now post a notice on its website and provide written notice to program participants and providers when it makes any changes to the Care4Kids program (the state's subsidized child care program).

### Keeping Kids Safe

Background checks on all public school job applicants will become mandatory and laws about reporting and investigating cases of abuse or neglect have been expanded.

### State Representative Ernest Hewett

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Hewett](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Hewett)



### Hiring Experienced Police Officers

We made it easier for our cities and towns facing financial and other challenges to hire experienced police officers who could be put to work immediately. The bill:

- » Allows police officers who are certified and are working at a Connecticut police department to take a position in another police department without having to repeat their basic training, as long as those officers meet the standards for entry level certification
- » Streamlines the process for our communities to be able to hire qualified and experienced police officers

### DNA Upon Subsequent Arrest

I am proud to have introduced this bill, which was later taken up by the Judiciary Committee. DNA samples will now be collected from convicted felons after a subsequent arrest. Since felons are likely to have committed other crimes, DNA can solve crimes with matches against a national database.

Effective Date: October 1, 2011  
(HB 6489/PA 11-207)

I am grateful that Ms. Jayann Sepich traveled all the way from New Mexico to Hartford to testify on this very important piece of legislation that helps saving lives, and helps exonerate those who are wrongfully incarcerated.



### Saluting Our Veterans

*Providing a better life to those who protect us*

Veterans, along with their families, have sacrificed so much so we can enjoy our freedom and a democratic way of life. Veterans returning from foreign engagements need to know that we appreciate what they do for us and that means passing legislation that helps them and their families. Veterans' bills passed this session:

- » Offer veteran license plates to a member of the U. S. armed forces or his or her surviving spouse
- » Allow veteran status to be on a driver's license or identity card
- » Provide disabled wartime veterans with free parking, admission, and boat access parking to state recreational areas
- » Expand the waiver of property tax interest for certain armed forces members in Iraq and Afghanistan
- » Waive the \$20 fee for one certified copy of a veteran's death certificate when requested by family
- » Create a one-stop website for services available for veterans: [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva)

### Creating Jobs

The Legislature made sure Connecticut was open for business by enacting laws that:

- » Encourage businesses to create jobs by providing tax incentives through the "First Five" program
- » Expand our reinvestments in manufacturing
- » Provide student loan reimbursements for green-tech degree holders after 2 years employment in the field
- » Create the Connecticut Airport Authority to run our airports as economic engines for the economy
- » Save our Vo-tech schools that teach the skills that put people to work.

## WATCH VIDEOS ONLINE

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Hewett/videos039.asp](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Hewett/videos039.asp)



### DNA Public Hearing

Jayann Sepich testifying in support of the bill HB 6489, which Rep. Ernest Hewett introduced.



Rep. Ernest Hewett, Jayann Sepich and Kevin Kane, Chief State Attorney

## LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

State Representative

# ERNEST HEWETT

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Please check the boxes below and indicate which important issues you would like more information about.

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