

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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## **REP. LESSER NAMED ‘CHILDREN’S CHAMPION’**

*CT Early Childhood Alliance Honors Rep. Lesser for 2015 Session*

**State Representative Matthew Lesser (D – Middletown)** was honored to be named a 2015 Children’s Champion by the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance at a Thursday morning ceremony held at a Middlesex Coalition for Children meeting. This is the fifth year that Rep. Lesser has been recognized by the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance.

“I want to thank the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance for honoring me as a Children’s Champion this year. The legislature tackled many issues this session important to the wellbeing of our young children. I worked to protect state funding for important early childhood programs, and helped establish a plan to implement paid family and medical leave which will allow more parents to stay home with their sick children,” Rep. Lesser said.

Every year, the Alliance recognizes legislators who worked closely with early childhood advocates to shape legislation that impacts the well-being of Connecticut’s young children in the areas of healthy development, early care and education, nutrition and safety.

“When you hear Rep. Lesser's committee assignments, Banking, Appropriations and Government Administration and Elections, children's issues aren't the first thing that come to mind” said Merrill Gay, Executive Director of the CT Early Childhood Alliance. “But Matt has been a strong advocate for children and families, at the state level and in his district in Middletown, and a real go-to person for us.”

Rep. Lesser fought this session to maintain funding for community early childhood plans and early literacy programs, and also championed legislation that sets up Connecticut to implement paid family and medical leave in the future. This move will prevent parents from having to choose between a pay check and staying home with a sick child.

"Matt works tirelessly for Middletown children and families. He listens to his constituents, and has a firm understanding of their needs. He seems to really take seriously his membership in this community and his responsibility to represent all people in Middletown. He works hard to include those who are typically left out. We're lucky to have him," said Izzi Greenberg, Executive Director of the Middlesex Coalition for Children.

*State Representative Matt Lesser is serving his fourth term representing the 100<sup>th</sup> district of Middletown. He serves as Chair of the Banking Committee and as a member of both the Appropriations and the Government Administration and Elections Committees.*