

The Connecticut General Assembly



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REP. LESSER HONORED BY CT COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

Rep. Lesser Given 'Michael Mandell Award'

State Representative Matthew Lesser (D – Middletown) was honored to receive the 'Michael Mandell Award' from the College Democrats of Connecticut.

The Michael Mandall Award is given to an activist or political figure for promoting progressive policies deemed in the best interest of the group's members, including but not limited to the issues of college affordability, sexual assault prevention and voter enfranchisement.

"I want to thank the College Democrats of Connecticut for honoring me with this award. As a relatively young legislator, issues impacting college students hit especially close to home for me. College affordability is truly one of my biggest priorities in the state legislature and thankfully we were able to make some progress in that area this year by establishing the country's first Student Loan Bill of Rights and reducing the state student loan authority's interest rates," remarked Rep. Lesser.

As Chair of the Banking Committee, Rep. Lesser championed the nation's first Student Loan Bill of Rights, which establishes an office of the Student Loan Ombudsman to help students resolve complaints with loan servicers as well as with their university and regulates the student loan servicing industry and

Rep. Lesser also spearheaded law which led to the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) offering its lowest fixed interest rate ever for student loans at 4.95% and increasing the maximum allowed debt-to-income ratio from 40% to 43%. The bill also allows CHESLA to refinance existing student loans to today's lower interest rates.

"We are truly excited to have Representative Lesser selected as the first recipient of our newly established Michael Mandell Award. As chair of the Banking Committee, his groundbreaking efforts to pass a first-in-the-nation Student Loan Bill of Rights will help college students across Connecticut for years to come," remarked Miles Halpine, President of the College Democrats of Connecticut.

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State Representative Matt Lesser is serving his fourth term representing the 100th 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.