



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2015 legislative session ended in June and I am pleased by the extraordinary work we have been able to get done on behalf of all of you.

More of your tax dollars are coming home than ever before. In fact, Middletown is receiving the largest increase in state funding of any town or city in Connecticut. This means \$3.9 million more for roads, schools and our waterfront. For the first time in years, Middletown is lowering property taxes.

Great things are happening in Middletown and across Connecticut. I'm honored every day to have the privilege of representing you in our State Capitol. If you ever need assistance or have an idea about a way in which state government can work better, please let me know!

Sincerely,

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MATTHEW LESSER
PROUDLY SERVING THE 100TH HOUSE DISTRICT | MIDDLETOWN

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MATTHEW LESSER

CAPITOL UPDATE 2015





STATE REPRESENTATIVE MATTHEW LESSER

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FORECLOSURE MEDIATION

As chair of the Banking Committee, nothing is more important to me than keeping families in their homes. That is why I wrote a new law that extends the Foreclosure Mediation program. The program has helped keep 14,000 Connecticut families in their homes over the last few years. This means that no family will lose their home without having a chance to sit down and talk to their bank.



TAX DOLLARS COMING
BACK TO MIDDLETOWN

2015
\$32,249,215

2016
\$36,224,695

STUDENT LOAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Every Connecticut resident should be able to go to college. Unfortunately, student debt is more of a problem for families than ever before. So this year, I won the fight to pass the nation's first Student Loan Bill of Rights. We are creating the office of the Student Loan Ombudsman to regulate the industry and help families find grants and affordable loans. We have been able reduce rates on loans given through the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) by nearly 2 percentage points and help people with current loans refinance their debt

HELPING OUR VETERANS

This year, we worked to honor the sacrifices that veterans have made for our country. Recently, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to end chronic homelessness for veterans. We also cut taxes for veterans, giving a 100% tax exemption for military retirement pay. State law used to only provide a 50% exemption. We also established the Women Veterans' Program to better connect female veterans to services.

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

For families living paycheck to paycheck, missing any work to care for a sick child or elderly relative is often out of the question. This year, I helped lead the campaign for paid family and medical leave because it makes our families and our economy stronger. We made great progress in Connecticut this year and it remains one of my priorities heading into the next legislative session.



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It was great helping kids learn to read earlier this year at Middlesex Hospital!

PUTTING KIDS FIRST

We did some great things for Middletown kids this year. We increased funding for our schools, reduced testing and saved the Family-School Connection at Bielefield and Snow Schools. Next year, for the first time, we will provide each high school junior with a free SAT test. Over the next few months, I'll be rolling out new programs that will help protect kids from violence and provide some great new after school activities.



I hosted a workshop for new homebuyers to help more Middletown residents realize their dreams of owning a home.