



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Rick Lopes**

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# 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

It is a privilege to represent you in the Connecticut General Assembly. I consider it an honor and will work hard for the people of New Britain & Newington.

As Connecticut turns the corner to economic recovery, I am committed to working toward a leaner, more efficient government while ensuring that we maintain essential services.

The 2015 Legislative Session is underway. For this term I have been appointed to the Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee as Vice Chair, in addition to Transportation and Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committees.

Please keep in touch and contact me with issues, concerns or suggestions as to how I can more effectively serve you. Your input will help me make our community a better place to live and work.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you!

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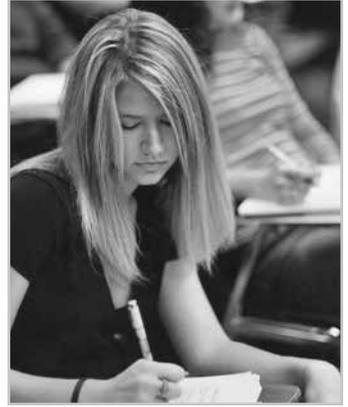


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## JOB GROWTH IS NUMBER ONE

To keep Connecticut economically competitive with neighboring states, we must support business growth and job creation by attracting businesses, training workers, and providing incentives to keep them in the state. Improving tax credits for new hires, investing in emerging technologies, and providing more jobs for our veterans have been successful, yet more can be done. All these measures and more will grow our local economy and provide better job opportunities for our residents.



## SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

Seniors face a variety of challenges, including maintaining health and keeping up with bills while on fixed incomes. The legislature supports seniors in a number of ways: we send state funds to towns that help stabilize local property taxes; pass tough consumer protection laws, and pass measures to help seniors live independently. A special task force on “aging in place” has recommended ways to help older adults safely and comfortably remain in their homes.



## IDENTITY PROTECTION UPDATE

Protecting your identity and personal information has become more and more difficult in the information age. As your legislator, I am working to make sure that the State of Connecticut provides consumers with the tools they need to keep identity thieves at bay. The General Assembly is reviewing legislation that would require insurance companies, health providers and pharmacies to encrypt your personal data (SB 1024). Another bill would waive the fees that credit reporting agencies typically charge if you are a victim of identity theft and need to freeze your credit (HB 6800).



## EDUCATION

Connecticut has a history of excellence in education but we must continue to strive to make our schools a top priority in 2015 as they face new challenges. In 2014, the legislature passed historic legislation that sets the stage for universal pre-K. Educating today’s students for 21st century jobs begins with a solid foundation in preschool and elementary school. Improving our education system statewide will ensure not only the success of our children, but also the prosperity of Connecticut.

