

Dear Neighbor:

As many of you are aware, the legislature faced extremely tough challenges this year. Many of them were no simple fixes. From education reform to legalizing medical marijuana and the long sought after repeal of the death penalty, we made historic strides during the a short three-month session.

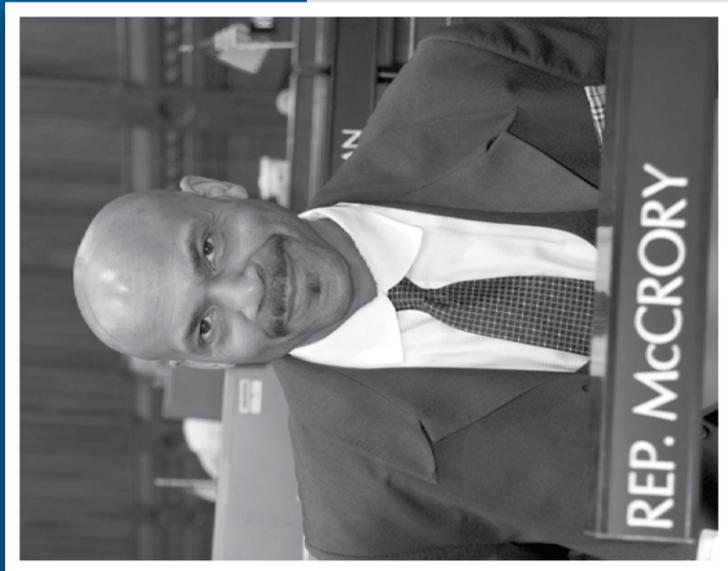
In addition, we were able to pass a balanced budget and kept our funding promise to cities and towns without raising taxes. Of course, there is much more work to be done and I am committed to finding viable solutions for the pressing problems we face daily.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions. Your opinions are valuable and will aid in making decisions that are best for our community. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Place  
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Here

Representative Douglas McCrory  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4053  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

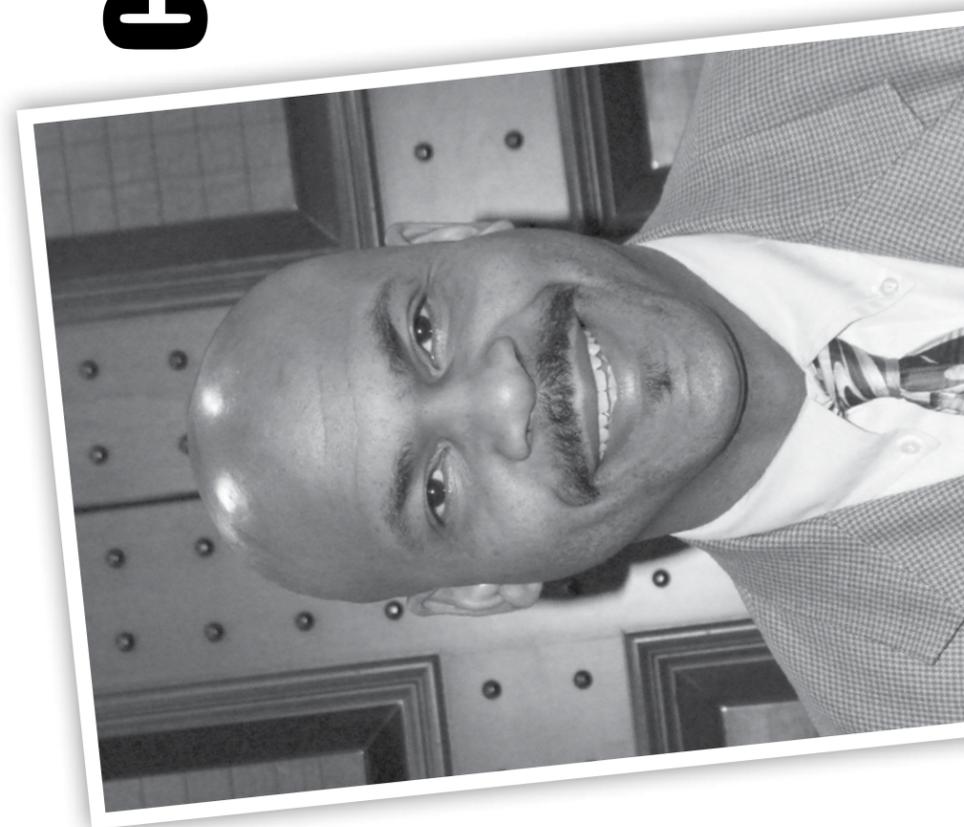
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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2012

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## Education

**Education Reform** – Governor Malloy made it clear that 2012 was the year to address the myriad of issues our state faces in regards to education. The legislature passed legislation that helps ensure all of our children have the opportunity for a brighter future by supporting teachers' development and providing students with more effective educators, increasing Pre-K slots, and building a framework for meaningful intervention in our lowest-achieving schools. This legislation also provides the commissioner of education with the tools to assist struggling schools. Yes, we made great progress but there is still more work to be done in order to ensure all Connecticut students receive a quality education.

**Intensive Early Reading Program** – As Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, my colleagues and I worked diligently with the committee and respective state agencies to craft legislation that creates a new intensive kindergarten-to-grade three reading program to improve literacy and narrow the achievement gap. In each of the next two school years, five low achieving schools will be selected to participate. The program must include (1) routine student reading assessments, (2) scientifically based instruction, and (3) an intensive reading intervention strategy. Students at priority schools who are reading below proficiency must also be enrolled in an intensive summer school reading program.

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## Health Care

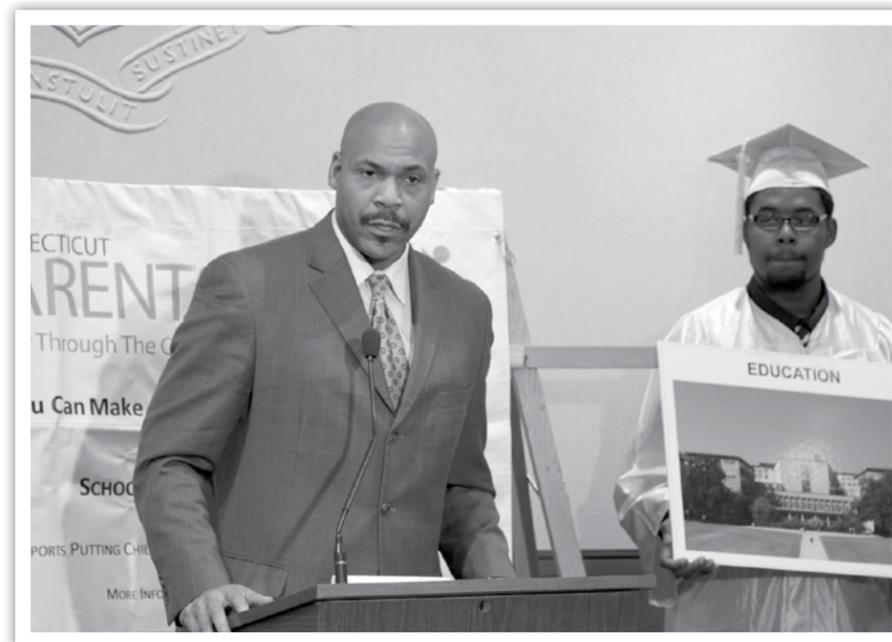
**Preserving Medicare Eligibility** – This legislation ensured thousands of seniors and people with disabilities could continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles by raising the income limit for MSP to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1.

I am proud to support this and other initiatives for our seniors. After working throughout their lives and contributing to society, seniors deserve our respect and assistance to help them enjoy their later years.

**Personal Care Assistants** – This new law gives certain personal care attendants, along with child care workers and family care attendants, the right to collectively bargain with the state. Personal care attendant and daycare workers nurture our most vulnerable – the elderly, disabled and children. Allowing these workers to collectively bargain will give these industries more stability and attract more people to work in these fields. In many cases, personal care attendants and family childcare providers are underpaid, hours and have no access to health benefits.

## Domestic Violence

**Reducing Domestic Violence** – We strengthened the state's laws to better protect victims and hold abusers accountable. We gave police officers the tools they need to better identify and respond to domestic violence. We also improved access to and enforcement of protective and restraining orders to improve victim safety.



Representative McCrory speaks in support of the CT Parents Union.

## Public Safety

**Racial Profiling** – Too many individuals in our communities continue to suffer from bias based on their appearance. This bill strengthens an existing law aimed at stopping police from profiling motorists based on race during traffic stops.

**Police Lineups & Eyewitness Identification** – This legislation creates standards aimed at helping to reduce potential mistakes and increase accurate criminal identifications in police lineups by establishing guidelines for police departments on how eyewitnesses identify suspected criminals in lineups. Misidentifications by eyewitnesses are a leading cause of wrongful convictions.

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Representative McCrory listens intently as the death penalty is debated.

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