

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Douglas McCrory

PROUDLY SERVING THE CITY OF HARTFORD - 7TH DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor,

The 2014 legislative session recently ended and I am proud of the work that my colleagues and I completed during our three-month session. We were able to pass a budget that does not raise taxes, and we voted to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10/hour by Jan. 1, 2017. This is much-needed good news for working families in Hartford.



I always work incredibly hard to bring state funding back to Hartford and this year was no different. This year, I was able to secure funds for Hartford institutions, including:

- \$500,000 for the renovation of Cronin Park (i.e. replace lights, scoreboard, field, etc...)
- \$750,000 for the Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School – Lighthouse School Grant
- A total of \$1.5 million was distributed to the West Indian Foundation; Ebony Horsewomen, Inc.; Wilson-Gray YMCA; Blue Hills Civic Association; Urban League; Friendship Camp – Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School; Supreme Being Organization at Weaver High School; Hartford Hurricanes Youth Football; Hartford Northend Little League and to the Artists Collective, Inc.

I hope you find the information included in this newsletter helpful. If you have any questions regarding laws passed this year, or if my office can be helpful to you or your family, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Douglas McCrory  
State Representative - 7th District



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# DOUGLAS MCCRORY

PROUDLY SERVING THE CITY OF HARTFORD - 7TH DISTRICT

## CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

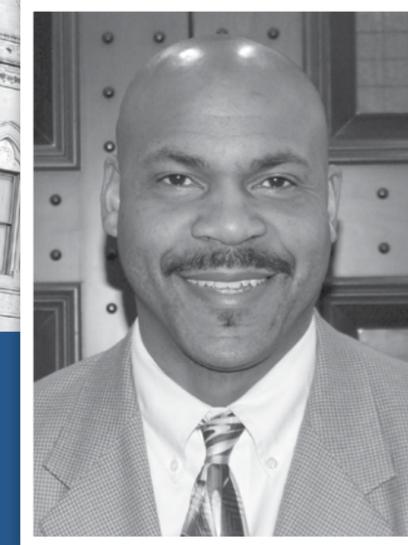
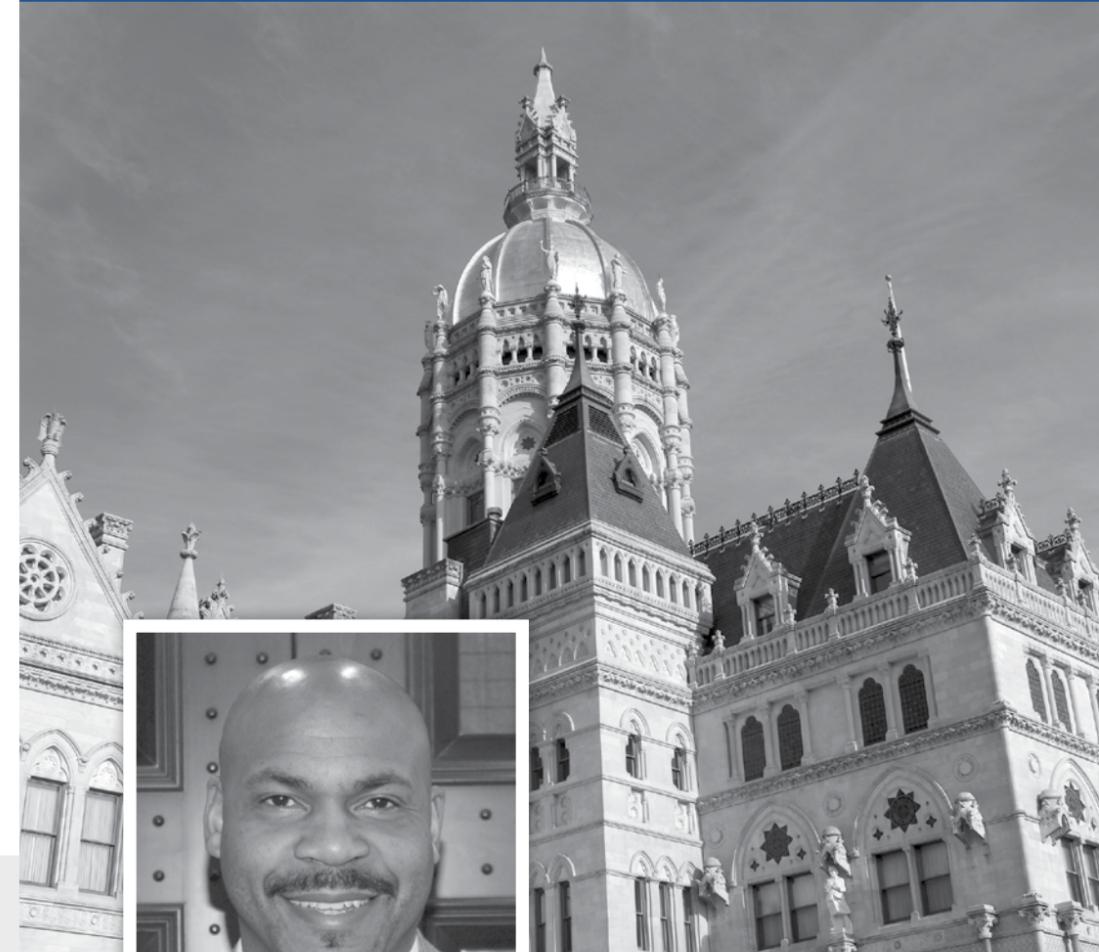
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## MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED

Raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2017 will help thousands of struggling working families in our state, add hundreds of millions of dollars to our economy, and is the right thing to do. Connecticut led a national discussion just two years ago about getting to a \$10 minimum wage, and we are proud to lead the way again, setting the stage for Congress to hopefully follow suit.

## REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS

This year we recognized the difficulties older workers are experiencing in their job searches, and we directed the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) to coordinate an electronic state hiring campaign to encourage the reemployment of older workers through the Department of Labor (DOL) website. We also required DOL to develop a one-page quick-reference guide describing existing resources for unemployed workers, and to make that information available through the 2-1-1 Infoline website.

## SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Small manufacturers in Connecticut are an important source of jobs and the engine of economic growth. We work hard to provide support to these businesses through programs like the Manufacturing Reinvestment Account program (MRA). The MRA is designed to help small manufacturers fund capital investments and train their workers. This year, we made it easier for businesses to take advantage of the program by increasing the number of employees an employer may have to be eligible for the program from 50 to 150.



## RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM

This year we re-opened the Renters Rebate program to eligible seniors and individuals with permanent disabilities to receive partial reimbursements related to rental payments. \$6.5 million in rental relief will be available to seniors, allowing an additional 12,700 seniors to receive a renter's rebate.

## ACCESS TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services will establish permanent supportive housing initiatives to provide additional units of affordable housing and support services to those eligible. Individuals and families with special needs and individuals and families that are homeless or at risk for homelessness will be eligible for such housing. This is the first year that the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Developmental Services will be included in this collaborative effort.

## AN ALTERNATIVE TO FORECLOSURE

Most homeowners at risk of losing their homes would like to avoid foreclosure. This year we established an alternative to foreclosure that can work for both the lender and the homeowner. The homeowner and lender can decide together that avoiding foreclosure is a more efficient (and now realistic) approach to disposing of a home that must be sold for financial reasons. They may then contact a real estate agent to sell the house at market price rather than risking a short sale. This option of sale provides benefits to all parties involved and, most importantly, gives homeowners an alternative to foreclosure.



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## IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRE-K

The newly established Office of Early Childhood will develop a plan to improve access to preschool programs and achieve universal pre-k in Connecticut. In the meantime, we have increased school readiness reimbursements and added 1,020 new preschool slots. We also created a floor rather than a ceiling for Competitive School Districts, allowing these districts to receive more than the \$107,000 grant to accommodate additional preschool spaces.

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

We are always looking for ways to provide our high school and college students with additional training that will help them as they enter the job market. This year we established a new apprenticeship grant program under the Subsidized Training and Employment Program. The new program will provide grants so that small businesses and manufacturers can hire high school and college students. These experiences will give our students the foundation they need to succeed in the workplace.

## GO BACK TO GET AHEAD PROGRAM

The Go Back to Get Ahead initiative will encourage Connecticut residents who have some college credits, but have not attained either an associate's or bachelor's degree, to return to the state's universities, community technical colleges or Charter Oak State College to complete their degrees. Students who are eligible for the program will be able to receive up to 3 free college courses.

## EBOOKS & STATE LIBRARIES

Have you wanted to borrow an electronic book at your public library but have not been able to? That will be changing shortly. This year we acted to create a statewide platform that the State Library Board will use to distribute eBooks to public libraries. This will make eBooks available for library patrons without significant costs to the individual libraries.

