



Dear Neighbor,

*I'd like to extend my thanks to the citizens of Hartford for my re-election and giving me another opportunity to represent our wonderful community at the State Assembly. It is a privilege to serve in this capacity, and I will serve you honorably.*

*I am excited and determined to make a real difference, as the legislature tackles many important issues such as education funding, tax changes and health care.*

*To best represent your interests and opinions, I need to hear back from you and keep you informed. I invite you to play an active role in making the laws of Connecticut by contacting me to share your expertise or express your thoughts. You can contact me at the legislature either by phone at (860) 240-8585, or by mail at the Legislative Office Building, Room 2403, Hartford, CT 06106, or by e-mail at Douglas.mccrory@cga.ct.gov.*

*I look forward to hearing from you.*

Sincerely,



Douglas McCrory

State Representative - 7th District

**State Representative Douglas McCrory**

Legislative Office Building, Room 2403  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

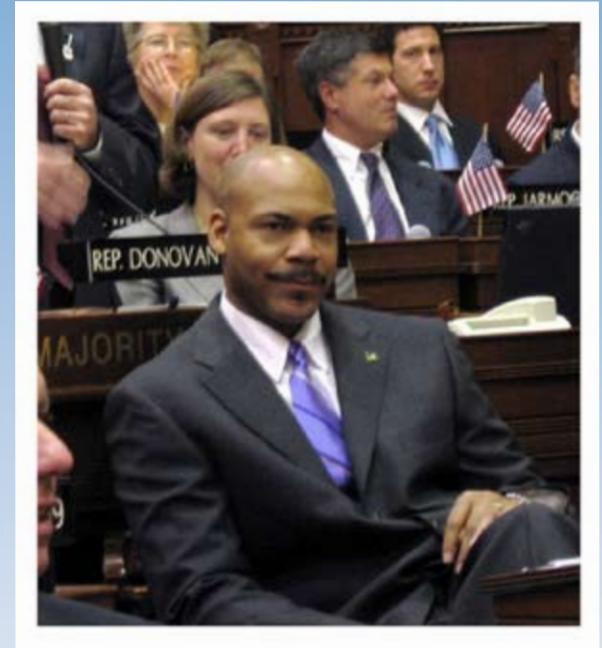
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**State Representative  
Douglas McCrory  
7th District  
Hartford**



**2007 Legislative  
Session Preview**

# Here are a Few Hot Topics of Session 2007...

There are literally thousands of bills introduced each year in the Connecticut General Assembly. Here are a few of the big issues we expect to debate this year:

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

Connecticut has an estimated 400,000 uninsured individuals. We need to assure that all businesses and individuals have access to affordable benefits and are encouraged to purchase them. Small businesses in particular find the cost of health insurance prohibitive, in spite of their desire to maintain their employees' health and productivity. Health reform must address two major problems: how to reduce costs for those currently insured and how to encourage and enable the uninsured to obtain coverage.

## PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Connecticut has one of the highest property tax burdens in the nation. Again, this drives families, seniors, and businesses to consider relocation elsewhere. Property taxes are driven in large part by the state's underfunding of public education costs, which are largely supported through local property taxes. Proposals for property tax relief include better funding of education to enable towns to reduce their mil rates or, conversely, giving income tax credits directly to property tax payers.



## EDUCATION FUNDING

Despite projections of a significant budget deficit, it is imperative this year the legislature re-examine the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. The ECS formula is how the state determines how much education funding to give each town's public schools. Many towns throughout Connecticut are struggling with rising costs of education, and the unhappy solution of either raising local taxes or cutting services. A fairer and better-funded ECS formula will help address the problem.

## MY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

I am currently the Vice-Chair of the Banks Committee and a member of the Education and Appropriations Committees. I chose these committees to better serve your interests. The following are just a few of the bills that I introduced for the 2007 Session:

- **Legislation that will provide pardons for individuals convicted for nonviolent crimes** which will increase the eligibility for pardons and establish statutory guidelines for such individuals. I am currently planning to host a forum in late spring to better inform those who are interested in getting a pardon and bettering their quality of life. I also entered a bill that would grant James C. Tillman (Hartford native exonerated after 18 years of wrongful imprisonment) \$5 million for compensation of lost wages, medical problems incurred while in prison and the emotional and physical pain that he and his family suffered during his incarceration. I believe that there is no fair amount for anyone who has suffered such an injustice and ask those who are skeptical, "What would you require as payment to serve 18 plus years in prison for a crime you did not commit?"
- **Legislation that will toughen gun laws.** I proposed a bill that would prohibit the sale of electronic defense weapons (i.e. stun guns). In the wrong hands, these weapons can have the potential to be fatal when used in emotionally heightened situations. In regards to the selling of weapons, we are currently reviewing legislation that would prohibit individuals from purchasing more than one gun per month and possibly re-defining the amount of time gun owners have to report a stolen firearm to authorities. We hope this will help reduce the growing amount of dangerous weapons on the street and allow responsible gun owners enough time to report a stolen firearm without being penalized.



- **Legislation to recruit minority teachers.** The minority student population has substantially increased, however, the number of minority educators has not. Because we are experiencing a shortage of teachers as a whole, I introduced a bill that will allow new teachers who have certification from other states and have already passed testing requirements in that state to be issued a special (initial or provisional) educator certificate. I also introduced bills that will increase funding for afterschool programs and youth employment. Keeping our youngsters busy will aid in deterring them from engaging in criminal mischief or sexual activities due to boredom.
- **Legislation to increase funding for Grandparents as Parents/Caregivers.** There are many grandparents, within our state, who are the primary caregivers of their grandchildren. With the rising cost of health care and living expenses added to the limited level of their social security benefits, we need to do something to help. Currently, our Department of Social Services/Temporary Family Assistance (TFA or cash welfare) payments allow \$333 for the first grandchild and \$100 for each additional child for whom the grandparent assumes guardianship. I would like to see that the amount given to subsequent grandchildren would equal the amount given to the first grandchild.



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