



Dear Neighbors,

I truly thank you for your continual support. It is an honor that you place your trust in my service and I will consistently and earnestly strive to prove myself worthy.

As we face many important topics in this 2008 session, such as fair employee representation, the real estate crisis and the task of decreasing the crime rate, I am determined to not only take a positive stance on the issues but also to make a positive difference.

Your input and participation is essential to the legislative process and helps me be a more effective state representative. Therefore, I highly encourage you to play an active role in the process. I realize that we have much work ahead of us. Fortunately, the Seventh District of Hartford is and has always been rich with profound opinions and valuable knowledge which help in making decisions that will better our quality of life.

Please feel free to contact me at 240-8585 with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

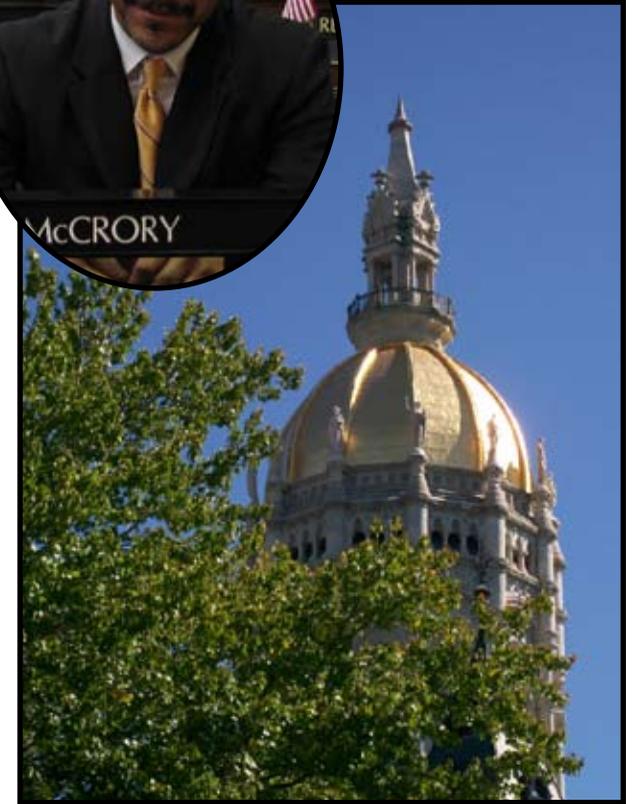
Douglas McCrory
State Representative - 7th District

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 2403
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
(860) 240-8585
DOUGLAS.MCCRORY@CGA.CT.GOV



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DOUGLAS MCCRORY



PROUDLY REPRESENTING HARTFORD'S 7TH DISTRICT

2008 Spring Report from the State Capitol

THE CONNECTICUT BLACK AND LATINO CAUCUS HOSTS AN INFORMATIONAL FORUM RE: DISCRIMINATION, DIVERSITY AND DISPARITY ISSUES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

On January 29, 2008 the Black and Latino Caucus held a forum on racial disparities within state agencies. Because of the many departments within the state agencies, we decided to focus on two in particular: the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections.

For many years, African American and Latino state employees have suffered the ill effects of racial discrimination. The lack of diversity and fair representation has created an environment of great disparity and hostility.

My colleagues and I are personally devoted to seeking solutions that will eliminate this problem. One solution is an implementation of programs that will increase the hiring rate of minorities and mandate an effective diversity training in hopes of guaranteeing fairness in promotional practices. Our goal is to create departments that are more responsive and representative of the communities they serve.



EARLY READING SUCCESS PROGRAM

As both an educator and a parent, I recognize the extreme importance of promoting literacy in our children. Reading is the platform skill in achieving higher levels of knowledge. Literacy is the necessary tool on which all other aspects of learning depend. True literacy is more than just knowing how to read a traffic sign or a restaurant menu. The importance of literacy lies in the promotion of citizenship and self-accomplishment in order to make a significant contribution to society. Therefore, programs such as the Early Reading Success Program must be vigorously promoted and protected. Our ultimate goal and duty is to provide students with the best education possible. Budget cuts that are counterproductive to this goal must be avoided at all cost. We owe this much to our children.

MORTGAGE CRISES

The rate of home foreclosures is at an all time high! Too often we analyze this crisis only in terms of dollars and cents. We lose sight that there are real families losing their homes. Inspired by this, I am fully invested in addressing the dilemma of the current mortgage crisis.



As a concerned legislator and Vice-Chairman of the Banks Committee, I fully support HB 5577, An Act Concerning Responsible Lending and Economic Security. If passed, the bill will place new restrictions on mortgage brokers and lenders; create a multi-tiered mortgage assistance program slated to begin accepting applications on October, 1, 2008; create a Mortgage Crisis Job Training Team; and create an Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program Committee.

Home foreclosures are a phenomenon that devastates families struggling with their finances due to unfortunate circumstances (i.e., job loss, illness, deceitful brokers and dishonest lenders, etc.). If you feel you may be in danger of facing foreclosure, please contact the Homeownership Preservation Foundation at 888-995-HOPE.



Rep. McCrory with Mark Twain Elementary School Students

QUALITY OF NURSING HOMES

The majority of nursing home residents are over the age of 65. Many are in care because of physical needs that require help from nurses, aides and/or physical therapists. Nursing home advocates call staffing the single most important predictor of quality of care in nursing homes.



I strongly support HB 5794, An Act Improving Nursing Staffing Levels and Enforcement. If passed, this legislation will increase Connecticut's staffing requirements to reflect current national guidelines; impose more stringent licensing and inspection requirements; and issue "Nursing Home Report Cards" to help the seniors and their families make informed decisions when choosing a nursing home. For further information, please call DSS Aging Services Division at 724-6443.

PROTECTING OUR SENIORS

The Connecticut Homecare Option Program for the Elderly

This program will allow seniors to establish long term care savings accounts to help them pay for at-home support services, so they can stay in their homes longer. Please call DSS Aging Services Division at 724-6443.

New Protections for Assisted Living Residents

Living facilities will now be required to provide each resident with a written service plan and maintain reports on the scope of service provided. Facilities are barred from managing the financial affairs or property of residents. Please call DSS Aging Services Division at 724-6443.

