

HELPING VETERANS FIND WORK AND HOUSING

The Veterans' Opportunity Pilot Program will utilize specialists in veterans' employment and homelessness to assist nonprofit agencies secure work and housing for our vets. At the state level, our Department of Labor will manage a statewide network of employment services for veterans and utilize federal grants to lower the number of homeless veterans in our state.



Above: June Archer and Rep. McGee at the Career Beginnings events
 Left: Congressman John Larson, Jill Jenkins, and Rep. McGee



HELPING SENIORS PAY THEIR RENT

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 allow an additional 12,700 seniors to receive a renter's rebate.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BRANDON MCGEE
 PROUDLY SERVING THE 5TH DISTRICT, HARTFORD | WINDSOR
CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 HARTFORD, CT
 Permit No. 3937



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BRANDON MCGEE
 PROUDLY SERVING THE 5TH DISTRICT, HARTFORD | WINDSOR



Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share with you this update on the recently concluded legislative session. Each year brings a new set of challenges, and the 2014 session was no different. The need to encourage economic growth, help working families, and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state, was clear.

Meeting these priorities while also adopting a balanced budget with no new taxes took a lot of hard work, but I am happy to report to you that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals.

Working in a bipartisan manner, we were able to increase funding for education and enable more children to attend pre-school. We also made additional investments in job creation programs such as STEP-UP, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed, and will help our economy grow.

Recognizing the struggle of many working families, we raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2017. By helping thousands of minimum wage earners, hundreds of millions of dollars will pour into our state economy and help businesses grow and flourish.

Spurring more economic development was also a priority that we met by helping United Technologies Corp. upgrade and expand its aerospace research and manufacturing facilities across the state. This in turn will have a domino effect and help its suppliers and related businesses.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful and will feel free to call or email me for any reason — legislative or otherwise. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

Thank you,

Brandon L. McGee Jr.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BRANDON MCGEE

PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD & WINDSOR



CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES' GROWTH

Small manufacturers in Connecticut are an important source of jobs and the engine of economic growth. We provide support to these businesses through programs like the Manufacturing Reinvestment Account program which 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.



Archbishop LeRoy Bailey, Rep. Dave Baram and Rep. McGee at First Cathedral



Habitat for Humanity with fraternity brothers of the Beta Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL PRE-K

The new 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 to receive more than the \$107,000 grant to accommodate additional preschool spaces.



Rep. McGee reading at Ellsworth Elementary School in Windsor



Meeting with Gov. Malloy to highlight the importance of STEM education, build relationships with business, technology and education leaders and announce a new STEM scholarship program.

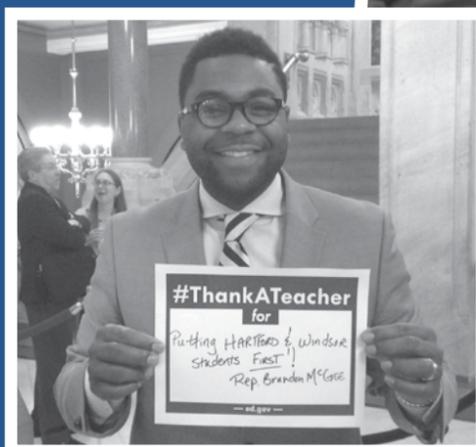
ENCOURAGING BUSINESSES WITH A SOCIAL PURPOSE

Many recent college graduates want to work for companies with a greater social purpose and find a way to give back to society. To attract these young college graduates, and protect businesses from liability, we supported the creation of Social Enterprise Businesses, a hybrid between the traditional for-profit business model and the nonprofit model. These businesses operate like traditional corporations but they must have the purpose of creating a material, positive impact on society and the environment.

FREE COURSES TO FINISH YOUR DEGREE: "GO BACK TO GET AHEAD"

Students who dropped out of college before earning a bachelor's degree will be eligible to take three free courses at a Connecticut state college or community college. This initiative is part of the governor's "Transform CSCU" plan aimed at increasing enrollment at the state's higher education institutions while meeting the workforce demands of businesses. The plan includes facilities upgrades that will connect classrooms with 21st century technology, and give our students the tools and skills to be competitive in the workforce.

Rep. McGee's roundtable discussion with Senator Chris Murphy



Support Our Teachers!

INCREASING ACCESS TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

The population of students in the state whose first language is not English continues to grow. This rapid shift has revealed the need for more educators who teach English as a second language.

To recruit more teachers we expanded the English language learner educator incentive program. Students pursuing a bilingual education certification in the last two years of their teacher preparation coursework will be able to apply for a grant of up to \$5,000. Those students who receive a grant and teach in a public school in Connecticut will be eligible for reimbursement of federal or state educational loans up to a maximum of \$2,500 per year up to 4 years of teaching in Connecticut.