

## PATIENT-DESIGNATED CAREGIVERS

Some patients end up returning to the hospital soon after they're discharged because they had not been properly instructed on their follow-up care or were unable to follow the instructions. A new law, The CARE (Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable) Act, requires a hospital to document a caregiver in the patient's discharge plan, designated by the patient. They must attempt to notify the caregiver of the patient's discharge, and instruct the caregiver on any post-discharge tasks with which the patient will need assistance.

## PROTECTING THE ELDERLY

This legislative year, we passed many more laws to protect our seniors from potential abuse. In situations where abuse or neglect is suspected, the Department of Social Services can now petition a probate court to gain access to that person's home to make an assessment. For the purpose of these investigations, the definition of neglect has also been expanded to include elderly people who do not live alone, but whose caretaker fails to arrange for the necessary services to keep an elderly person healthy. We also passed laws that will keep nursing home and residential care home residents safer by requiring the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to notify a resident's designee of suspected abuse or neglect within 24 hours.



[www.facebook.com/RepBMcGee](http://www.facebook.com/RepBMcGee)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# BRANDON MCGEE

PROUDLY SERVING THE 5TH HOUSE DISTRICT | WINDSOR, HARTFORD



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



## CAPITOL UPDATE 2015

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Please know I remain committed to working toward a leaner and more efficient government, while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens by keeping essential services properly funded.

First and foremost is crafting a responsible, balanced budget that protects community services and creates sustainable, long-term economic growth.

We are also looking at key legislation that includes affordable education, creating jobs, promoting economic development, lowering energy costs, improving chronic disease care coordination, and helping seniors stay in their homes as they age.

Your input gives me the best chance of properly representing you. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with your thoughts, ideas or suggestions at [Brandon.McGee@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Brandon.McGee@cga.ct.gov) or 860-240-8585.

Thank you for the honor of representing you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon L. McGee Jr.".

State Representative

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
CAPITOL: 800-842-8267  
[WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/MCGEE](http://WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/MCGEE)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# BRANDON MCGEE

PROUDLY SERVING THE 5TH HOUSE DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building | Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 800-842-8267 | [www.housedems.ct.gov/McGee](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/McGee)



## REDUCING LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED BY A CHILD OR YOUTH

New brain science and sociological studies show that the brains of young people are more susceptible to negative influences than the brains of adults. This has led to recent U.S. and Connecticut Supreme Court decisions limiting the application of adult sentencing rules to juveniles. This law requires criminal courts to consider evidence showing the difference between juvenile and adult brain development when sentencing for certain felonies committed prior to reaching 18 years of age. Parole hearings will now also be offered to those serving sentences of over 10 years after they have served a portion of their sentence. At the hearing, the parole board will consider whether the offender demonstrates the necessary maturity and rehabilitation to qualify for parole release.

## DECRIMINALIZING STUDENT BEHAVIOR

This year, we made efforts to promote prevention over punishment in our school systems. These changes will keep students safer and focused on learning. We addressed the unclear role of School Resource Officers (Police Officers in schools) by requiring that boards of education reach an agreement with their resource officers as to their roles and responsibilities within the school. These agreements may include a graduated response model that would outline several alternative interventions before resorting to the criminal justice system. In addition, rather than punish young children by taking them out of the classroom, we prohibited out-of-school suspension or expulsion for students in preschool, kindergarten, and first and second grade. Schools are encouraged to implement early detection and prevention programs, via school-based primary mental health programs. Exceptions to the suspension and expulsion ban will be made for a student whose behavior endangers others or is overly violent or sexual, or involves weapons or drugs.

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

General Assistance	2-1-1
Department of Social Services	855-626-6632
Tax Department	860-297-5962
Consumer Protection	860-713-6300
CT Fair Housing Center	860-247-4400
Statewide Legal Services of CT	860-344-0380
Center for Medicare Advocacy	800-262-4414
Medicare	800-633-4227

## BIG NEWS IN COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Student loan debt is an issue that impacts many Connecticut families. Sixty-four percent of college graduates in our state have student loan debt. This year, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to create a Student Loan Bill of Rights, which establishes an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman. This office will regulate student loan servicers, compile data on borrower complaints, develop a financial literacy education course for students, and will help student borrowers and their parents navigate the loan process.

In addition, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) took historic steps toward increasing college affordability by announcing that it will offer its lowest fixed interest rate yet at 4.95%, down from its current rate of 6.75%. This rate is also significantly lower than the Federal PLUS loan rate of 6.84%.

## STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

Most students with learning disabilities also struggle with a reading disability. It's essential to identify and help these students as early as possible. This year, we directed the State Department of Education (SDE) to designate a point person who will help parents and local boards of education identify students with dyslexia and intervene with appropriate help. Up-and-coming teachers will now also be required to undergo 12 hours of preparation in effective literacy instruction using current best practices. Finally, the legislature granted the SDE an extension in their rollout of new reading assessments that will help identify students at risk for dyslexia. The additional time ensures successful implementation of a terrifically important program.

