



Dear Neighbor:

From jobs to education to improved response to natural disasters, the legislature helped citizens across our state in many ways in 2012.

It started last October when we passed comprehensive, bipartisan jobs legislation that invested hundreds of millions of dollars in small businesses, gave firms hiring incentives, aligned education programs with jobs-in-demand, encouraged entrepreneurship and innovation and eliminated red-tape for growing companies.

This spring, we balanced a budget by keeping our funding promise to the City of New Haven without raising taxes. Historic changes were made to our educational system so our children can succeed. We made it easier for people to exercise voting rights and demanded that utility companies respond better when storms and crises hit. We also demanded homeowners, condominium unit owners and business owners be treated fairly when presenting an insurance claim as part of a storm or any covered loss.

In addition, I worked on several bills important to the people of New Haven.

I hope this report is informative. I'm happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future for our families.

Let's Keep In Touch

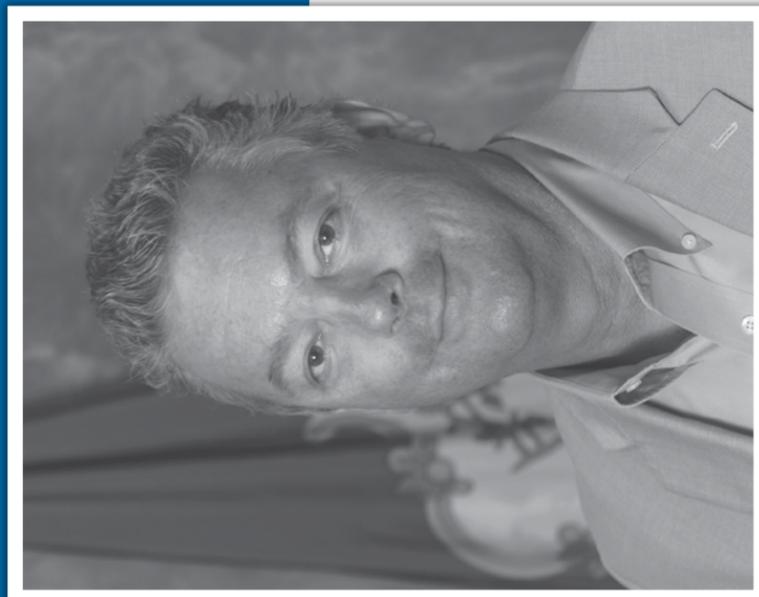
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State Representative

Robert W. Megna

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2012

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State Representative

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Rep. Megna and Rep. Fox discussing legislation this past session

Storm Response And Power Outages

In the aftermath of the October Nor'easter and Tropical Storm Irene that left much of the state without power, the legislature passed sweeping reforms to better prepare for future severe storms and avoid widespread and lengthy loss of utility service, where:

- Utilities will be held to minimum performance standards for emergency preparation and response
- Noncompliance could result in penalties of up to 2.5 percent of an electric or gas company's annual distribution revenue, approximately \$25 million in the case of Connecticut Light & Power

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Reducing Domestic Violence

We have made great progress in helping families affected by domestic violence in recent years, but the problem persists in our communities. Building on earlier successes, this year we strengthened the state's laws to better protect victims, hold abusers accountable and give new tools to law enforcement by:

- Improving access to and enforcement of protective and restraining orders
- Giving police officers new tools, including a model policy for responding to domestic violence incidents.
- Allowing victims to report email and texting violations of restraining and protective orders in the town where they reside, where they receive the communication or where the communication was initiated
- Extending the maximum length of restraining orders from six months to one year.
- Ordering a feasibility study for a 911 texting system
- Requiring the courts to share protective orders with schools that victims attend, upon request of a victim
- Strengthening the definition of stalking to ensure that stalking incidents—including digital stalking—are appropriately punished

Hurricane Deductibles And Property Claims

Protects homeowners and condominium owners by prohibiting large hurricane deductibles when the hurricane is downgraded to a tropical storm. Ensures that depressed real estate market values cannot lower the value of the settlement for any type of property claim and ensures a prompt payment following settlement of the claim. Extends the time frame to bring an action against the insurance company to 18 months for any covered claim. Prevents unscrupulous vendors from price gouging as a result of the claim. Lastly, prevents public adjusters from charging fees greater than 10 percent of the actual settlement.

Sewage Spill Alerts

Recognizes that sewage spills can impact the health and property of residents as well as take an environmental toll on our waterways and beaches. Spill alerts will now occur for breaches at sewage treatment plants, whether caused by storm overflow or operational problems. The new law establishes a process to inform the public whenever a sewage spill occurs by requiring the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) to post information on sewage spills on the agency's website beginning in July 2014.

Senior Focus

Protecting the quality of life for our senior citizens is a top priority. This year the legislature focused on healthcare and grandparents' rights.

GRANDPARENTS' RIGHTS

Family relationships are complicated and grandparents can sometimes be separated from their grandchildren's lives particularly when divorce or disagreements occur. This new law helps grandparents seeking visitation rights by providing guidance on evidence showing a parent-like relationship exists and that a denial of visitation rights could cause harm to the child. Decisions should be made in a child's best interests and this legislation helps do that.

PRESERVING MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY

This legislation ensured thousands of seniors and people with disabilities could continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles by raising the income limit for MSP to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1. It would have been a tragic irony if a welcome increase in Social Security made some Connecticut residents ineligible for these Medicare benefits.

I am proud to support these and other initiatives for our seniors. After working throughout their lives and contributing to society, seniors deserve our respect and assistance to help them enjoy their later years.

Education Reform

Ensures all of our children have a brighter future by supporting teachers' development and providing students with effective educators, increasing Pre-K slots, and building a framework for meaningful intervention in our lowest-achieving schools. This legislation also allows the commissioner of education to assist struggling schools.

Veterans

DESECRATING VETERAN MEMORIALS

Honoring the present and past sacrifices of our veterans is one of my highest priorities. It is shocking to see an increase in thefts and vandalism of veteran memorials. We increased penalties for desecrating veteran's memorials beyond the monetary value of what was vandalized.

