

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERT W. MEGNA

SERVING THE 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Dear Neighbor,

The 2014 legislative session ended recently and I want to update you about what I have been up to in Hartford. This year was a short three-month session, but I am proud of the work that we got done in such a short period of time.

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.

In an effort to continue helping Connecticut's struggling economy, I was pleased to support an increase in the minimum wage, which will rise gradually to \$10.10 on Jan. 1, 2017. Working parents simply cannot afford to support their families at the current minimum wage, and they deserve a livable wage.

We passed a law this session creating a new Connecticut Port Authority, utilizing our three deep-water ports of Bridgeport, New Haven and New London, and bringing jobs to our state while removing traffic from our highways. We also committed to a study to look at Connecticut's entire tax system, with an eye toward making it more stable, more progressive and less reliant on property taxes when the national economy is volatile.

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.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Megna
State Representative



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERT W. MEGNA

PROUDLY SERVING THE 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT, NEW HAVEN

ROBERT.MEGNA@CGA.CT.GOV

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 2802 | HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591 | CAPITOL: 1-800-842-8267

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

CAPITOL UPDATE 2014



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Robert W. MEGNA

SERVING THE 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 2802
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 1-800-842-8267

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERT W. MEGNA

PROUDLY SERVING THE 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT | NEW HAVEN

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

ROOM 2802

HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 1-800-842-8267



LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

We passed several bills to help people cope with the sudden substantial long term care insurance premium increases. Now insurance companies will have to disclose the possibility of a substantial premium increase when a policy is purchased. Large premium increases will be phased in over several years, and the policyholder will have an option to reduce premium increases.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

We limited co-payments charged by insurance companies for breast ultrasound screening. Health insurance policies that are required to provide ultrasound coverage will be prohibited from imposing a co-payment of more than \$20 for breast ultrasound screening.



STORM SHUTTERS, FLOOD INSURANCE AND SURPLUS LINE HOMEOWNER INSURANCE POLICIES

During the 2014 session my committee held a public hearing at the Nathan Hale School in Morris Cove. Prior to the session, I undertook an audit of surplus line homeowner policies in force along the coast. As a result of the public hearing and audit, it was clear that access to the homeowner insurance marketplace and the cost of flood insurance were making it difficult to own a home near the coast.

As House chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I raised and authored **House Bill 5502**. The bill became Public Act 14-175 and does the following:

- Prohibits homeowner insurance companies from requiring storm shutters as an underwriting requirement for obtaining a homeowner insurance policy
- Prohibits a homeowner insurance company from not insuring or renewing a homeowner policy because of any major storm claim such as "Super Storm Sandy"
- Requires surplus line homeowner policies to be the same basic quality as homeowner policies purchased in the regulated market
- Creates an incentive for state regulated insurance companies to compete with the National Flood Insurance program in offering flood insurance
- Provides other home and business owner protections when making property claims

PRINTED
IN CONNECTICUT

TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT

A bill was proposed to allocate funds for tree trimming and paving existing runway areas at Tweed New Haven Airport.

Following the numerous responses from neighbors opposing the changes around the airport and in Morris Cove, we did not advance the proposal.



HELPING SENIORS REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES

Most seniors would prefer to live in their own homes for as long as possible. We have taken steps to help make this happen. This year we created a \$6 million grant program for home modifications and other assistive technology that will allow people to remain in their homes longer.

The program is open to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at risk of being unable to live independently without the modifications. An individual must have an income that is up to 400 percent above the federal poverty level.

ALLOWING SENIORS ON THE QMB PROGRAM TO QUALIFY FOR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT POLICIES

Currently seniors in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program are prohibited from purchasing any of the Medicare supplemental insurance policies. We passed a law this year that allows seniors on the QMB program to purchase Medicare supplement policies.