



THE OPENING OF J.M. WRIGHT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

This fall our students will have an opportunity to enter a new school building, which is scheduled to open its doors on Wednesday, August 27, 2014. The school will welcome 162 freshmen this year and each year an additional grade will be added until grades 9-12 have been fully implemented. Students and parents are looking forward to the new opportunities brought by the recently renovated school.

The new J.M. Wright Tech will prepare students to work in high-level problem-solving careers such as: facilities management, health technology, travel and tourism, e-electrical, e-carpentry, automotive engineering and culinary science, among others. I recently had the opportunity to tour the school and was impressed with the great work and energy this new school will bring to our community!

For additional information please visit their website at www.cttech.org/wright/

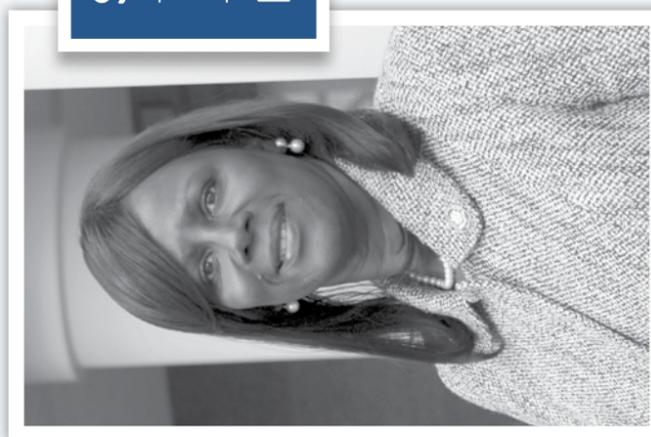
“Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.”

-Abraham Lincoln

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | DEPUTY SPEAKER
PAT BILLIE MILLER
PROUDLY SERVING STAMFORD | THE 145TH HOUSE DISTRICT

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

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 these 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, to 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 allowing businesses to 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 support 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,

CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

PUTTING OUR CHILDREN FIRST

This session we passed legislation that will impact our schools Pre K through 12 and our higher education system. These laws include:

- Creating the Office of Early Childhood as the lead agency and oversight authority for early care and education of young children
- Establishing opportunities for the creation of new pre-school programs and additional pre-school slots for existing school-readiness programs
- Providing high school and college students with additional training and learning grants for apprenticeships to give students real work environment experiences
- The reporting of every incidence of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or stalking in a Campus Crime Report involves partnering with the community in prevention and awareness of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking by establishing campus resource teams which will respond to incidents
- The CHET Baby Scholars Program that offers one-time incentives to families who open a CHET 529 savings account by the child's first birthday, or first year after adoption and families that contribute \$150 in the first 4 years will receive a one-time match of \$150
- The 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
- Extending the hours of operations at various technical schools allowing students longer hours of technical training

WORKING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Connecticut's working families and children are always in the back of my mind and I am proud of legislation we passed that will help them thrive by:

- Incrementally increasing the hourly minimum wage to \$10.10 to give more financial security to working individuals and families, while pumping more money into our local economy
- Adding dyslexia to the individualized education program (IEP) form that planning and placement teams use to provide special education to students
- Passing two laws aimed at increasing awareness and prevention of injuries and illnesses among student athletes related to concussions and sudden cardiac arrest

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LOOKING OUT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The economy was one of the biggest issues this session and we worked to continue supporting small business owners through programs designed to help them grow. We:

- Created the Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund for targeted industries to expand facilities and develop new products
- Allowed large manufacturers to convert unclaimed research and development tax credits into tax refunds or offsets for purchasing machinery and equipment, developing new products and hiring and training new employees
- Developed the Manufacturing Reinvestment Account Program to assist small manufacturers fund capital investments and train their workforce

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

Connecticut's senior population continues to increase and we, as a state, are looking at ways to best support them. We:

- Expanded the Small Nursing Home Pilot Program allowing more seniors to move away from traditional institutional nursing homes into smaller, more personal and welcoming facilities
- Authorized a study of private funding sources for home and community-based care for the elderly and those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease
- Lifted the suspension and re-opened the Renters' Rebate Program providing partial rental payment and utility rebates to the elderly and disabled

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans and their families deserve our gratitude and help after they have served our state and country. This session we:

- Established the Military Occupational Specialty Taskforce to develop guidelines for granting credit for military experience or qualifications allowing veterans better access to employment opportunities
- Created penalties and fines for fraudulent representation of military honors or service
- Granted 10 days of excused absence to any school-aged child whose parents are being deployed to combat zones

Useful Numbers

Infoline	211
CT Tax Department	860-297-5962
CT Veterans Affairs	860-616-3600
Telebenefits line (for filing claims)	203-230-4939
Healthcare Advocate	866-466-4446
State Department on Aging	866-218-6631
Consumer Protection	800-842-2649
Unclaimed Property Hotline	800-833-7318

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