



Rep. Frank Nicastro speaking during the Wall of Honor Ceremony at the Legislative Office Building

Saluting Our Veterans

Providing a better life to those who protect us

Veterans, along with their families, have sacrificed so much so we can enjoy our freedom and a democratic way of life. Veterans returning from service need to know that we appreciate what they do for us and that means passing legislation that helps them and their families. Veterans' bills passed this session:

- » Create a one-stop website for services available for veterans: www.ct.gov/ctva
- » Offer veteran license plates to a member of the U. S. armed forces or his or her surviving spouse
- » Allow veteran status to be on a driver's license or identity card
- » Provide disabled wartime veterans with free parking, admission, and boat access parking to state recreational areas
- » Expand the waiver of property tax interest for certain armed forces members in Iraq and Afghanistan
- » Waive the \$20 fee for one certified copy of a veteran's death certificate when requested by family



PLACE
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HERE

Rep. Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.
Legislative Office Building, Room 4034
Hartford, CT 06106

State Representative

Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.

Serving Bristol and Forestville | 79th District

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

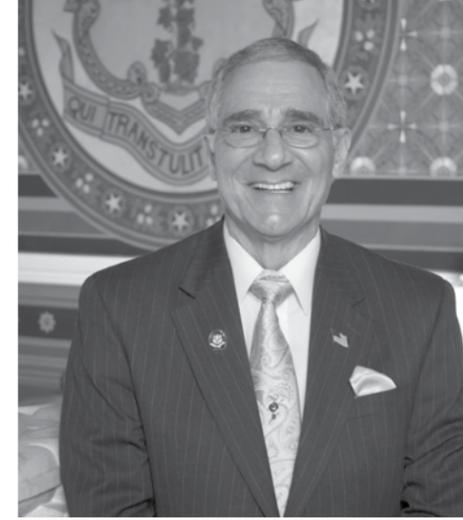
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State Representative

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Dear Neighbor,

This report highlights legislation important to you that was passed during the last regular session of the General Assembly.

Our highest priority was job creation and retention. Some of the other legislative advances included electric rate reform, education enhancement, health insurance reform, help for veterans, environment protection, and help for domestic violence victims. In addition, I worked on legislation important to our City and the State of Connecticut.

As we struggle to turn the corner from recession to economic recovery, I see opportunities in the upcoming session to build on the successful business and job growth initiatives passed by the Legislature this year.

I hope this report is informative and helpful to you. If you have any questions about these issues or any others facing our state this year, please feel free to contact me. Together we can work to create a better future for our friends and families.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

CAPITOL REPORT 2011



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If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

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Rep. Nicastro and other officials at Governor's DNA Testing bill signing

Fighting Crime

DNA Upon Re-arrest

I am proud to have co-sponsored this bill. DNA samples will now be collected from convicted felons after a subsequent arrest. Since felons are likely to have committed other crimes, DNA can solve crimes with matches against a national database.

Getting Tough on School Bullying

In response to growing concerns over increasing acts of school bullying, we passed legislation that strengthens school anti-bullying laws and requires all school employees to complete annual training programs dealing with the problem. Now, bullying is identified by actions targeting a student based on personal characteristics such as race, gender, sexual orientation or physical appearance. The bill makes the school principal responsible to investigate and address bullying and electronic cyber-bullying whether it occurs in or out of school.

Care 4 Kids

The Department of Social Services (DSS) must now post a notice on its website and provide written notice to program participants and providers when it makes any changes to the Care 4 Kids program, the state's subsidized child care program.

Keeping Children Safe

Background checks on all public school job applicants will become mandatory and laws about reporting and investigating cases of abuse or neglect have been expanded.

Stop for School Buses

There are over 600,000 children in Connecticut using roughly 6,200 school buses every school day. We want them all to arrive home safely. School bus passengers will be better protected from reckless drivers through the use of video surveillance and fines. Under existing law, drivers must stop at least 10 feet from a school bus displaying flashing red signal lights. The new law allows towns and school boards to install cameras on school buses to record motor vehicles that ignore stopped buses, allowing police to issue fines of \$450 or more. It should be noted that 80 percent of that revenue is sent back to municipalities.

Creating Jobs

The Legislature made sure Connecticut was open for business by enacting laws that:

- » Encourage businesses to create jobs by providing tax incentives through the "First Five" program
- » Expand our reinvestments in manufacturing
- » Provide student loan reimbursements for green-tech degree holders after two years employment in the field
- » Create the Connecticut Airport Authority to run our airports as economic engines for the economy
- » Save our Vo-tech schools that teach skills that help people find employment



Hazardous Waste and Materials

Eliminating Toxic BPA

I supported important legislation that would limit our exposure to Bisphenol-A, which is known to have negative health-related side effects. A new law prohibits the manufacture, sale, offering for sale, or distribution of thermal receipt or cash register receipt paper containing Bisphenol-A (BPA) in Connecticut. We have already banned the chemical BPA from infant formula and baby food containers. BPA exposure can be linked to various illnesses and ailments including: prostate cancer, breast cancer, obesity, attention deficit disorder, hyperactivity disorder and disruption in reproduction and fertility (including damage to fetus).



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Please check the boxes below and indicate which important issues you would like more information about.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Reform | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job Creation | |

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ADDRESS _____

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Better Health Care Access & Affordability

Health care benefits are one of the largest expenses faced by individuals and employers. We combined two major health care reforms that protect and increase access to quality, affordable health care.

The Connecticut Health Care Partnership offers the state health insurance coverage to municipalities and to non-profit organizations. Taking advantage of the increased bargaining power and reduced administrative costs associated with the state plan will allow municipalities and non-profits to provide quality care with less cost. When municipalities save money on health care, those savings are passed down to local taxpayers.

In addition, better health care delivery will be attained for individuals and groups through a comprehensive plan that lays out a framework for a state-wide health care delivery system that also leverages the state health plan pool to contain costs and promote preventive care.

Bone Marrow Testing

I'm a proud co-sponsor of a bill requiring health insurance coverage for bone marrow testing.

Bone marrow transplants are effective treatments for many life threatening diseases, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukemia and other cancers. The cost to the potential donor of undergoing bone marrow testing is a significant barrier to expanding participation in bone marrow donation. The bill requires a policy to cover testing at a certified and accredited facility to people who sign up for the National Marrow Donor Program.

