

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FRANK N. NICASTRO, SR.

SERVING THE 79TH DISTRICT

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 for our children, as well as our state, was clear. Enclosed is information on some of the legislation which was passed to achieve these goals.



One of my priorities in Hartford is working toward a leaner and more efficient government. Promoting economic development is another. We have recently seen some favorable signs of recovery for our economy, but even if one person is still looking for a job or facing financial difficulty, we still have work to do.

Consumer protection is also one of my priorities. Energy suppliers will now be prohibited from offering consumers short-term "teaser" energy contracts with low rates, then switching to much higher variable rate contracts within weeks. Termination fees would be capped at \$50 under the law, and a consumer could switch back to the standard rate charged by UI or CL&P within 72 hours.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful and will call or email me for any reason. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

Thank you,

Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.



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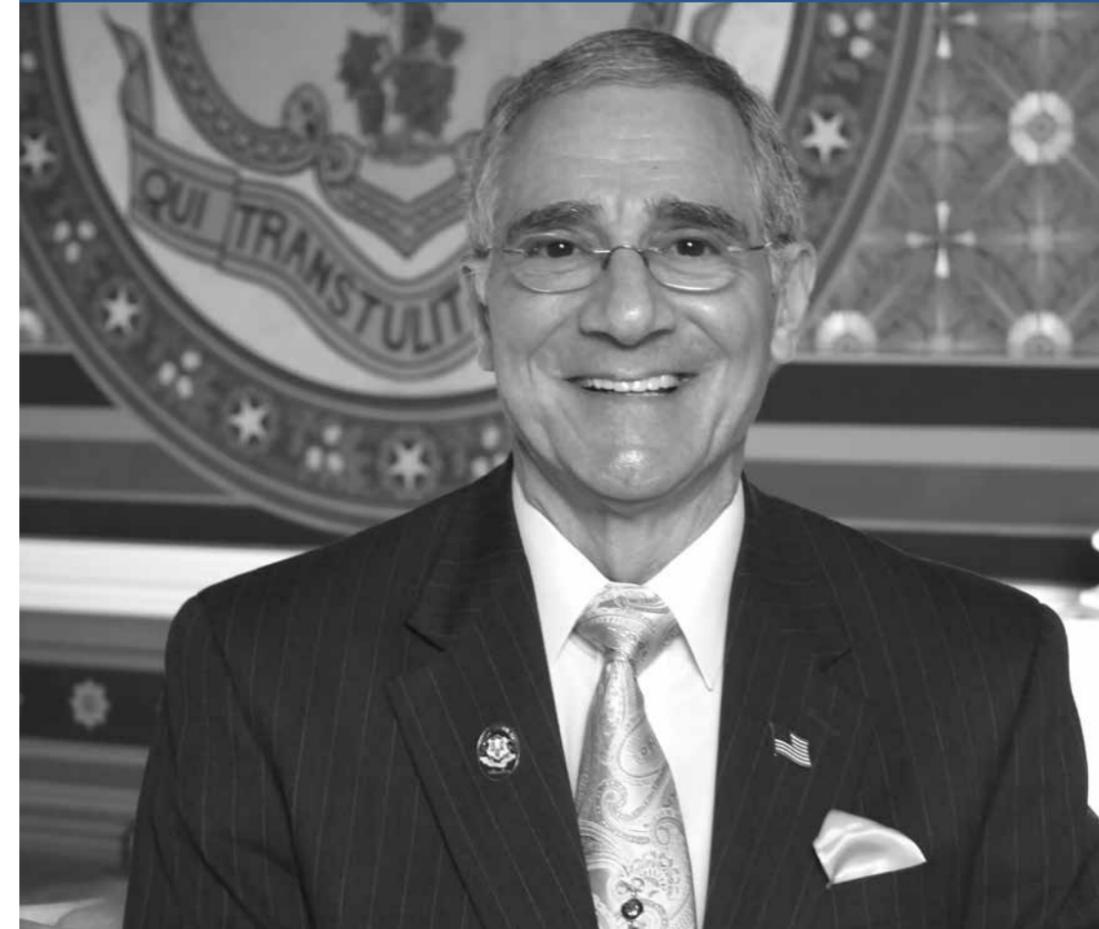
SERVING THE 79TH DISTRICT | BRISTOL, FORESTVILLE

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Please visit my website at:
www.housedems.ct.gov/Nicastro

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SEXUAL ABUSE & ASSAULT EDUCATION

Stopping sexual abuse and assault must start with early education in our communities. The Department of Children and Families together with the Department of Education and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. will identify and develop a statewide sexual abuse and assault awareness program for use in each public school.

INCREASING THE FINES ON ROBOCALLS

Unsolicited prerecorded telephone calls, referred to as robocalls, are intrusive and annoying. I co-sponsored a bill which increases the fine to \$1,000, from \$500, when a company's robocall fails to disconnect when you hang up. This law will become effective on October 1. Complaints can be submitted to the Public Utilities Regulation Authority through their website: www.ct.gov/pura or by phone: 1-800-382-4586.

REDUCING FEES CHARGED FOR SERVICES AT HOSPITAL-BASED FACILITIES

Increasingly, hospitals have been acquiring doctors' private practices. One result of this is an increased number of facility fees being charged to patients. In many instances nothing may have changed about your doctor's office location but you still find yourself being charged an extra fee that may or may not be covered by insurance. This year we took steps to require that physicians notify their patients in writing at least 10 days before their appointment that they are going to be charged a new facility fee, in order to give the patient time to find out if their insurance will cover the fee. Doctors are also required to display signs that clearly explain this fee in their offices.



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

We are always looking for ways to provide our high school and college students with additional training that will help them as they enter the job market. This year we established a new apprenticeship grant program under the Subsidized Training and Employment Program. The new program will provide grants so that small businesses and manufacturers can hire high school and college students. These experiences will give our students the foundation they need to succeed in the workplace.



Rep. Nicastro leading the House Chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance

MORE PROTECTIONS AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

Data shows that more than 16 million people in the United States were victims of identity theft in 2012, with reported losses totaling more than \$24 billion. With 85% of identity theft occurring as a result of the misuse of existing account information, it is vital that those with access to this information are properly vetted. This year we added enhanced protections against identity theft by requiring any mortgage broker, mortgage correspondent lender, or licensed mortgage lender to undergo a credit check as a term of employment.

BANNING "KNOCKOUT GAME" ASSAULTS

There's a new troubling and dangerous pastime being conducted by young people called the "knockout game." The objective is to strike a person with so much force that the unsuspecting person falls unconscious. In accounts from victims and as seen in videos, these attacks come unprovoked and victims are targeted irrespective of age, with seniors being some of the victims of this vicious "game." The legislature sent a strong message to assailants by criminalizing the act under the law. If a person is found guilty of participating in this potentially deadly activity they will be subject to a charge of assault in the second degree, which is a class D felony.



Rep. Frank Nicastro presents legislative citations to the Forestville Little League on the 60th anniversary of forming and to the Watson family in memory of Robert Watson who was involved with the organization for 40 years

www.housedems.ct.gov/Nicastro

EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF SERVICE MEMBERS



Rep. Nicastro addressing the Employer Step Up Conference held in Bristol

When parents or legal guardians are deployed to combat zones, it is a stressful situation for their children. To help ease some of the stress that students take into the classroom, we will allow any child age 5 to 18 to be granted 10 days of excused absence during the

school year if their parent or legal guardian is on active-duty, is on leave, or has immediately returned from a combat zone or combat support post.

STOLEN VALOR

It's a crime to lie about receiving a military medal or other Congressional decorations with the intent to fraudulently obtain money, property or other tangible benefits. It is also a crime to wear a military uniform with the intent to commit fraud. Violators can receive a fine between \$500 and \$1,000 or up to six months imprisonment, or both.

HELP FOR JOB-SEEKING VETERANS

This session we worked to streamline the state licensing process for our job-seeking veterans. Connecticut veterans can now apply their military training toward occupational licenses, including public safety positions and a variety of trades. In addition, college credits can be awarded for specialty training.



Rep. Frank Nicastro honors Officer Daniel Colavolpe as Bristol Police Officer of the Year 2013