

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early childhood education is important for our children's development, providing a sound foundation for future learning opportunities. This session we created the Office of Early Childhood. This agency will administer programs and funding that affect our children from birth until elementary school. This coordinated system of care will better utilize, better educate, and better care for our most vulnerable and impressionable population and do so in an efficient and cost effective way.

For too long, students with dyslexia have been made feel that they are lazy or not smart as their classmates. Early detection and early treatment of dyslexia are important for helping students to overcome this challenges. This law will required the State Department of Education to add dyslexia to the individualized education program (IEP) form that planning and placement teams use to provide special education to students. Teacher's preparation programs will also be required to include instruction on identification of and appropriate interventions for students with dyslexia.

We also passed legislation that will fund 15,000 new pre-kindergarten slots over the next 10 years. Studies show that early access to education created lifelong learners.

FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 STATE AID HIGHLIGHTS

NEW HAVEN

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Education Cost Sharing | \$154,577,620 |
| Total PILOT: Colleges, Hospitals, State | \$49,344,730 |
| Grants and Capital Improvements | \$11,881,850 |

Total State Funds to New Haven \$221,012,143

HAMDEN

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Education Cost Sharing | \$27,018,047 |
| Total PILOT: Colleges, Hospitals, State | \$4,090,885 |
| Grants and Capital Improvements | \$4,180,000 |

Total State Funds to Hamden \$34,628,175



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBYN PORTER

NEW HAVEN AND HAMDEN | 94TH HOUSE DISTRICT

CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

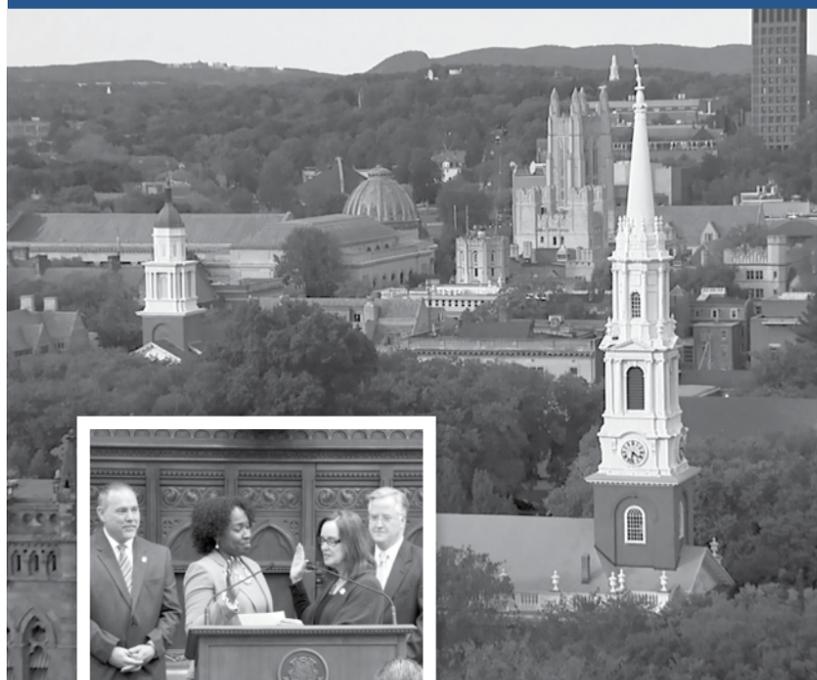
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBYN PORTER

NEW HAVEN AND HAMDEN | 94TH HOUSE DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share with you this update on the recently concluded legislative session.

While my time serving the 94th District has been brief, I was proud to be a part of so many strong pieces of legislation that will truly help the people of Hamden and New Haven. Both towns are going to see an increase in the money coming back from Hartford without seeing an increase in state taxes. Furthermore many of the bills that I supported will go a long way towards growing our middle class, from promoting access to jobs for ex-offenders and veterans returning from overseas to increasing funding for businesses who are looking to expand.

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.

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,

State Representative, Robyn Porter
(860) 240-8585 | 1-800-842-8267
Robyn.Porter@cga.ct.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBYN PORTER

NEW HAVEN AND HAMDEN | 94TH HOUSE DISTRICT

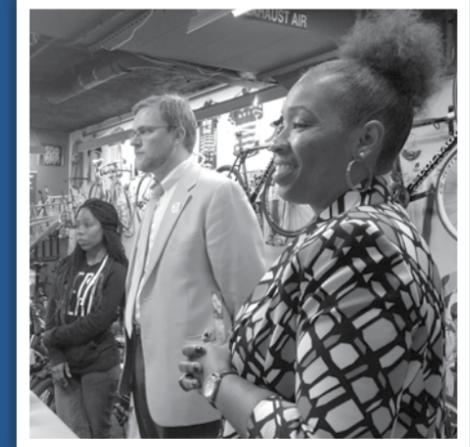


CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

PROTECTING VULNERABLE USERS

To the delight of our pedestrians, highway workers, bicyclists and other “vulnerable users,” we have taken another step to protect their safety on our state’s public ways. New legislation increases a motorist’s responsibilities when using public ways and ensures they will be held directly accountable in the event they fail to exercise reasonable care when using a public way.

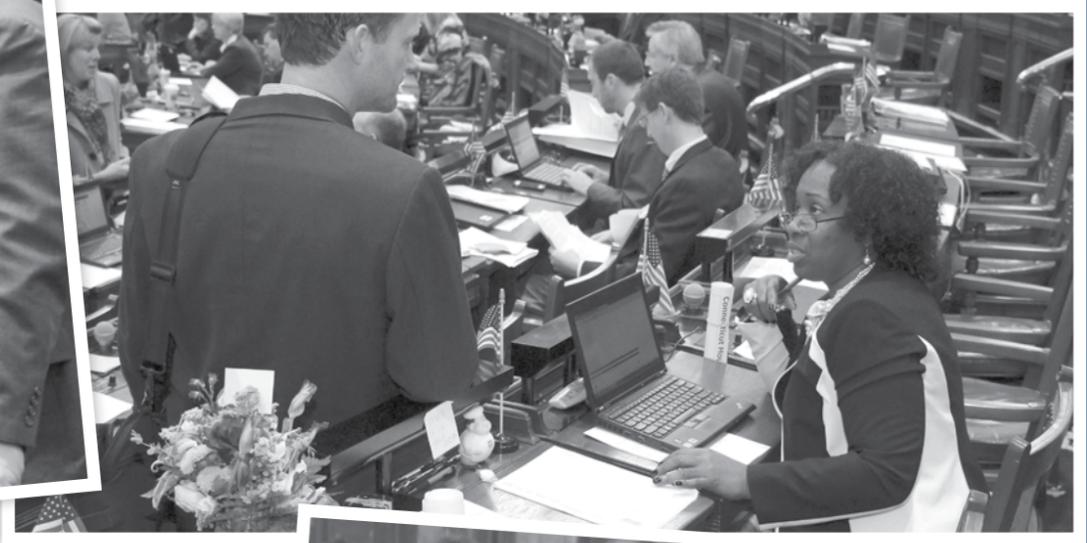
A driver found to be endangering “vulnerable users” or to have seriously injured one would be fined up to \$1,000 on top of the other charges they would inevitably face. This acts as a deterrent and is a proactive approach to keeping all of our users safe and respected. Connecticut public ways are no place for motorists who are unwilling to be safe and courteous to all of their users.



REMOVING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

One of the most significant barriers to successful reentry is employment. This bill would help offenders by creating a “certificate of rehabilitation” which could be granted by the Judicial Branch to offenders under its supervision.

The certificate would make an offender eligible for employment from which he otherwise could be disqualified due to his conviction by allowing him to obtain an occupational license. The Judicial Branch would have to consider public safety when issuing a certificate, and the offender would still have a criminal record and be obligated to disclose his conviction as required by state law.



TREE TRIMMING

This past winter community groups, residents, and local officials spoke out against the United Illuminating Company’s (UI) plan for a massive tree trimming operation that would have changed our streetscape for a decade.

This session I cosponsored and voted on one of my first bills, An Act Concerning Tree Trimming, which will require a disclosure on the notice to cut or prune the tree that if the owner objects to the proposed pruning or removal, and the tree falls on any utility infrastructure, the owner shall not be billed by the utility for any resulting damage. The bill will also require the establishment of an electronic communication or email depository for tree trimming complaints, questions and inquiries.

