



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBYN PORTER

HAMDEN & NEW HAVEN | 94TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2016 legislative session is now wrapping up! There are a number of initiatives that I am working on this session and I will continue to fight diligently while representing you at the Connecticut General Assembly. I've included a summary of some of the bills that I am co-sponsoring and have introduced this session.

If you have an idea or concern that you would like me to work on this year or in the future, please let me know! You may call my office at 860-240-8585 or send an email to robyn.porter@cga.ct.gov. I welcome your input and thank you for your advocacy on issues important to our community.

Sincerely,

Robyn Porter

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BAN THE BOX

H.B. 5237, An Act Concerning Fair Chance Employment, is better known as “Ban the Box.” This bill removes the box on a job application that asks an applicant if he or she has a criminal history, therefore eliminating the stigma associated with having a criminal record.

Job applicants who have served time should be evaluated for a job based on their skills and qualifications, rather than their prior mistakes. I strongly believe “banning the box” would be a huge step in reforming Connecticut’s criminal justice system.

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Connecticut needs to ensure that all employees can take time off to address personal or family issues without suffering any economic consequences for doing so.

I strongly support S.B. 221 An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave, which upon passage, would ensure that any private or public employee making \$9,300 or more annually can take up to 12 paid weeks off in order to care for a loved one or recover from a serious illness.

PRISON GERRYMANDERING

Instead of being counted as residents of the district they used to live in before their arrest, prisoners are counted as residents in the district in which they are incarcerated. This practice is a form of gerrymandering, which gives districts with prisoners more voting power and funding than the districts where the prisoners used to live.

I support S.B. 459, An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons For Purposes Of Determining Legislative Districts And Distributing State and Federal Funds. This bill eliminates the practice of prison gerrymandering by counting incarcerated persons as a resident of the district they lived in before their incarceration. Ending prison gerrymandering will help fix the unequal and unjust distribution of political representation in Connecticut.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

H.B. 5642, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee, focuses on individualized supervision, care, and accountability, and would make the following fixes to our juvenile justice system:

- Children will be incarcerated less often.
- The focus on children in the juvenile justice system will be on rehabilitating and educating them rather than punishing them.
- Children in the system will be provided with alternative education programs to help them graduate.
- The phrase “punish the child” will be removed from statutes as one of the roles and goals of the juvenile justice system.