

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GERALDO REYES**  
PROUDLY SERVING WATERBURY

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you this update on the recently concluded legislative session. Each year, our goal is to forge a path for a stronger Connecticut, and the 2017 session was no different. We worked to pass bipartisan legislation that improves the lives of working families, encourages economic growth, and makes critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state.

I am committed to fighting for you and building a solid Connecticut for future generations. The policies we passed support our small businesses, spur workforce development and ensure that we are making Connecticut more affordable for our young people and our seniors. As we work during the Special Session to craft a biennium budget, I will continue to work to keep Connecticut a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful. Our future is stronger when we work together, so please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if I can ever be of help to you or your family. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

Best wishes,



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**CAPITOL UPDATE 2017**

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# GERALDO REYES

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## TACKLING CT'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Addressing the opioid epidemic was a top priority this session. More people will fall victim to drug overdoses than from car accidents and gun violence combined. We passed new legislation that will improve your ability to dispose of unused prescriptions while looking at new ways to promote the availability of, and access to, overdose-reversal drugs like Narcan. This law also seeks to set up a real-time online clearinghouse to identify available detox/recovery beds and other treatment programs and will increase insurance coverage for detox programs. In addition, the law improves data sharing between state agencies regarding opioid abuse. This fight is ongoing and I'm proud to be working to mitigate the effects of this epidemic. (PA 17-131)

## EMPOWERING TECH SCHOOLS

This session we passed legislation to establish the technical high school system as an independent agency. By separating the technical schools from the State Board of Education, we expect them to be more responsive to the needs of the business community in training our future workforce. The newly named Technical Education and Career School System will have stronger oversight, more effective governance and more checks to prevent wasteful spending. (PA 17-237)

## RESPONDING TO HATE CRIMES

Responding to recent incidents of intimidation and bigotry, this law allows certain hate-crime offenders to be placed in community programs aimed at addressing their intolerance, and creates a state-wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council. It also imposes minimum fines for certain hate crimes, including cross burning and desecration of property and toughens the penalties for targeting and desecrating a house of worship. This sends a message that we will not accept crimes motivated by hate. It is important that we practice the values we believe and this legislation will bring us one step closer to accomplishing that goal. (PA 17-111)

## ATACANDO LA EPIDEMIA DE OPIOIDE EN CT

Conversar sobre la epidemia de opioides fue una prioridad esta sesión. Más personas caerán víctimas de sobredosis de droga que de accidentes automovilísticos y violencia de armas combinados. Pasamos una nueva ley que facilita el proceso para desechar recetas sin usar mientras que exploramos nuevas formas de promover la disponibilidad y acceso a drogas como Narcan que se usan para la reversión de sobredosis. Esta ley también establece un recurso en línea en tiempo actual para identificar la disponibilidad inmediata de programas para desintoxicación, además de aumentar la cobertura de estos por los planes médicos. En adición, la ley aumenta el intercambio de información entre agencias estatales con relación al abuso de opioides. Esta lucha continua, y yo estoy orgulloso de trabajar para mitigar los efectos de esta epidemia. (PA 17-131)

## MEJORANDO LAS ESCUELAS DE TECNOLOGÍA

Esta sesión pasamos una ley que establece el sistema de escuelas de tecnología como una agencia independiente. Al separar las escuelas técnicas de la junta de educación estatal, esperamos que estas sean más sensibles a las necesidades de la comunidad empresarial al entrenar nuestros futuros empleados. El Technical Education and Career School System como se le ha llamado, tendrá vigilancia más fuerte, gobernación más efectiva y más observación para prevenir gastos infructuosos. (PA 17-237)

## RESPONDIENDO A CRÍMENES DE ODIO

Como respuesta a los incidentes recientes de intimidación y fanatismo, esta ley permite que ciertos autores de crímenes de odio sean introducidos a programas comunitarios dirigidos a bregar con su intolerancia, y también crea la junta estatal Hate Crimes Advisory Council. También impone multas mínimas para ciertos crímenes de odio, incluyendo la profanación de propiedad, quemar el símbolo de la cruz y fortalece las penalidades de vandalismo y enfoque en las iglesias. Esto enviara el mensaje de que no aceptaremos crímenes que sean motivados por odio. Es importante que pongamos en práctica nuestros valores y esta ley nos llevara a un paso más cerca de cumplir esta meta. (PA 17-111)



*Speaking at Crosby High School college acceptance ceremony*



*Rep. Reyes listens during an Environment Committee Meeting*



*Rep. Reyes speaking on the house floor*