

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

EMMETT RILEY

PROUDLY SERVING THE 46TH DISTRICT - NORWICH



Dear Neighbor:

I remain committed to working toward a leaner and more efficient government, while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens and keeping essential services properly funded.

This legislative session had many goals, but first and foremost was crafting a responsible, balanced budget that protects community services and creates sustainable, long-term economic growth.

I was happy to support key legislation including affordable education, creating jobs, promoting economic development, lowering energy costs, and improving chronic disease care coordination.

Your input helps me to properly represent you. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with your thoughts, ideas, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Emmett D Riley



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CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

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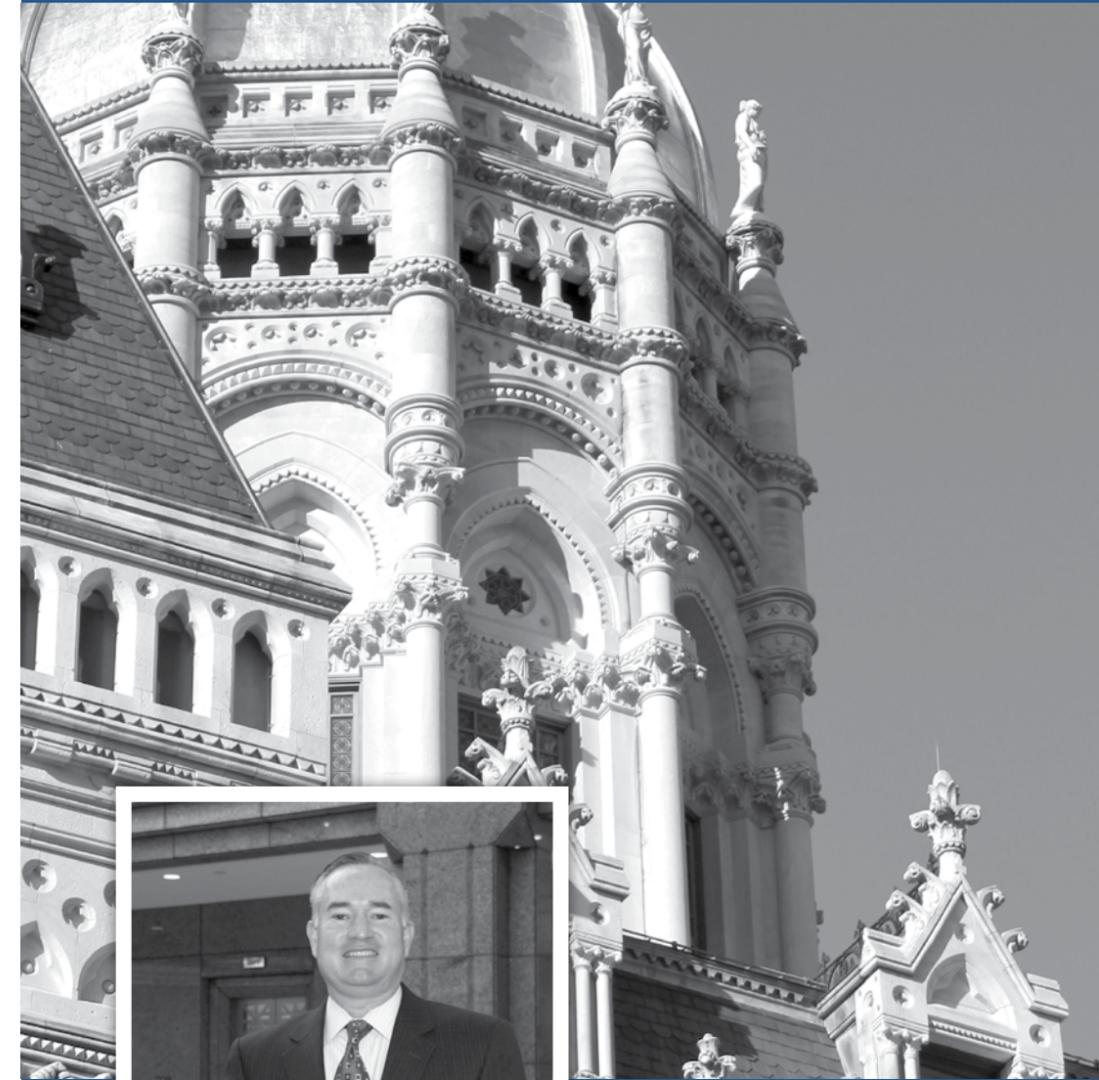
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INCREASING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

One critical way to improve the mental health system in this state is to increase access to mental health services. Individuals will now be able to receive mental health services in locations outside of licensed clinics. The more convenient we can make it for sufferers of mental illness to receive care, the more likely they are to get the help they need.

NORWICH FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 AID

Education Cost Sharing	\$36,195,392
DECD Tax Abatement and MRSA Payments	\$175,997
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$804,035
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$823,854
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$1,996,575
School Transportation	\$663,500
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$329,508
Town Aid Roads	\$501,226
Adult Education	\$325,311

Total State Funds to Norwich **\$41,815,398**

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IN CONNECTICUT

HELPING SENIORS STAY IN THEIR HOMES

Most seniors would prefer to live in their own homes for as long as possible. We have taken steps to help make this happen. This year we created a \$6 million grant program for home modifications and other assistive technology that will allow people to remain in their homes longer.

The program is open to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at risk of being unable to live independently without home modifications.

We also required the Commission on Aging to recognize communities that are implementing livable community initiatives, which include affordable and accessible housing, community and social services, planning and zoning regulations, walkability, and transportation related infrastructure. The Department on Aging and the Department of Social Services will hold quarterly meetings with nutrition service providers in order to improve elderly nutrition services.

STOLEN VALOR

This session we passed a law that makes it a crime to lie about receiving a military medal or other Congressional decoration 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, up to six months imprisonment, or both.

INCREASING MINIMUM WAGE

We recently increased the minimum wage to \$10.10, effective by 2017. This boost in income will appear gradually in three stages with the minimum wage rising to \$9.15 on January 1, 2015, \$9.60 on January 2, 2016, and finally to \$10.10 on January 1, 2017. The increase will raise the standard of living for thousands of hard-working families in Connecticut struggling to make ends meet and put those dollars back into our local economy, helping small businesses in our neighborhoods. Studies show that workers earning the minimum wage spend nearly their entire paycheck at local businesses on basic living expenses, including groceries. Connecticut was the first state in the nation to pass a law to raise the minimum wage above \$10 an hour.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

This session we established the Office of Early Childhood which will increase funding for thousands of additional pre-kindergarten slots. Pre-K helps prepare children for grade school academically and socially and is a great long-term investment for taxpayers. Pre-K not only increases the chances of future success in and out of the classroom, but helps us meet the ongoing challenge of providing equal educational opportunity to every child.



PREVENTING CONCUSSIONS IN YOUNG ATHLETES

Concussions have been rising at an alarming rate and we are only now beginning to understand the potential devastating effects they can have on children. We heard heartbreaking testimony from students, parents, coaches, and others from our community and decided that it was time to act. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, will develop an education plan for student athletes, coaches and parents. A new consent form will also be distributed to parents and legal guardians that will have to be returned to the school prior to athletic activity. These steps ensure that we are fighting the issue with proper knowledge prior to an incident rather than when it is too late.

To take a deeper look at concussions, a task force will be formed to study the occurrences of concussions among youth during athletic activities and to make recommendations for other possible legislative initiatives. The task force will focus on best practices in recognition and prevention of concussions, current policies, training of employees, and relevant federal, state and local laws involving concussions.

E-CIGARETTES AND MINORS

E-cigarettes have the potential to become a gateway to smoking for Connecticut children. This year, we made it illegal for a minor to buy or possess an e-cigarette, and for anyone to sell, give, or deliver one to a minor. Violators are subject to some of the same penalties imposed on those who commit similar violations regarding traditional cigarettes.

CONNECTICUT
HOUSE DEMOCRATS