

PROUDLY SERVING THE 46TH HOUSE DISTRICT & THE PEOPLE OF NORWICH

PROTECTING SUSPECTED ELDERLY ABUSE VICTIMS

This year, I focused on protecting our seniors from elder abuse. Now, when abuse or neglect of an elderly person is suspected, the Department of Social Services (DSS) will be able to petition a probate court to gain access to the residence to investigate. A new standard for elder abuse now includes that of elderly people who do not live alone but whose caretaker fails to provide or arrange to provide for services necessary to maintain the patient's physical and mental health. If you need to report elder abuse, you can call DSS offices at 1-800-842-1508.

PAY EQUITY AND FAIRNESS

To reduce wage inequality and make wage rates more transparent, we prohibited employers from preventing an employee from discussing their wage with another employee or from requiring an employee to sign a document prohibiting them from doing so. Any employer who violates this law will be subject to compensatory damages, including attorney's fees and punitive damages.

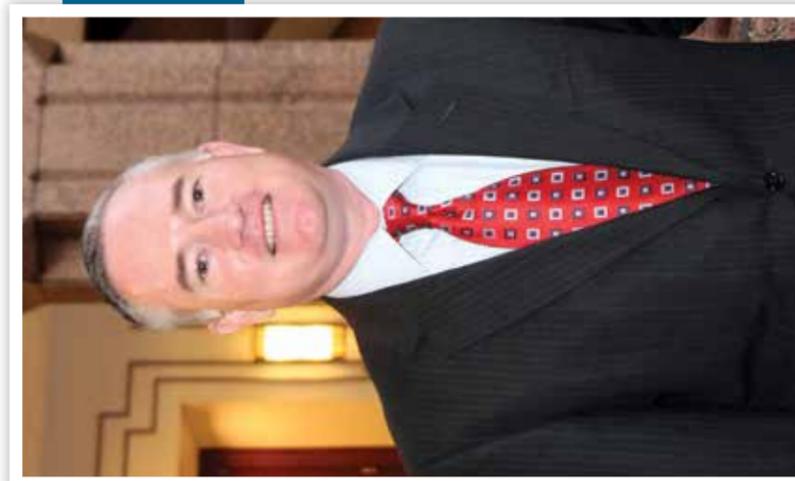
PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE

According to 2013 data from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, more than half the drug overdose deaths in the United States were related to pharmaceutical drugs. To help combat this public health problem, we passed legislation requiring prescribers (physicians, physician assistants, APRNs and dentists) to get trained in how to properly prescribe controlled substances. If prescribing more than a 72-hour supply of any controlled substance, the practitioner must check the patient's record in the prescription drug-monitoring program and report those prescriptions to the program immediately. Pharmacists will also be allowed to prescribe opioid antagonists, used to treat drug overdoses, if they receive special training and certification to do so.

State Representative

EMMETT D. RILEY

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

EMMETT D. RILEY

CAPITOL UPDATE 2015

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www.facebook.com/RepRiley

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Each year brings a new set of challenges, and the 2015 session was no different. Despite a serious budget deficit and the need to encourage economic growth, my colleagues and I passed a balanced budget that will provide property and car tax relief for Norwich's middle-class families and small businesses, in addition to consumer protections and programs that empowers Connecticut families.

We also created the framework for a once-in-a-generation investment in our transportation infrastructure, which will spur more growth in our economy and create thousands of jobs. This is very important for us in southeastern Connecticut, who have seen a massive underinvestment in our infrastructure. I am proud to say that will no longer be the case.

In addition to delivering property and car tax relief which will go into effect in 2016, we passed legislation that protects seniors and brought transparency to the rapidly changing healthcare landscape. And in the aftermath of the largest data breach in state history, we set new cybersecurity standards for companies handling residents' personal data.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful and please feel free to call or email me. It is my pleasure and honor to represent the people of Norwich as your state representative and I welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Emmett D. Riley
State Representative



What I've Been Fighting for...

ADDRESSING THE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT GAP

One of my top priorities is closing Connecticut's sizable education achievement gap and improving outcomes for our lowest performing students. This year, new laws demand that more teachers be certified in shortage areas, that greater numbers of minority teachers be recruited, and that all educators be given strategies to build better relationships with students of different cultures. The Office of Higher Education will annually report to the Education Committee on the demographic background of prospective teachers.

EASING TAX BURDENS ON FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES

This year, we helped to ease the property tax burden on Connecticut's families by requiring that private colleges and massive healthcare systems pay their fair share.

- Private colleges that own off-campus property will now be required to pay property tax on any property used to house students, just like any other homeowner in town.
- Connecticut's largest healthcare systems will pay property tax on all taxable property purchased after October 1, 2015.
- Private colleges and large hospitals will help pay for the services they use, such as fire, police, and public works, just like the rest of us.

CREATING A STUDENT LOAN BILL OF RIGHTS

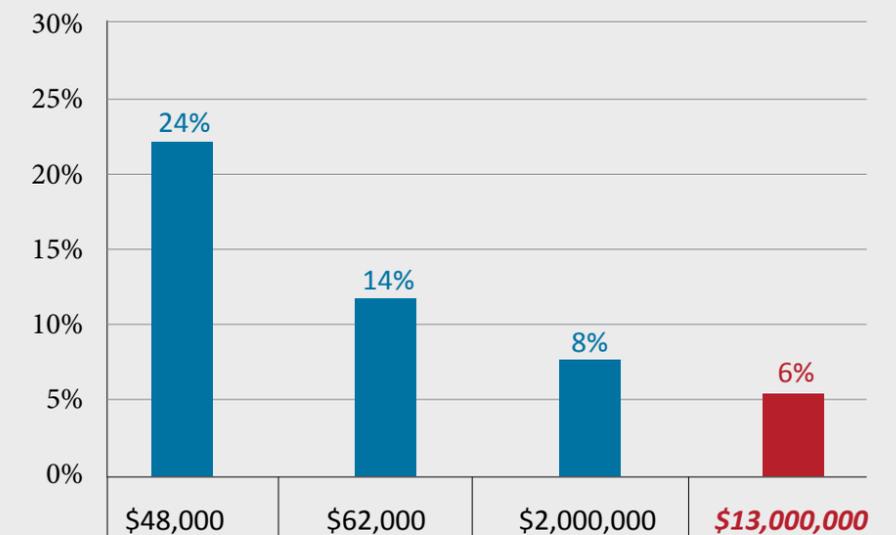
Applying for college loans can be complicated and confusing. This is why I supported our nation's first Student Loan Bill of Rights, which creates an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman to assist students in navigating the loan process. The Ombudsman will also be responsible for handling student issues and investigating complaints about their loan servicers.



HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES

This year we allocated more funds for the highly successful Small Business Express Program. We are also requiring the Department of Economic and Community Development to dedicate funds to develop a program for construction projects for minority business enterprises. These moves will create jobs and better economic opportunities for Connecticut families.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD



Tax Rate For Household Earning **\$48,000** Is Almost **24%**
Tax Rate For Household Earning **\$62,000** Is Almost **14%**
Tax Rate For Household Earning **\$2 Million** Is Almost **8%**
Tax Rate For Household Earning **\$13 Million** Is Almost **6%**



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The median income for those living in the 46th Assembly District is \$48,000. That means many Norwich families are paying higher tax rates than those making millions of dollars each year, which is not right. In this budget we asked those who can truly afford it - individuals and families making more than \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 a year, respectively - to pay just a little bit more. Our top tax rate still remains lower than those of New York and New Jersey. There is still much work to be done to ensure that Connecticut's tax system is fair and just.