

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Emmett D. Riley

REPRESENTING NORWICH
46TH HOUSE DISTRICT

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Dear Neighbor,

As the 2014 legislative session progresses, one of my top priorities is to determine how we can best boost our recovering economy. We have created several successful programs over the last few years, and I will work to extend these programs in order to help even more job seekers and businesses in the future. This session we have also proposed several new ideas that will help jump start the economy and get more people back to work.

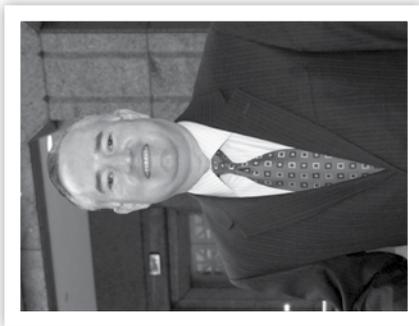
These programs and proposals are outlined in this mailer. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with ideas or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Emmett D Riley

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
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SPRING UPDATE



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NORWICH | 46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

EXTENSION OF CURRENT JOB CREATION PROGRAMS

We have worked hard as a legislature to implement programs, such as **STEP-UP AND I-BEST**, that have been proven to help Connecticut residents find good jobs, and enhance their educations.

STEP-UP events provide small business owners with information about state incentives to hire and train workers, better preparing them for employment. Businesses may receive subsidies for hiring long-term unemployed workers and veterans returning to the workforce after deployment. Over 2,000 unemployed residents have been hired under Step-Up since 2002. Attendance at Step-Up events has exceeded expectations proving we need to expand this program.

The **I-BEST PROGRAM** provides Connecticut residents who don't have a GED the ability to combine GED preparation with job training so they can enter the workforce with the skills and the education to get a job quickly. Also, we will work to adopt a "career pathway" workforce program focused on manufacturing, which will allow adult students to receive an Advanced Manufacturing Certificate. Students will work at a manufacturing facility a few days a week while attending college-level classes.

M.O.S. CODES - VETERANS

The Veterans Committee this year will focus on helping returning military veterans find good jobs. In order to ease the transition and ensure they can find employment, the legislature will look at applying Military Occupational Specialty (M.O.S.) codes towards the qualifications for certain positions. Veterans may use M.O.S. codes they operated and were proficient under when applying for certain jobs. Enabling veterans to use the training they received while in the military and getting them back to work quickly will provide our workforce with the skilled employees businesses need.

EXPANDING THE ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

This year we will work to expand the highly successful Enterprise Zone program to include areas on or near state universities and college campuses. The program offers tax incentives for businesses to create jobs and make improvements in economically distressed areas. This expansion will create a synergistic relationship between business, the educational community and its residents, while improving economic development in key areas. The Enterprise Zone Program is jointly administered by the state and participating towns to assist businesses in these areas, as well as fostering community development.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early childhood education is key in a child's development, providing a sound foundation for future learning opportunities. The Education Committee will be considering a bill that formally establishes 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 in an efficient and cost effective way.

AGING IN PLACE

The General Assembly is considering legislation this year that would implement policies allowing seniors to more easily remain in their homes as they age. Some of the ideas under consideration are to develop more livable communities for seniors through:

- Creating a program to promote home and service-based support systems, such as transportation, meals, and maintenance to allow individuals to stay in their homes longer.
- Incentivizing transit oriented development (TOD) projects targeting senior populations, which may include accessory or in-law apartments, home modifications, and home shares that are located near transportation services.
- Providing funding for individuals to retrofit and update their homes to accommodate their change in lifestyle.
- Offering opportunities for municipalities to be recognized as "Aging in Place Ready Communities" by meeting certain requirements.