

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | MAJORITY LEADER
MATT RITTER

PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD

Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to share with you this update on the 2017 legislative session. We worked to pass legislation that improves the lives of working families, encourages economic growth, and makes critical investments in the future of our children, as well as in our City and State.

I am also relieved to share that the State budget provides Hartford with more than \$40 million of additional State aid and the tools to help the City avoid bankruptcy. Other highlights of the legislative session include:

- Increasing access to capital for small businesses by expanding eligibility for the Angel Investor Tax Credit to include small businesses. Most business owners invest a tremendous amount of time and effort in their business, yet struggle to find the financial backing required to get their ideas off the ground.
- Banning “Conversion Therapy,” a debunked practice that uses psychological and emotional abuse in an attempt to change the sexual orientation of children.
- Prohibiting discrimination against veterans in employment, public accommodations, and housing.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful. Our future is stronger when we work together, so please do not 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.

Warmest regards,

Matt Ritter



STATE REPRESENTATIVE | MAJORITY LEADER
MATT RITTER

PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937



STATE REPRESENTATIVE | MAJORITY LEADER
MATT RITTER



CAPITOL UPDATE 2017

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 800-842-8267
HOME: 860-519-5685

WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/RITTER



www.facebook.com/RepresentativeMattRitter

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | MAJORITY LEADER **MATT RITTER**

PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD

BUDGET GOOD FOR HARTFORD

I am proud to announce that the bipartisan state budget provides Hartford with the financial and structural tools it needs to avoid bankruptcy. The State gave the City the tools and resources it needs to put itself on a firmer financial footing. This includes an additional \$40-\$45 million appropriation of municipal aid to Hartford on an annual basis.

CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Thanks to hard work on our budget priorities, Connecticut families currently on the waitlist can start enrolling in the Care 4 Kids program, the State's primary child care support program. Care 4 Kids helps low-to-moderate-income families in Connecticut pay for child-care costs. Across Connecticut, 98 percent of towns have families that receive Care 4 Kids funding. For more information about the Care 4 Kids program go to www.ctcare4kids.com or call 1-888-214-KIDS.



Representative Ritter with Brad Davis and Dan Lovallo at the Capitol

RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM

With passage of minor changes to the bipartisan budget, we have successfully resolved issues with the Renters' Rebate program and eligible participants will still receive a rebate similar to last year's amount.

The Connecticut Renters' Rebate Program provides rebates to older adult or disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain thresholds. Between April 1 and October 1, qualified individuals can apply to their local assessors once a year for state reimbursement for rental payments they made in the preceding calendar year. Married couples can receive up to \$900 and a single person will be refunded a maximum of \$700 through the Connecticut Renters' Rebate Program.



Students, parents and teachers visit with Representative Ritter

PROTECTING PREGNANT WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

The General Assembly passed a new law that requires employers to provide reasonable workplace accommodations for a pregnant employee. This new law applies to State, municipal, and any private employer with three or more employees. Such accommodations allow pregnant employees to sit while working and to take more frequent breaks. It also prohibits classifying an employee in a way that would limit employment opportunities due to her pregnancy. *PA 17-118*

COMBATING OPIOID ABUSE

This year in Connecticut, more people will fall victim to drug overdoses than from car accidents and gun violence combined. The General Assembly took action and passed a law that further combats drug abuse and addiction. The legislation reduces the maximum opioid drug prescription for minors from a 7 day to a 5 day supply, requires health insurers to cover medically necessary detox treatment, requires medical providers to discuss opioid risks with patients, and eases the restrictions on destroying unused medications. *PA 17-131*



Representative Ritter speaks to members of the Hartford business community

INVESTING IN HARTFORD: CLEANING UP BROWNFIELDS

Homestead Avenue is an important corridor through the upper Albany neighborhood of Hartford. Its old industrial sites remind us of past generations when the factories were running multiple shifts and the neighborhood was humming. Even today, the polluted brownfields remain as community eyesores. I am proud to have worked with neighbors, the Hartford Delegation, Governor Malloy and local officials to secure State funds to assess, remediate and revitalize blighted properties on Homestead Avenue. The \$1.9 million grant will help remediate three properties and ready them for redevelopment.



Representative Ritter meets with neighbors at the announcement of the grant to remediate the brownfields on Homestead Avenue



TRANSPORTATION LOCKBOX

With our aging roads and bridges, we need to upgrade and modernize our State's transportation infrastructure system to expand and promote business, jobs and economic opportunity, as well as protect our quality of life. We passed a resolution that will allow a vote in the next election to amend the State constitution to ensure money deposited into the Special Transportation Fund can only be spent on transportation projects. *HJ 100*