



Rep. Ritter talks with Hartford Seniors at the North End Senior Center

News for Seniors

Money Follows the Person is expanded allowing more nursing home residents to transition back home. This program provides Medicaid funds for home care, which benefits families and saves taxpayers money.

Nursing Home Grievance committees will be established at each facility to ensure residents' concerns are resolved in a timely manner. Two nursing home employees and one elected resident will comprise the committee.

Grandparents Rights will be the subject of a study aimed at enhancing their ability to seek visitation rights. A task force will report its recommendations to the legislature by February 1, 2012.

Help with Grocery Bills through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (the Food Stamp program) has been expanded, making it easier for seniors to qualify and better afford their groceries. A household of two can earn up to \$2,248 monthly and still qualify for assistance. More information is available at: 800.742.6906

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Rep. Matt Ritter
Legislative Office Building, Room 4003
Hartford, CT 06106

State Representative

Matt Ritter

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HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

Legislative Office Building
Room 4003
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585

Home Phone 860.519.5685

www.housedems.ct.gov/RitterM



www.housedems.ct.gov/RitterM



Matt Ritter



State Representative
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Dear Neighbor,

During the 2011 session, the Legislature took steps to help Connecticut turn the corner toward economic recovery and prosperity. New laws are taking effect that create jobs, help cities and towns, protect needed services and improve the lives of hard-working families.

The Legislature also protected state aid that supports both Hartford and Bloomfield's budgets to repair roads and helps your local property taxes.

I am very proud to have worked to limit property tax increases for residents of Hartford. Without legislation I introduced this session, some Hartford residents were facing tax increases of approximately 100 percent. This bill allows residences in Hartford to be assessed at rates which will ensure that residential taxes do not double.

I also worked to make sure Bloomfield's budget would not be negatively affected by the changes to the Manufacturing Machinery & Equipment (MME) program that were enacted this year. Decreases to MME reimbursements disproportionately affect cities and towns with larger manufacturing bases like Bloomfield. A new program ensures that towns with tax-exempt equipment will be reimbursed before distributing other funds to other municipalities.

I hope you find this report informative. I'm happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state this year. Together we can work to create a better future for our families and friends.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you!

Matt Ritter

Matt Ritter

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAPITOL
REPORT 2011

State Representative

Matt Ritter

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CAPITOL REPORT 2011

Protecting the Lives of Connecticut's Children

We can't forget that children in particular need our help in emergency situations which is why we amended the state's civil preparedness plan to include day care centers and activities focusing on children and youth.

The bill requires:

- Children's evacuation and removal to a safe location
- Parents to be notified
- Reunification of parents with their children
- Care for children with special needs



Representatives Matt Ritter and Sandy Nafis were recognized for being "Children's Champions."

Improving Pre-Schools

We have improved Connecticut's early childhood education system by markedly increasing the educational requirements for teachers in state-funded programs.

Expanding Early Childhood Education

An Early Childhood Education Cabinet has been created to develop a coordinated system of early childhood care and education in Connecticut.

Protecting CT Programs for Residents

Our most vulnerable residents, children and the elderly and those at risk for losing their homes, were protected from excessive cuts to programs and services. This session, we rejected proposals to shred the safety net, such as reducing Medicare funding by half-a-billion dollars. We protected our most vulnerable citizens by:

- Protecting public school funding
- Expanding the school breakfast program
- Instituting the earned income tax credit
- Protecting workers' health and yours with paid sick days
- Creating the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership to protect and increase access to quality, affordable health care
- Strengthening school anti-bullying laws.

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585
Home Phone 860.519.5685



Rep. Ritter speaks with constituents at CIGNA in Bloomfield.

Eliminating Toxic BPA

Connecticut has already banned the toxic chemical BPA from infant formula and baby food containers. Now we have moved to eliminate BPA from cash register receipt paper. BPA exposure is linked to various illnesses and ailments including:

- Prostate cancer
- Breast cancer
- Obesity
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Hyperactivity
- Disruption in reproduction and fertility (including damage to fetus)

Helping Small Businesses

Small business is the backbone of any viable community. We gave small and minority owned businesses a better chance at securing contracts that otherwise may not be within their reach. The new law requires the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) to set aside 25 percent of all contracts or portions of contracts for bidding by small contractors and minority business enterprises.

In addition, a study was funded to gather data concerning the state's minority contractor set-aside program to determine whether the intended goals of the program are being achieved.

Jobs Through Health Care Savings

Last year's bill permitting municipalities to purchase prescription drug coverage through the state plan was both successful and cost effective. This bill allowed the City of Hartford to save millions of dollars, which in turn is a property tax savings. To provide more people access to a quality, affordable health care plan, I supported legislation that extends opportunities for similar savings to other cities, towns and non-profits. This program could save the state tens of millions of dollars, relieve pressure on local property taxes, and create jobs through these savings.

Helping Domestic Violence Victims

Domestic Violence laws have been strengthened making it easier for victims to get a restraining order, giving law enforcement more tools to protect our community and improving access for victims to support services.

Expanding DNA Collection

DNA samples will now be collected from convicted felons after a subsequent arrest. DNA can solve crimes with matches against a national database.

WATCH VIDEOS ONLINE



Stabilizing Hartford Residents' Taxes

Rep. Ritter on the cooperative effort of the Hartford delegation to keep taxes from sky-rocketing for Hartford residents.



Helping Seniors with Heating Costs

Rep. Ritter at the Hartford Senior Center informing seniors about Operation Fuel heating assistance.

www.housedems.ct.gov/RitterM

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

State Representative

MATT RITTER

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Please check the boxes below and indicate which important issues you would like more information about.

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