

INVESTING IN PREVENTION WITH YOUTH SERVICES

Under the new state budget, both East Hartford Youth Services and Manchester Youth Services will receive \$170,000 over the next two years to continue their work in providing prevention services for youth in our communities. Our youth service bureaus do an incredible job of working with our youth to direct them toward positive relationship-building and decision-making skills and away from the criminal justice system. It is far more cost-effective to invest in prevention, which results in better long-term outcomes for our youth and communities.

VARIABLE ELECTRICITY RATES

This year Connecticut became the first state in the nation to protect residents from electricity providers who offer a low introductory rate that increases rapidly afterwards. The protections enacted require competitive electric suppliers to give their customers a 60-day notice before the end of their contracts. Suppliers cannot charge these customers a termination or early cancellation fee and must allow customers who want to switch to standard service the ability to do so within 72 hours. We also set up a process for PURA to further investigate and take measures to completely eliminate variable electric rates when a customer's contract expires.



Representative Rojas with students testifying at the Legislative Office Building



Bill Signing Ceremony for An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia

PATIENT-DESIGNATED CAREGIVERS

Public Act 15-32 is an important law that will help improve the quality of life for our aging population. Known as the CARE (Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable) Act, this law will assist the increasing numbers of family members who are becoming primary caregivers for their loved ones. Many patients are discharged from hospitals without being given proper instructions for post recovery at home. As a result, patients far too often end up returning to the hospital because of lack of awareness of necessary follow-up care. This new law also requires a hospital to document a designated caregiver in the patient's discharge plan, attempt to notify the caregiver of the patient's discharge, and instruct the caregiver on any post-discharge tasks with which the patient will need assistance.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE & DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

JASON ROJAS

PROUDLY SERVING THE 9TH DISTRICT, EAST HARTFORD & MANCHESTER

CAPITOL UPDATE 2015



LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/ROJAS



www.facebook.com/StateRepJason.Rojas

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

Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to share with you this update on the recently concluded legislative session.

We worked to adopt a budget that represents the wide-ranging priorities of our diverse state and sets us on a path that encourages continued economic growth. We protected hard-working, middle-class families by providing property tax relief through additional aid to our communities, and we funded vital services people rely on every day by asking millionaires and corporations to pay a little bit more.

The budget is balanced, under the spending cap and invests in Connecticut's transportation infrastructure, which is critical to our future economy. Essential funding for families that need it most were protected, including social services, libraries, before- and after-school programs, mental health services, developmental services and our state parks.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful and will feel free to call or email me for any reason — legislative or otherwise. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative and I welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Jason Rojas

STATE REPRESENTATIVE & DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

JASON ROJAS

PROUDLY SERVING THE 9TH DISTRICT, EAST HARTFORD & MANCHESTER



JASON ROJAS

PROUDLY SERVING THE 9TH DISTRICT, EAST HARTFORD & MANCHESTER

CAPITOL UPDATE 2015



PROPERTY TAX REFORM

The General Assembly took a significant step towards property tax reform by enacting legislation that caps the property tax rate levied on vehicles. There will be statewide car tax mill rate of 32 mills (approximately \$32.00 for every \$1,000.00 of vehicle value) beginning July 2016 and further reduced to 29.36 mill rates in July 2017. In addition, the state will redirect existing funds to town and cities that have mill rates that exceed the capped amount. East Hartford currently has a mill rate of 45.86 and Manchester has a mill rate of 39.40. The change in law will equalize mill rates for similar vehicles across towns while reducing car taxes.

We also redirected existing revenue, a portion of our sales tax revenue, to investments in our transportation. Maintaining and expanding capacity in our transportation infrastructure is critical to our state's economy. By investing in transportation projects, I-84 Viaduct, the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line, our roads, bridges and ports, we are encouraging smart growth and bringing sustainable jobs to Connecticut.

SECURITY FREEZES ON CHILDREN'S CREDIT REPORTS

A bill that I proposed, House Bill 6403 An Act Concerning Security Freezes on Children's Credit Reports, passed this year. It will empower parents and guardians to better combat child identity theft. We live in an increasingly technical society in which our personal information is at risk of being compromised. Minor children are particularly vulnerable because as parents we do not expect our children to have a credit file and are therefore less diligent in monitoring their credit scores. This new law allows parents to create a credit file on behalf of their children and place a freeze on it which will not allow the file to be used to create credit lines. Once a child is no longer a minor, their credit will be automatically unfrozen.

IMPROVING SCHOOL CLIMATE WHILE REDUCING SCHOOL-BASED ARRESTS

Safe school environments are critical for student success but when it comes to the role of School Resource Officers (SROs), the line between being a resource officer and policing is not always clear. 1 in 10 kids who appear in juvenile court are there because of a school-based arrest. This year, we passed legislation that requires boards of education to develop agreements with police departments to articulate roles and responsibilities for SROs and implement a graduated response model that would outline alternative interventions to arresting youth. This legislation also improves upon data collection, adding school-based arrests and out-of-school suspensions to the annual Strategic School Profile.



ENHANCING SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

Most students with learning disabilities also struggle with a reading disability. It's essential to identify and help these students as early as possible. Under Public Act 15-97, the State Department of Education (SDE) will designate a point person who will help parents and local boards of education detect students with dyslexia and intervene with appropriate help. Newly credentialed teachers will be required to undergo 12 hours of preparation in effective literacy instruction using current best practices. Finally, the legislature granted the SDE an extension in their rollout of new reading assessments that will help identify students at risk for dyslexia. The additional time ensures successful implementation of a terrifically important program.



CITY OF EAST HARTFORD STATE AID FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 & 2017

Education Cost Sharing	\$99,126,968
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$1,357,206
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$1,509,371
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$619,141
School Transportation	\$1,026,150
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$897,056
Town Aid Roads	\$1,174,282
Adult Education	\$413,640
Sales Tax Revenue Share	\$2,251,891

Total State Funds to East Hartford: \$117,270,777

CITY OF MANCHESTER STATE AID FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 & 2017

Education Cost Sharing	\$69,729,496
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$1,411,034
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$1,692,764
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$1,202,019
School Transportation	\$970,702
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$845,424
Town Aid Roads	\$1,292,706
Adult Education	\$916,345
Sales Tax Revenue Share	\$1,971,540

Total State Funds to Manchester: \$82,176,928