

# CHRIS ROSARIO

## OTHER IMPORTANT LEGISLATION:

- **SUPPORTING BARBERS AND HAIRDRESSERS:** Individuals will now be able to acquire a barber, hairdresser or cosmetician license without having to submit to a state or national criminal background check, and the Department of Public Health is now prohibited from denying a license to an individual with a felony. Individuals will now have a second chance to obtain a job without having to be penalized for their past. **(PA 17-112)**
- **SOCIAL SECURITY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS:** As a part of the budget, we passed a provision phasing in an exemption of social security and pensions from the state income tax starting in 2019. This will help provide much needed tax relief to those who most need it and allow them to keep more of their own money. Another law requires landlords to return any security deposit that exceeds one month's rent if the tenant turned age 62 after paying the deposit, upon request of the tenant. **(PA 17-236)**
- **RENTERS' REBATE:** An unfortunate change that came with the state budget was transferring the administration of the Renters' Rebate program to the towns, which had resulted in a delay of renters' rebate checks going out this year to the many seniors and those eligible who rely upon it. The good news is that after we spoke to our legislative leadership we were able to pass legislation to fix and restore the program. Renters should see no difference and those who have already applied can expect to see checks in December.
- **CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES:** With the State budget that passed we were able to restore funding to the Care 4 Kids child care subsidy program. This funding will allow for the program to reopen enrollment and begin to address the 5,769 families who have been on the waiting list. This is a program that helps low-income families afford safe, quality child care and allows parents to remain in the workforce.
- **AFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION:** Making college more affordable is one of our top priorities. With the state budget we restored over \$50 million to the University of Connecticut from a Republican budget that would have led to dramatic tuition rate increases and cuts to our flagship university. In addition we took two important steps aimed at lowering the cost of attending our state's public colleges and universities by cutting red tape - making it easier for schools to secure goods and services while still requiring strong oversight policies. Also, we required state schools to establish guidelines to minimize student costs and cut down on textbook costs. **(PA 17-130)**
- **TRANSPORTATION LOCKBOX:** We passed a resolution that, if approved by voters in the next election, will ensure money deposited into the Special Transportation Fund can only be spent on transportation. **(HJ 100)**

Para versión en español de este boletín y más,  
visite mi sitio web: [www.housedems.ct.gov/rosario](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/rosario)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | REPRESENTANTE ESTATAL

# CHRIS ROSARIO

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT | SIRVIENDO BRIDGEPORT

Capitol: 1-800-842-8267

[christopher.rosario@cga.ct.gov](mailto:christopher.rosario@cga.ct.gov)

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Rosario](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Rosario)

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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am pleased to share with you this update on the 2017 legislative session. Each year, my goal is to forge a path for a stronger Connecticut, and the 2017 session was no different. I worked to pass bipartisan legislation that improves the lives of working families, encourages economic growth, and makes critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state.

This was a session dominated by the budget. There were no easy solutions and hard decisions had to be made. The long-term structural changes we made will help put Connecticut's budget on a sustainable path – not just this year, but in future years to come.

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

Estimado amigo y vecino,

Me complace compartir con usted este boletín actualizado de la asamblea legislativa del 2017. Cada año mi meta ha sido forjar un camino que conduzca a un Connecticut más fuerte y durante esta sesión mantuve esa meta.

Trabaje para aprobar leyes bipartidistas para mejorar las vidas de familias trabajadoras, que promueven el crecimiento económico y hacen inversiones críticas en el futuro de nuestros niños y estado. Esta sesión fue dominada por el presupuesto. No hubo soluciones fáciles y tuvimos que tomar decisiones muy difíciles. Los cambios estructurales a largo plazo que hicimos ayudaran con la estabilidad fiscal del estado no solo este año, sino en los años venideros.

Deseo que encuentre esta información útil. Nuestro futuro es más fuerte cuando trabajamos unidos, así que no dude en llamarme si puedo ser de ayuda a usted o a su familia. Es un placer y honor servir como su representante estatal.

Sincerely / Sinceramente,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE | REPRESENTANTE ESTATAL

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*Volunteering at Sazon y Mambo to help collect donations for Hurricane Relief for the people of Puerto Rico*

*Leading the Rally for Peace and Unity at the State Capitol*

*Speaking at a NALEO Conference in Dallas Texas*

*Getting interviewed at the 2nd Annual Boxing Retreat at the Webster Arena*

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

No longer will a business be able to deny women employment opportunities because of pregnancy, or retaliate when reasonable accommodations are requested. **PA 17-118** strengthens current protections for pregnant and nursing women, requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for these employees, and sets up protections that prevent an employer from discriminating against pregnant women. These protections are critical to women's financial security and are good for families and the economy.

## DERECHOS DE MUJERES

Ya nunca más un negocio podrá negarles oportunidad de empleo a mujeres por estar embarazadas, o tomar represalias cuando se solicita algún acomodo razonable. **PA 17-118** refuerza las leyes existentes para mujeres embarazadas o que estén lactando, requiere que empleadores provean acomodaciones razonables para estas empleadas, y establece protecciones que impiden a empleadores discriminar en contra de mujeres embarazadas. Estas protecciones son valiosas para la economía, la seguridad financiera de las mujeres y para el bienestar de sus familias.

## REVISING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In 2010, the number of credits a student must earn to graduate high school increased from 20 to 25. This new law helps ease the struggle to implement this change by allowing towns more flexibility in determining which high school courses are appropriate to reach that increased number of credits required for graduation, so long as those courses align with state standards. This law also allows more mastery-based courses to satisfy state requirements; and eliminates end-of-year requirements for certain courses. **(PA 17-42)**

## REVISANDO LOS REQUISITOS DE GRADUACIÓN DE ESCUELA SUPERIOR

En el 2010, la cantidad de créditos necesarios para graduarse de escuela superior aumentaron de 20 a 25. Esta nueva ley ayuda a aliviar la lucha al implementar estos cambios permitiéndoles a los pueblos más flexibilidad al determinar que cursos son apropiados para alcanzar el nuevo número de créditos necesarios para graduación siempre y cuando estén alineados con el estándar del estado. Esta ley también permite más cursos basados en dominio para satisfacer los requisitos del estado y elimina los requisitos de fin de año de algunos cursos. **(PA 17-42)**

## PREVENTING OPIOID ABUSE

The maximum opioid drug prescription for minors has been decreased from a 7-day to a 5-day supply. Also, health insurers are now required to cover medically necessary detox treatment, and medical providers are required to discuss opioid risks with patients. This year in Connecticut, more people will fall victim to drug overdoses than from car accidents and gun violence combined, and we hope this legislation will help combat drug abuse and addiction. **(PA 17-131)**

## PREVENCIÓN DE ABUSO DE OPIÁCEOS

La prescripción máxima de medicamentos opiáceos ha sido reducida de 7 días a 5 días. También exige que los planes de seguro médico cubran tratamientos de desintoxicación necesarios, y los proveedores de salud tienen que discutir los riesgos de opiáceos con los pacientes. Este año más personas en Connecticut caerán víctimas de sobredosis de drogas que por accidentes automovilísticos o por violencia de armas combinados. Es nuestro deseo que esta ley ayude a combatir el abuso y adicción a drogas. **(PA 17-131)**

## REFORMING THE BAIL SYSTEM

Under our current system of pretrial detention, low risk offenders are routinely held in jail simply because they cannot afford bail. Under new legislation, judges are barred from requiring cash-only bail and can no longer require bail for minor crimes unless that person poses an immediate threat or is being held for a family violence crime. **(PA 17-145)**

## REMOVING HEALTHCARE BARRIERS

The cost of prescription drugs places a large burden on many of us, especially those living on a fixed income. **PA 17-241** removes barriers at pharmacies that have prevented some patients from being able to receive a cheaper generic medication, and also increases transparency in prescription drug pricing for the benefit of the patient.

## REFORMA DEL SISTEMA DE FIANZAS

Bajo nuestro sistema judicial actual de detención pre-juicio, los ofensores de bajo riesgo se quedan rutinariamente en la cárcel por no poder pagar fianza. Con esta ley, será prohibido que un juez requiera que la fianza se pague con dinero en efectivo solamente y tampoco puede fijar fianzas por delitos menores a no ser que el juez determine que esa persona posee peligro inmediato o que haya sido detenido por un crimen de violencia familiar. **(PA 17-145)**

## ELIMINANDO BARRERAS DE CUIDADO MEDICO

El costo de recetas médicas es una carga grande para muchos de nosotros, especialmente los que viven de una entrada fija. **PA 17-241** elimina la barrera que ha hecho difícil que pacientes reciban medicinas genéricas más económicas en las farmacias, y aumenta la transparencia en los precios de recetas para el beneficio del paciente.



*Speaking at the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration for the workers of Carl Robinson Correctional Facility*

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