

SESSION 2014 - PREVIEW

Dear Neighbor,

As session gets underway, I wanted to share with you some of the issues we'll be tackling in the months ahead.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiency (MORE) Commission, as Chairman of the **Board of Education Functions Subcommittee**. As the subcommittee heads into our second year, we expect to offer the General Assembly some recommendations on cost-sharing and to provide relief for towns struggling with school budgets.

I serve on the **Environment Committee** and the **Public Health Committee** and I've included on the other side of this mailer information on some of the issues I expect we'll consider this year.

I hope you find this information helpful. As always, I welcome any questions or concerns that you may have. Please contact me at any time.

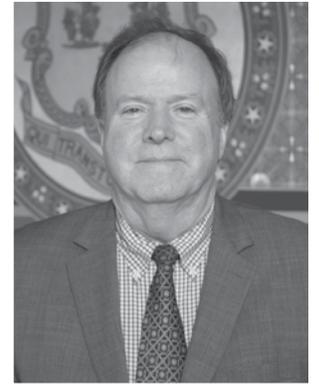
Sincerely,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES & REGIONAL EFFICIENCIES

In early 2013, Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey launched the Board of Education Functions Subcommittee as part of the bipartisan MORE Commission. I was chosen to lead the group in partnership with local school board members, school administrators, teacher unions, other legislators, and interested parties.

Given Connecticut's overreliance on property taxes to fund education, our group has sought to find savings and regional opportunities to save money and improve education. Our work has already prompted others to look closer at a common calendar and special education costs. This year we've taken a hard look at transportation, health insurance pools, teacher evaluations, and the Minimum Budget Requirement.

MORE information is here: www.housedems.ct.gov/MORE/

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

MENTAL HEALTH - FILLING THE GAPS - The Public Health Committee will continue to look at ways to strengthen mental health services for children and young adults. Particularly, we will consider strengthening prevention and intervention services by increasing access and filling gaps in insurance coverage. Additionally, two task forces regarding behavioral health services will report out to the legislature with recommendations this year.

JOBS - This session we'll consider more strategies to help businesses grow and create new jobs. These strategies may include issuing permits and licenses more quickly, easing the tax burden on new businesses, and encouraging collaboration between researchers and entrepreneurs to bring new products and techniques to market.

INVASIVE SPECIES - Last session we heard from many constituents on the damaging effects of running bamboo. This year the Environment Committee will look at other invasive species affecting Connecticut's property owners. All of our lakes, rivers, and waterways need protecting and programs and oversight over these resources should be revisited.

USEFUL NUMBERS

INFOLINE	211
Consumer Protection	1-800-842-2649
CT Tax Department	860-297-5962
Healthcare Advocate	866-466-4446
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1-800-833-7318
ConnPACE	1-800-423-5026
CT Veterans Affairs	860-616-3600

