

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# KEVIN RYAN

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

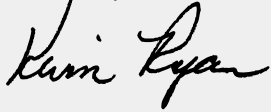
The 2018 General Assembly session convened on February 7th and is scheduled to conclude on May 9th. Even-numbered years are “short” sessions for the Legislature but there is a lot we want to accomplish.

Our agenda this year is aimed at supporting the middle class; creating economic opportunities for everyone; increasing access to education; protecting health care rights in general and women’s health care in particular; supporting our hospitals; and ensuring the right to vote and participation in the democratic process. These are lofty goals that I will support becoming law so Connecticut can move forward.

As always, I welcome your input. Please share your thoughts, suggestions and concerns by emailing me at [Kevin.Ryan@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kevin.Ryan@cga.ct.gov) or calling my office at 860-240-1376.

It is my honor to serve the people of the 139th House District.

Sincerely,



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## OVERHAUL OF OUR WORKFORCE PIPELINE

With companies such as Electric Boat, Pratt & Whitney, and Sikorsky planning to add thousands of new jobs in the coming years, it is critical we have an efficient, effective workforce pipeline to meet the growing needs of Connecticut employers. The Legislature will assess all of our workforce development programs to see what works, eliminate duplication, and focus on Connecticut's growth industries such as advanced manufacturing.

## OUR ROADS, BRIDGES, RAIL AND BUSES

When Connecticut invests in our roads, bridges, rail and buses, it is investing in the economy and job growth. Connecticut is in an economic competition against New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts and in order to win we need a modern, reliable and safe transportation system. Our transportation infrastructure has undergone great improvements recently, but there is more work to be done. We need to not only rebuild what we have, but envision transportation for the next generation that focuses on transit-oriented development to attract millennials to our cities.

## ADDRESSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Despite the expansion of access to treatment and other substantial policy achievements, the opioid epidemic continues to grip Connecticut. More than 1,000 Connecticut residents died from opioid-related overdoses in 2017 – more than from car accidents, homicides and suicides combined. We pledge to continue to work with medical professionals and experts to preserve the gains already made and further expand access to treatment.

## PAY EQUITY

It is well past time that Connecticut ensures that women are paid the wages they deserve. Connecticut women working full time are paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to men working full time. The pay gap is even greater for African-American and Latina women. Democrats in the General Assembly believe that it is time to eliminate the wage gap and ensure pay equity for women and will not compromise on this vital issue.

## 10 ESSENTIAL BENEFITS

Democrats will introduce a bill ensuring that health insurance plans offered in the State of Connecticut cover the "10 essential benefits" protected by the ACA. These benefits include outpatient care as well as hospital care and trips to the emergency room, prenatal care and ongoing care for the baby throughout its childhood, prescription medicine, lab tests, as well as mental health and substance use disorder services.

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

Our community hospitals are vital health care providers, major employers and bioscience incubators. Democrats in the House and Senate will work to support and grow our hospitals and ensure that all residents have access to quality medical care.

## A STRONG AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The health care system should work for patients. When you are sick, you should be able to see a doctor and get the prescription drugs you need. The Legislature will propose legislation to reduce prescription drug costs.



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