



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your support. It is an honor to represent you in the General Assembly for another term. There have been many intensely debated issues this legislative session and it has been a privilege to represent the people of New Britain in each of those discussions.

Connecticut's economy continues to recover and looking back at the 2015 legislative session I am proud of the steps the legislature took to grow our state's economy. We supported the successful Small Business Express Program and made historic investments in transforming our state's transportation system.

We continue to improve our education system by providing additional aid to English Language Learners and students with learning disabilities like dyslexia. We also took significant steps to lower the cost of higher education by becoming the first state in the country to establish a Student Loan Bill of Rights.

Additionally, we stood up for our seniors by passing many more laws to protect them from potential abuse. We have expanded the definition of neglect to include elderly people who do not live alone but are mistreated by a caretaker and now require the Department of Social Services to notify a nursing home resident's designee within 24 hours if abuse is suspected.

I hope you find this information helpful. As always, please do not hesitate to call my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERT “BOBBY” SANCHEZ

PROUDLY SERVING THE 25TH HOUSE DISTRICT | NEW BRITAIN

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2015



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The BARBERSHOP APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Barbering was traditionally learned through an apprenticeship, but a current statute requires the completion of formal education and training programs to qualify for licensure. These programs can be costly. This year, we passed a new state law that creates a Labor Department-approved barber apprenticeship program to grant barber licenses to applicants who successfully complete the program and meet other requirements, including 2,000 hours of work experience in approved trade training. This measure will ease prior requirements that made it difficult for aspiring barbers to obtain their licenses.

EL PROGRAMA DE APRENDIZAJE PARA BARBEROS

El trabajo de barberos y estilistas es tradicionalmente adquirido a través de aprendizaje, pero la ley actual requiere educación formal y programas de entrenamiento para la cualificación de licencia. Estos programas pueden ser costosos. Una nueva ley estatal que aprobamos esta sesión crea un programa de aprendizaje aprobado por el Departamento del Trabajo con el fin de otorgar licencias a los solicitantes que completen el programa exitosamente y que además completen otros requisitos incluyendo 2,000 horas de experiencia de trabajo en una barbería o salón de entrenamiento aprobado. Esta medida facilitara requerimientos anteriores que entorpecían las aspiraciones de barberos de obtener sus licencias.

FUNDING FOR LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

This session, my colleagues and I were able to secure funding that supports various youth violence prevention programs in our city. The state funding allocated to Prudence Crandall Center, Family Enrichment Center, OIC of New Britain, Pathway Senderos and HRA of New Britain will help these organizations maintain their excellent programs that help decrease youth violence and juvenile incarceration in our community. It is encouraging to work with these remarkable organizations and our police department in an effort to provide more productive options for our young people.

FONDOS PARA ORGANIZACIONES LOCALES

Esta sesión, mis colegas y yo pudimos asegurar fondos que apoyan varios programas de prevención de violencia juvenil en nuestra ciudad. Los fondos reservados para el Prudence Crandall Center, Family Enrichment Center, OIC de New Britain, Pathway Senderos y HRA de New Britain permitiran que estas organizaciones puedan mantener sus excelentes programas que ayudan a disminuir la violencia y la encarcelación de nuestros jóvenes en nuestra comunidad. Es alentador trabajar con estas organizaciones y con nuestra fuerza policial local en un esfuerzo de proveer opciones productivas para nuestra juventud.

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LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN HOSPITALS

Connecticut is a diverse state, with people from all over the world settling and establishing their lives here. With this in mind, we are now requiring that interpreter services be available to patients whose primary language is spoken by at least 5% of the population residing in the hospital’s geographic service area.

INTERPRETES EN HOSPITALES

Connecticut es un estado diverso con residentes de todas partes del mundo estableciendo sus vidas aquí. Con eso en mente, este año requerimos que servicios de intérprete estén disponibles a pacientes donde el idioma principal sea un 5% de la población en el área geográfica de servicio del hospital.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

This year, a bilingual education workgroup convened to better understand the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) and grapple with our state’s staggering achievement gap. We are now requiring the State Department of Education to develop standards for students receiving longer periods of instruction and annually report on the progress of these students. We are also creating a pilot program in four towns and cities to identify best practices and provide more administrative support to all schools in Connecticut. Moreover, districts will not be penalized with low rankings when these students perform poorly on standardized tests in their first two years of learning English. Finally, we directed Regional Education Service Centers to study and recommend ways that districts with low numbers of ELL students may still receive quality instruction.

ESTUDIANTES DE INGLÉS

Este año, se formó un panel de trabajo para entender las necesidades de los estudiantes que están aprendiendo inglés y para bregar con la asombrosa brecha de aprovechamiento escolar de nuestro estado. Estamos requiriendo del departamento de educación del estado que desarrolle estándares para estudiantes que están recibiendo periodos de instrucción más largos y que reporten anualmente el progreso de esos estudiantes. También estamos creando un programa piloto en cuatro pueblos y ciudades para identificar las mejores prácticas y proveer más apoyo administrativo a todas las escuelas en Connecticut. Más aun, los distritos no serán penalizados por tener bajos rangos cuando estos estudiantes obtienen calificaciones pobres en los exámenes estandarizados durante sus primeros dos años de aprender inglés. Finalmente dirigimos los centros de servicios de educación regionales a estudiar y recomendar maneras en que los distritos con bajos números de estudiantes de inglés puedan ofrecer instrucción de calidad.

STATE AID TO NEW BRITAIN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 & 2017	
Total Educational Grants	\$177,226,336
Total Aid Road Funds Grant (TRA)	\$1,540,040
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund	\$4,618,996
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$1,982,754
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$15,072,589
Grants For Municipal Aid	\$2,767,762
State Sales Tax Share (New Revenue Source)	\$3,131,893
Priority School District Funds	\$5,015,720
<i>Total State Funds to New Britain</i>	<i>\$211,356,090</i>