



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has been an honor to represent you in the General Assembly for another term. There were many intensely debated issues this legislative session and it was a privilege to represent the people of Windsor and Windsor Locks in each of those discussions.

Looking back at the 2015 legislative session, I am proud of the steps the legislature took to grow our state's economy. We continue making important investments in Connecticut's Small Business Express Program, which has helped grow our small business community. We also made historic investments in our transportation system, specifically the New Haven to Springfield rail line. These investments are critical to growing our economy, as businesses will not come to Connecticut if their employees cannot get to work in a safe and timely manner.

The legislature took significant steps this session to lower the cost of higher education. We passed a law which has led to the lowest student loan interest rate ever offered by Connecticut's loan authority, CHESLA. We stood up for our seniors by passing many more laws to protect them from potential abuse. We expanded the definition of neglect 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 and please know that Windsor and Windsor Locks' working families remained at the heart of each vote I cast in the House Chamber. As always, please do not hesitate to call my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Peggy Sayers



STATE REPRESENTATIVE PEGGY SAYERS

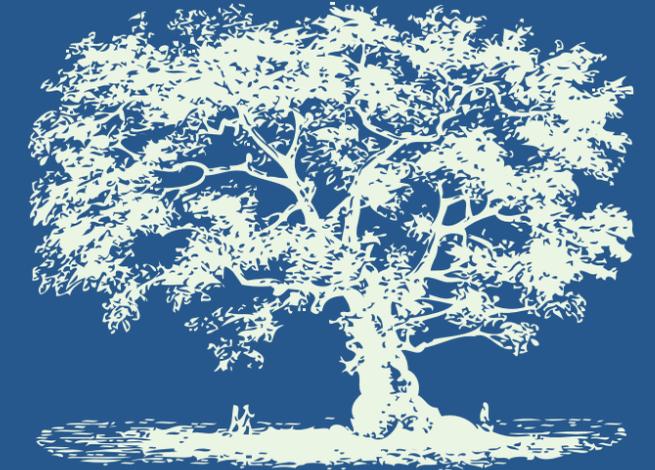
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CAPITOL UPDATE 2015



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PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OVERDOSES

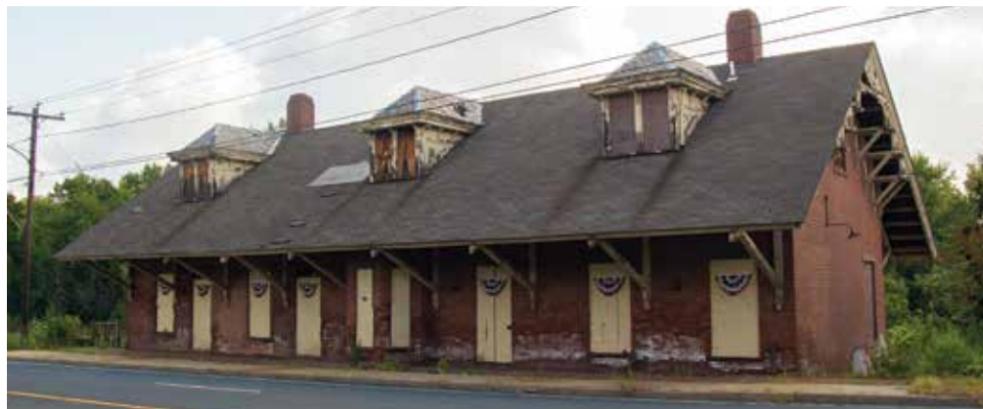
Prescribers are now required to receive training in how to properly prescribe controlled substances and must also check a patient's record in the prescription drug monitoring program to help prevent prescription drug abuse. This law also increases access to life-saving opioid antagonists, commonly known as Narcan, which can be administered to prevent a heroin overdose.

EDUCATING PARENTS ABOUT SAFE SLEEP

This law requires hospitals to give parents written information on safe sleep practices after infants and newborns have been cleared to return home. This measure could help reduce the number of unintentional and preventable infant deaths resulting from unsafe sleep practices.

PROTECTING ELECTRIC CONSUMERS

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.



The Windsor Locks Train Station

PRESERVING THE HISTORIC TRAIN STATION

I was able to get Windsor Locks \$120,000 for replacement of the roof on our iconic former train station to prevent any further building deterioration. This gives us time to raise the funds for a complete restoration of the significant town-owned landmark whose future might include use as an Ella Grasso museum or possibly some high-end retail.

CAPITOL UPDATE 2015

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PEGGY SAYERS

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SAFETY UPGRADE AT THE FIRE ACADEMY

Recently, the State Bond Commission approved improvements to the Connecticut Fire Academy. Three exterior fire escape exit stairs will see repairs, along with the replacement of existing metal doors, exterior metal wall panels, and hardware. The Connecticut Fire Academy houses the State Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, training and education facilities, a certification program and the State of Connecticut Firefighter's Memorial.



Rep. Sayers receiving the AARP legislative award from the Connecticut Chapter

SENIORS

We have taken steps to protect our seniors from being abused or taken advantage of financially. A new law adds a number of protections, including:

- EMT's are added to the list of mandated reporters of elder abuse.
- Certain financial agents must receive training on elderly fraud, exploitation, and financial abuse.
- Someone convicted of 1st or 2nd degree larceny or 1st degree abuse of an elderly or disabled person is prohibited from receiving or inheriting insurance benefits, or receiving certain property.

TELEHEALTH

The use of telehealth, such as medical appointments via video conference, has become common in recent years. As of October 1, only state-licensed health providers may provide these services, with a patient's consent and knowledge of the patient's medical history. In addition, certain health insurance policies will now be required to cover services delivered via telehealth if similar services would be covered if they were delivered through an in-person visit.

EDUCATION

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Connecticut became the first state in the nation to create a Student Loan Bill of Rights, which establishes an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman. This office will regulate student loan servicers, compile data on complaints, develop a financial education course for students, and will help borrowers navigate the loan process.

In addition, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) took historic steps toward increasing college affordability by announcing it will offer its lowest fixed interest rate yet at 4.95%, down from its current rate of 6.75%.



Students from Asnuntuck Community College visiting Rep. Sayers' office

ADDRESSING THE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT GAP

We worked to help Connecticut close the achievement gap and improve educational outcomes for all students. We will increase early childhood literacy programs by requiring the State Department of Education to hire a Director of Reading Initiatives who is charged with implementing a statewide reading plan and coordinating Connecticut's various reading initiatives.

In addition more teachers will be certified in shortage areas, more minority teachers will be recruited, and educators will be given new strategies to build better relationships with students of different cultures.