

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BRENDAN SHARKEY
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

Dear Friends:

Our most important successes this year came directly from requests made by you and your neighbors. I championed a law that dramatically restricts UI's ability to cut down trees in our neighborhood without consultation with the community. I also took the lead to pass a law that provides relief to communities like Hamden that are facing the cost and liability of maintaining abandoned cemeteries. And I started a statewide discussion of how we can lower property taxes, and how we get large private colleges to pay their fair share to their host communities.

We also accomplished much to protect our working families, our environment, and our seniors. Connecticut became the first state to adopt a minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour by 2017, a move that prompted the President to visit us in March. We also led the country in establishing tough new rules for the handling of fracking waste. And we adopted new restrictions to prevent predatory marketers from taking advantage of our vulnerable neighbors by pitching artificially cheap electricity prices.

Although I have a bigger role than ever on a statewide basis, my most important responsibility is representing you. Please stay in touch and let me know your concerns, and together we will ensure that Hamden remains a great place to live for all of our families.

Thank you,



Brendan



-  fb.me/Sharkey.Brendan
-  [@SharkBits88](https://twitter.com/SharkBits88)
-  www.housedems.ct.gov/Sharkey
-  Brendan.Sharkey@cga.ct.gov
-  800-842-1902

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BRENDAN SHARKEY

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

Legislative Office Building Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BRENDAN SHARKEY
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN



-  fb.me/Sharkey.Brendan
-  [@SharkBits88](https://twitter.com/SharkBits88)
-  www.housedems.ct.gov/Sharkey

NEW LAWS INSPIRED BY HAMDEN RESIDENTS

CONCERNS HEARD ON TREE TRIMMING & NEGLECTED CEMETERIES

Strict limits on tree trimming by utility companies, and incentives for towns to maintain neglected cemeteries, are now state law thanks to our friends and neighbors who spoke up on behalf of our community. Concerns expressed by my fellow Hamden residents inspired me to champion legislation giving property owners more say on whether utilities, such as United Illuminating, can cut down or trim trees on private property. In addition, questions raised about the lack of maintenance at the State Street Cemetery led to a bill I authored that provides towns with state assistance to help care for abandoned burial grounds without incurring liability. There are numerous neglected cemeteries throughout the state, some of which are historical treasures dating as far back as the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. I find that some of the best ideas for legislation at the Capitol come from listening to what is being said back home. So thanks to the caring people of Hamden, we were able to better protect the character of our neighborhoods and honor our heritage.

FOCUS ON PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES

When large tax-exempt colleges, such as Quinnipiac University, and hospitals buy private properties, thus removing them from municipal tax rolls, families and businesses are forced to make up the lost revenue in higher property taxes. As a result of my proposal to lift the tax exemption for these corporate-like institutions, and have them help pay for the services they use, such as police and fire protection, there will be a comprehensive state study over the next several months on the best way to reduce the local property tax burden on families and businesses. Property taxes account for about 40% of all taxes collected in Connecticut, making the need for property tax relief one of the most critical issues facing our state today.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BRENDAN SHARKEY

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE | PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

We established an Office of Early Childhood and funded thousands of additional Pre-K slots across the state. Early childhood education, and in particular Pre-K, not only better prepares children for academic and social success in grade school, but is also a great long-term investment for taxpayers, and helps meet the ongoing challenge of providing equal educational opportunity to every child.

HELPING WORKING FAMILIES

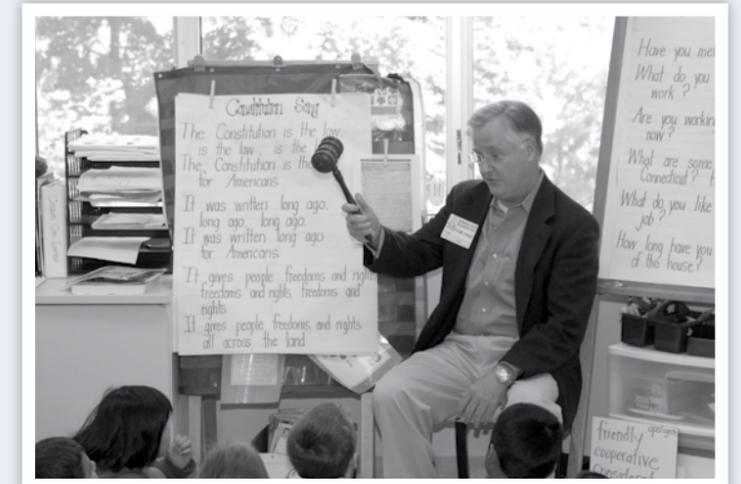
Thousands of struggling working families in our state will be helped by the increase in the minimum wage we adopted. Raising the minimum wage in small increments to \$10.10 by 2017, from the current \$8.70, will add hundreds of millions of dollars to our economy, and is the right thing to do. A number of other states have since followed our lead. Hopefully this sets the stage for Congress to also follow suit.

FRACKING WASTE PROHIBITED IN STATE

Environmental concerns over the controversial use of “fracking” to mine oil and natural gas led to the legislature passing a moratorium on the storage of fracking waste in the state. Fracking is a process where hydraulic fluid is pumped into the ground, cracking rock to release gas and shale oil. Byproducts of this process have been found to contain harmful chemicals. Although Connecticut does not sit on oil and gas reserves that would open our state to fracking, we need to ensure potentially dangerous byproducts are not shipped here from other states.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION

This year’s state budget includes additional funding for STEP-UP (Subsidized Training & Employment Program), which provides wage subsidies to small businesses for hiring veterans and the unemployed. We also continued investing in the highly successful Small Business Express (SBX) program, which has already helped over 1,000 companies create or retain 14,000 jobs with low interest loans and matching grants.



Quality early childhood education greatly improves a child’s chances for future success.



We can maintain the character of our neighborhoods, while still protecting the integrity of the electrical grid.



Leading the House of Representatives at the State Capitol.

CONTACT ME:

 fb.me/Sharkey.Brendan

 [@SharkBits88](https://twitter.com/SharkBits88)

 www.housedems.ct.gov/Sharkey

 Brendan.Sharkey@cga.ct.gov

 800-842-1902