



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CAROLINE SIMMONS

STAMFORD | 144TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT 06106

Cell: 203-962-4619

caroline.simmons@cga.ct.gov

www.housedems.ct.gov/simmons

www.facebook.com/repcarolinesimmons

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2016 legislative session is now underway! There are a number of initiatives that I am working on this session and will continue to fight for, including bills supporting business growth, tax reductions, pedestrian safety, and school safety. I've included a summary of some of the bills that I am co-sponsoring or have introduced this session.

If you have an idea or concern that you would like me to work on this year or in the future, please let me know! I can be reached anytime on my personal cell phone at 203-962-4619 or by email at caroline.simmons@cga.ct.gov.

Thank you for your input and advocacy for issues important to our community and feel free to call me anytime on my personal cell phone if you have additional feedback or concerns.

Sincerely,

Caroline Simmons

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TAX REDUCTIONS

PERSONAL INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR CT GRADUATES: This bill establishes the Learn Here, Live Here program, which helps students save toward a down payment on their first home in CT by reducing their state income tax payments for up to ten years after they graduate.

HOSPITAL TAX REDUCTION: This bill would lower the tax burden on hospitals in order to preserve jobs and protect the health and wellness services provided by Stamford Hospital for our community.

RESTORING THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT: Our goal is to restore the maximum property tax credit against the personal income tax to \$300. I also submitted an official request to expand property tax credits for **seniors**.

REPEALING THE BUSINESS ENTITY TAX: To remove this burdensome tax on businesses and to make it easier to do business in CT.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

INCREASING PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS AT CROSSWALKS: This bill aims to improve pedestrian safety in Stamford, especially at crosswalks.

INCREASING STATE FUNDING FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY INITIATIVES ON HIGH RIDGE ROAD: There have been several pedestrians hit by cars on High Ridge Road in the past several months. This bonding request aims to increase funding for pedestrian safety initiatives.

BUSINESS GROWTH

EXEMPTING NEW BUSINESSES FROM STATE TAXES FOR FIRST TWO YEARS: This aims to attract more businesses to start up in CT by removing taxes and fees in the first two years.

EXTENDING THE ANGEL INVESTOR TAX CREDIT: This expires in June and I believe it is essential to continue this tax credit in order to support entrepreneurs and encourage investments in CT businesses.

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS ON BUSINESSES: In order to reduce burdensome regulation on businesses, this requires the legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis to include an estimated fiscal impact of any new regulation or piece of legislation on businesses.

SCHOOL SAFETY

ZERO TOLERANCE SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT ACT: This bill would enhance penalties for false school threats, like the recent incident that occurred at Stamford High School.

DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT: This bill aims to protect students from sexual abuse by requiring that boards of education disclose information about incidents of abuse or sexual misconduct.

IMPROVE DMV SERVICES

In response to complaints about DMV services, I have co-sponsored legislation that would privatize some of its services to improve customer service and better serve the citizens of our state. I have also submitted a bill request to eliminate the fee for handicap parking passes. Additionally, we are working to make driving tests and registration services available at the AAA on High Ridge Road.