



To my friends and neighbors:

With the extreme sadness of the Newtown tragedy weighing on everyone, the 2013 legislative session was one of the most trying, but also rewarding sessions I've ever experienced.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, we passed the strongest gun violence prevention bill in the country along with several other landmark bills that will protect our children and address critical mental health issues while respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

This year, our focus was on the budget and I am very pleased that the state aid to municipalities was protected without raising taxes. I am also proud to have supported the charge for securing money, within the budget, for the following Bridgeport organizations:

- \$1.5 million to Hall Neighborhood House (HNN) for the construction of a new performing arts and youth services facility in addition to \$150,000 for a roof replacement and health & safety upgrades for their original building.
- \$1 million for the Bridgeport Neighborhood Revitalization Zones (NRZ).
- \$300,000 for the Ralphola Taylor Community Center YMCA.
- \$67,000 for violence prevention programs for both the Bridgeport NRZ-East End Association and the Walter E. Lockett, Jr. Foundation.

My Democratic colleagues and I also delivered on other top priorities, including passing a balanced budget that does not raise taxes and helps municipalities hold the line on property taxes while protecting investments in education, job growth and consumer protection.

I hope this report is informative, and I'm happy to answer any questions you have about issues facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future for our families.

CONTACT CHARLIE L. STALLWORTH

Legislative Office Building
Room 4055
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 1.800.842.8267
Charlie.Stallworth@cga.ct.gov
www.housedems.ct.gov/Stallworth

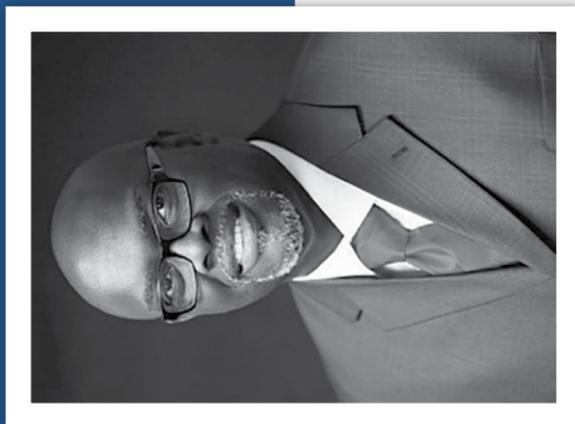


STATE REPRESENTATIVE Charlie L. Stallworth

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT | 126TH DISTRICT

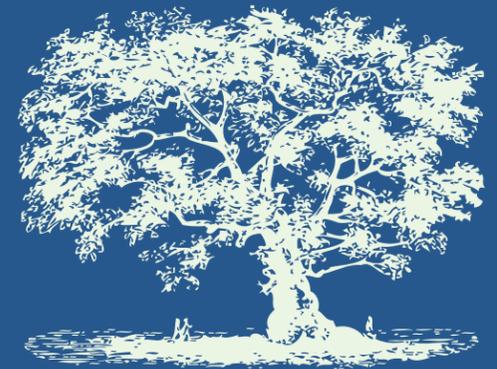
Legislative Office Building
Room 4055
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 1.800.842.8267
Charlie.Stallworth@cga.ct.gov
www.housedems.ct.gov/Stallworth

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



PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN, HELPING OUR FAMILIES

2013 REPORT FROM THE STATE CAPITOL



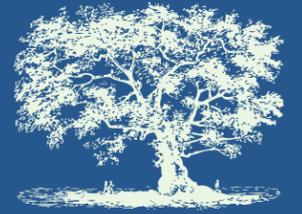
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Charlie L. Stallworth



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Charlie L. Stallworth

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT | 126TH DISTRICT



GUN AND SCHOOL SAFETY

Responding to the Newtown shootings in December, the legislature worked in a bipartisan manner to find solutions for preventing another tragedy. Three special committees were formed to study school safety, firearms laws and mental health services for our children. The work of those committees led to legislation that addresses those three key areas.

Legislation signed into law creates a task force to establish minimum security standards for future school construction. It creates a grant program so that existing schools can receive state assistance to upgrade their security infrastructure. Major changes in firearms laws were also made such as, expanding the current ban on assault weapons, banning the sale of magazines holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition, establishing a deadly weapon offender registry and requiring a certificate for buying ammunition. Other new legislation focuses on helping individuals and their families overcome obstacles to accessing mental health treatment and support.



HOMEOWNER PROTECTION

The ability to own a home is part of the American dream, but financial hardship can threaten that dream for families, sending them to the brink of foreclosure. We worked hard this past session to protect homeowners and facilitate a fair and speedy foreclosure mediation process by passing An Act Concerning Homeowner Protection Rights. A more streamlined process will help both the banks and the homeowners come to a solution that will keep homeowners from going into foreclosure, while fulfilling their obligation to the bank or lender. This bill extends the foreclosure mediation program two years.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

This law seeks to prevent students from being improperly assigned to special education classes when they are actually in need of extra help in learning the English language. If the State Department of Education has ruled that a school district has misidentified a disproportionate number of students, that district's Board of Education will have to submit a report to the Department containing a plan that reduces such misidentifications by improving reading assessments and interventions for students who are in kindergarten through grade three. The law also requires the State Department of Education to study these plans to see what improvements can be made to teacher training.

PRICE GOUGING

When catastrophic weather events affect our state, it is important that the people most in need have access to the goods and services necessary to restore normality. This bill extends the ban on excessive price increases to goods and services sold during any severe weather emergency, as declared by the governor. During one of these events no one can sell or offer to sell a good or service for an "unconscionably excessive price." A violation of this act is an unfair trade practice and can result in civil or criminal penalties.



SMOKE DETECTORS

REQUIRING WORKING SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AT THE TIME TITLE IS TRANSFERRED

Being assured the homes we are living in are safe is the peace of mind that all residents should have. The state legislature took a step this year to make sure that properties that are transferred during a sale are certified to be in compliance by having working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. A seller who does not provide an affidavit that details that they are in compliance with the law will have to credit \$250 to the obtainer of the property at the time of closing. This law only applies to one or two-family dwellings and also changes safety standards for smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. The new standards require that, among other things, carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are battery operated, follow the manufacturer's installation instructions, and be in the vicinity of each bedroom. Exemptions to the bill apply to transfers that are: from one co-owner to another, between immediate family members, from inheritance or under court order. Protecting the well-being of our residents was one of the primary goals of this legislative session.

Let's Keep In Touch

Sign Up For Email Updates:

housedems.ct.gov/Stallworth