



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CHARLIE L. STALLWORTH

PROUDLY SERVING
THE 126TH DISTRICT, BRIDGEPORT

Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share with you this update on the recently concluded legislative session. Each year brings a new set of challenges, and the 2014 session was no different. The need to encourage economic growth, help working families, and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state, was clear.

Meeting these priorities while also adopting a balanced budget with no new taxes took a lot of hard work, but I am happy to report to you that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals.

Working in a bipartisan manner, we were able to increase funding for education and enable more children to attend pre-school. We also made additional investments in job creation programs such as STEP-UP, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed, and will help our economy grow.

Recognizing the struggle of many working families, we raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2017. By helping thousands of minimum wage earners, hundreds of millions of dollars will pour into our state economy and help businesses grow and flourish.

Spurring more economic development was also a priority that we met by helping United Technologies Corp. upgrade and expand its aerospace research and manufacturing facilities across the state. This, in turn, will have a domino effect and help its suppliers and related businesses.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful and will feel free to call or email me for any reason — legislative or otherwise. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

Thank you,



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CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

GIVING CHILDREN IN STATE CUSTODY FULL ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL



Children in state care deserve the best possible educational opportunities. This year, we required the commissioner of the Department of Children and Families to maximize preschool enrollment for children placed in out-of-home care.

Rep. Stallworth and other representatives addressing a group of young people at the Capitol

BABY CHET

The CHET Baby Scholars Program will provide a one-time incentive of \$100 to families of Connecticut children who open a CHET 529 savings account by the child's first birthday, or within the first year after adoption. Families that contribute \$150 in the first 4 years will receive a one-time match of \$150.



Rep. Stallworth and Governor Malloy with his intern Kim Kelly Myers from Central Connecticut State University

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GO BACK TO GET AHEAD PROGRAM

The Go Back to Get Ahead initiative will encourage Connecticut residents who have some college credits, but have not attained either an associate or bachelor's degree, to return to the state's universities, community technical colleges or Charter Oak State College to complete their degrees. Students who are eligible for the program will be able to receive up to 3 free college courses.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Office of Early Childhood was established, and over a thousand additional Pre-K slots are being funded. Pre-K helps prepare children for grade school, academically and socially, and is a great long-term investment for taxpayers. Pre-K not only increases the chances of future success in and out of the classroom, but also helps meet the ongoing challenge of providing equal educational opportunity to every child.

GIVING ADOPTEES ACCESS TO BIRTH RECORDS

Giving adult adoptees access to their original birth certificate, which contains vital personal information, is an unquestionable right. As a strong advocate of this legislation, I believe everyone should be able to find out their family medical history and genetics. Without this information, adoptees cannot be screened for predisposed illnesses. In some cases, insurance companies will not even cover the cost of screenings because the adoptees can't prove if the conditions run in their biological families. Having access to fundamental medical information is a right that should be enjoyed by everyone.



Rep. Stallworth working in the chamber with other legislators

ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT SMART START PROGRAM

A pre-school education for children has become a necessity, but in many of our communities there is still a need for quality preschool slots. This law creates the Smart Start Competitive Grant Program, which will target communities with a need for additional preschool slots. School districts will be able to receive a capital grant of up to \$75,000 per classroom to renovate or expand a school building. The districts will also be able to receive a grant of up to \$5,000 per child with a maximum of \$75,000 per classroom. Districts will be limited to four classrooms and the grant will be for five years, after which it can be renewed. By requiring these classes to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, we will ensure that these children will receive a quality education. In addition to proving that there is a need for these slots, at least 60% of the children enrolling must be from families that are at or below 75% of the state median income or at least 50% of the children must receive free and reduced lunch prices.

THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS BY YOUTH CAMPS AND DAY CARE CENTERS

Currently, children must complete a physical examination to attend youth camps and daycare centers in addition to the physical examination already required by schools. This law will ease a burden put on parents and health care providers by permitting licensed youth camps, daycare facilities, and family day care homes to use a child's physical examination required for school purposes to satisfy any physical examination or health status certification they require. This law will streamline the enrollment process for parents who are registering their children for these programs.

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