

WHO PAYS LESS

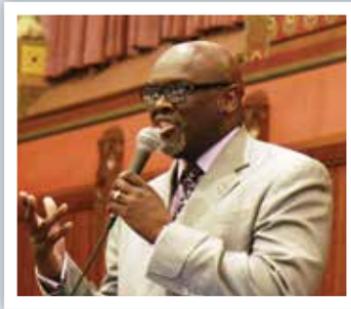
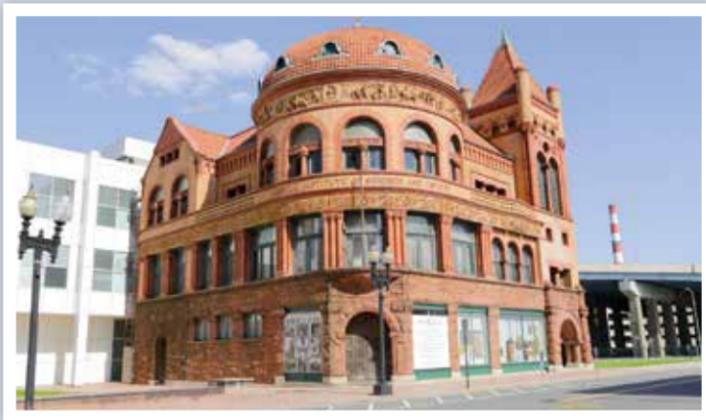
Car owners will see a cut in their motor vehicle tax as we capped the car tax mill rate statewide at 32 mills beginning July 2016 and 29.36 mills in July 2017. No one's car tax will go past these rates in this plan.

In addition, increased state aid for every city and town will allow municipalities to lower taxes. And, private colleges that own off-campus property, and larger non-profit hospitals that buy property, will begin to contribute to a town's tax base to help pay for services they use such as fire, police, and public works. This lessens the property tax burden currently borne solely by families and small businesses in our communities.

Towns with a larger number of tax-exempt properties (e.g. state property, churches, colleges and hospitals) will receive additional aid for further property tax relief as well.

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

This year, 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 programs. 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. We also created a pilot program in four towns and cities to identify best practices for English Language Learners (ELL) instruction and will develop standards for students receiving longer periods of specialized instruction.



Rep. Stallworth in the House Chamber 2015



Rep. Stallworth and Gov. Dannel P. Malloy

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CHARLIE L. STALLWORTH

PROUDLY SERVING THE 126TH HOUSE DISTRICT | BRIDGEPORT



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CAPITOL UPDATE 2015

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

Thank you for your support. It has been an honor to represent you in the General Assembly for another term. There have been many intensely debated issues this legislative session and it has been a privilege to represent the people of Bridgeport in each of those discussions.

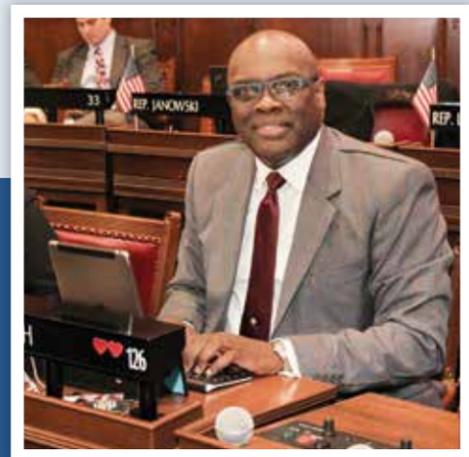
Connecticut's economy continues to recover and, looking back at the 2015 legislative session, I am proud of the steps the legislature took to grow our state's economy.

We have continued to make important investments in Connecticut's Small Business Express Program, which has succeeded in helping to grow our small business community. The property tax burden has also remained a primary concern for many small businesses, and thankfully we worked to increase municipal aid in order to ease property taxes.

We have also made historic investments in our transportation system and increased Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding for many cities and towns. These investments are critical to growing our economy as businesses will not come to Connecticut if we do not have an educated workforce ready to fill 21st century jobs and if they cannot get to work in a safe and timely manner.

I hope you find this information to be of use and please do not hesitate to call my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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JUSTICE FOR JUVENILES

We continue our efforts to treat juveniles in the criminal justice system appropriately given their lack of maturity and brain development. We raised the age when juveniles are automatically transferred to adult court from age 14 to age 15. We also excluded certain B felony offenses from automatic transfer to adult court. They instead require a hearing and a finding by a judge that a transfer to adult court is appropriate, as is required for less serious felonies under current law. The circumstances under which juveniles must be shackled in the courtroom have now been limited.



*Rep. Stallworth and
President Barack Obama*

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REDUCING LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED BY A CHILD OR YOUTH

New brain science and sociological studies show that the brains of young people are more susceptible to negative influences than the brains of adults. This has led to recent U.S. and Connecticut Supreme Court decisions limiting the application of adult sentencing rules to juveniles. This law requires criminal courts to consider evidence showing the difference between juvenile and adult brain development when sentencing for certain felonies committed prior to reaching 18 years of age. Parole hearings will now be offered to those serving sentences of over 10 years after they have served a portion of their sentence. At the hearing, the parole board will consider whether the offender demonstrates the necessary maturity and rehabilitation to qualify for parole release.

RESTORING TRUST BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES

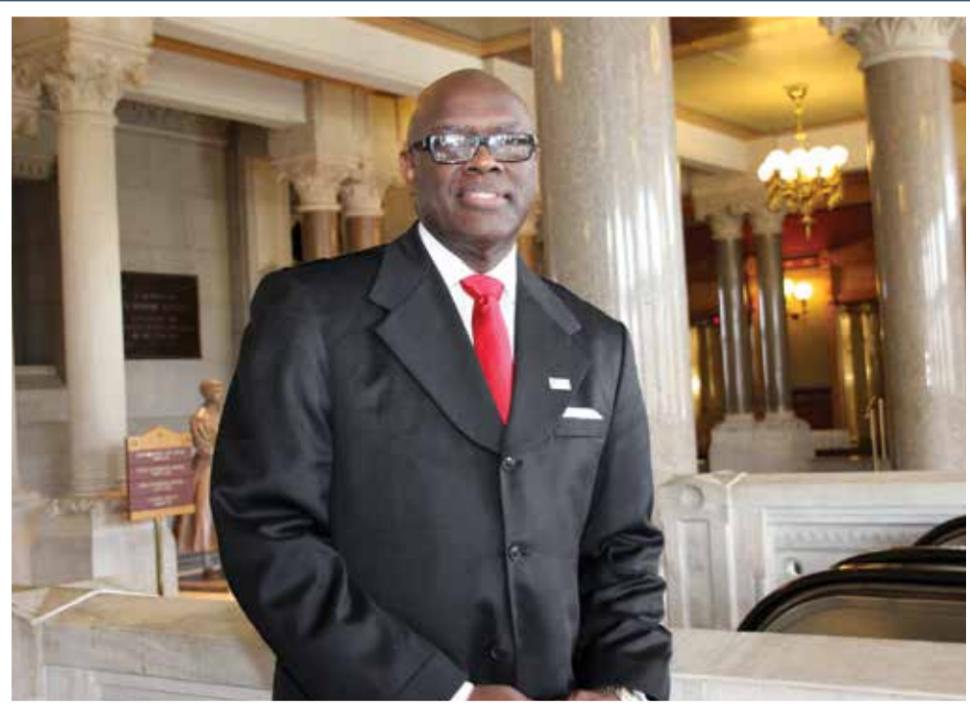
This year, we took a look at the critical issue of restoring trust between law enforcement and minority communities. Among some of the most key provision of the new “Excessive Use of Force” law: Police units will now face new requirements for promoting diversity and will receive training in the proper use of physical force. They will also be required to document incidents where an officer’s discharge of a weapon or use of force likely caused a serious physical injury or death. State police are now required to use body cameras. Local police are required to use body cameras if they receive state grants to pay for the equipment and data storage. An independent prosecutor will be now assigned to investigate allegations that an officer’s physical force resulted in the death of a person.

SECOND CHANCE SOCIETY

For years, Connecticut’s drug policies have swelled our prisons with nonviolent drug offenders who struggle to reintegrate into society upon release. “A Second Chance Society” will reverse these policies largely by reducing jail time for such offenders. Penalties for possession of small amounts of illegal drugs will be reduced from a felony to a Class A misdemeanor; a drug-dependent offender may complete a substance abuse treatment program on a second offense; the 1,500 foot drug free school zones are maintained, but instead of an offender receiving a mandatory 2-year minimum sentence for possession, the penalty will now require a sentence that includes prison and probation. During probation, the offender must perform community service. We also ensured victims are notified of a parole hearing and have access to the inmate’s complete file prior to the hearing. The expedited pardon review process for nonviolent crimes will also be streamlined; now offenders must receive a “pardon eligibility notice.” These provisions will give ex-offenders a better chance to get back into the workforce – and also save millions in taxpayer dollars.

CREATING A STUDENT LOAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Applying for college loans can be complicated and confusing. We created an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman to assist students in navigating the loan process and educate them about the different options they have for repaying their loans. The Ombudsman will also be responsible for handling student issues and complaints about their loan servicers, and will be investigating these claims to ensure that students are being fairly treated.



Rep. Stallworth at the State Capitol 2015



*Rep. Stallworth at a Public Hearing
with the Banking Committee*



*Rep. Stallworth in
House Chamber*