



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

Connecticut faced many challenges in 2013 and we successfully met those challenges and moved the state in a positive direction. The legislature's response to the tragedy in Sandy Hook took center stage, but we also looked to our future and adopted a Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES), invested in our flagship university and made our state more economically competitive by convening the Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE).

In response to the tragedy that took place in Sandy Hook this past December, the legislature listened to Connecticut residents and worked in a bipartisan manner to improve school security, firearm safety and access to mental health services in an effort to prevent such a catastrophic event from happening again.

We also balanced our budget while maintaining assistance to cities and towns and not introducing any new taxes. We gave seniors a choice in their long term care through "Aging in Place," assisted struggling homeowners by improving the foreclosure mediation process and increased penalties for those connected to the human trafficking of minors. We led the way to cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy by establishing the CES and took the first step in GMO labeling.

I am proud to have helped maintain \$20,861,029 in state funding for West Hartford, including funding for education and vital services to help stabilize our property taxes.

I look forward to answering your questions about any issues facing our state or you personally.

Sincerely,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Joe Verrengia**  
PROUDLY SERVING WEST HARTFORD | 20TH DISTRICT

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**2013**

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# STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE VERRENGIA

PROUDLY SERVING WEST HARTFORD | 20TH DISTRICT

## BRINGING YOUR STATE TAX DOLLARS HOME

Despite the challenges surrounding our biennial budget, we maintained our state funding to West Hartford. I was committed to preserving the safety net our community depends on while keeping property taxes stable, investment in science and technology at the University of Connecticut and continues economic development programs.

Below are the budget appropriations for West Hartford.

### WEST HARTFORD FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 AID

Education Cost Sharing	\$17,331,430
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$1,032,821
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$269,309
School Transportation	\$334,209
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$242,880
Town Aid Roads	\$690,125
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$700,986
Adult Education	\$145,098
<b>Total State Funds to West Hartford</b>	<b>\$20,861,029</b>



**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME:**

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FIND THESE BILLS ONLINE AT: [WWW.CGA.CT.GOV](http://WWW.CGA.CT.GOV)



Rep. Verrengia congratulates Chloe Nollet winner of the Secretary of State Poster Contest



Rep. Verrengia leads passage of his first bill through the House Chamber



Rep. Joe Verrengia greeting West Hartford Seniors at the Capitol

## GMO LABELING

Connecticut has passed a first-in-the-nation genetically modified organisms labeling law. By requiring foods to be labeled under certain circumstances, this legislation would allow consumers to know whether or not their foods contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and give individuals the ability to make informed choices.

The requirement becomes effective once similar laws are enacted in four other states, including one that borders Connecticut, with an aggregate population totaling 20 million. This is a significant first step in the fight to know what is in the food we eat and serve our families.

## JOB GROWTH

Both the House and the Senate unanimously supported the passage of a bill to encourage Connecticut manufacturers to recruit, hire, and train apprentices. We recognize both the prominent role of manufacturing in the state's economy and the need to prepare Connecticut's workforce for manufacturing jobs in the future.

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

This law broadens the crime of trafficking to include related activities and increases the penalty for patronizing a prostitute under age 18 or one who was being coerced or trafficked. It also makes funds and property related to prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation of a minor subject to forfeiture and protects victims by permitting anyone convicted of prostitution to apply to the Superior Court to vacate a conviction because he/she was a victim of trafficking.

## TRAFFIC STOP INFORMATION

This legislation addresses the lingering problem of racial profiling with respect to traffic stops. The law requires a standard method of recording detailed information for all officers conducting traffic stops. The law mandates the filing of monthly progress reports by all state and municipal police departments and agencies that conduct traffic stops and requires copies of all this information made available to the person stopped.

## AGING IN PLACE

The legislature continues our commitment to our senior citizens. I voted to help Connecticut's model of Aging in Place become law. Keeping our seniors in their homes is paramount to their well-being and saves money.

## HOUSE BILL 6253

This session we passed a number of acts that will make our roads safer. One I personally introduced increases the penalty for failure to remove ice or snow from a motor vehicle. Fines will start at \$75 and increase if property damage results.

## CLEANER MORE AFFORDABLE ENERGY

This year we passed landmark legislation that looks to tap into clean renewable energy, expanding access to natural gas, promoting energy efficiency and lowering the costs for our consumers and businesses.

Consumers will now have more choice in the fuels they use to heat and cool their homes and businesses, with more access to products and programs that reduce energy use and provide significant savings.

## REMOVING THE ENERGY AUCTION

After hearing from so many of you regarding the proposed energy auction, which would have sold off standard offer electric customers, I became a leader in the fight to remove it from the budget. Connecticut energy costs are already too high, and this one-time revenue gain would have pushed those costs even higher.

## BLUE ALERT SYSTEM

This new law notifies the public when a law enforcement officer has been killed, seriously injured or missing, and a suspect, considered an imminent threat, is still at large. The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection will implement and operate the system, including requests by law enforcement agencies to activate the system and guidelines to ensure that the dissemination of information does not compromise the investigation.