


Hello Friends!

I hope you are enjoying our great Elm City. I wanted to update you on some of the major accomplishments from the past 2013 legislative session.

Some of the issues we worked on included increasing access to mental and physical healthcare of youths and violence prevention services; raising the minimum wage which will in turn help support our local businesses since wages are spent locally; and facilitating the process to pass legislation for genetically modified foods to be labeled.

As your legislator, I am continuously making efforts to improve our city. In New Haven, we have made major upgrades to our Superior Courthouse and are also focusing on upgrades to the Metro North track between our city and New York to ensure an easier commute. In addition, we have set aside funding for afterschool and summer youth programs, have provided money for increased job training and youth violence prevention, protected the arts and humanities, and have kept our funding promise to cities and municipalities.

I hope that you will continue reading to learn more about what we have done this year. It is my pleasure to serve you and your loved ones. Together we can create a better future for ourselves and our families!

Best Wishes, 

NEW HAVEN TOWN AID PER YEAR (FY14-15)

Education Cost Sharing	\$150,438,559
Voc. Agriculture	\$1,022,914
Town Aid Road	\$1,248,685
State Owned PILOT	\$4,581,262
Colleges & Hosp. PILOT	\$34,666,238
LoCIP	\$1,724,309
Pequot/Mohegan	\$6,662,490
MRSA	\$2,801,939
School Transportation	\$3,789,490
Adult Education	\$2,937,473
TOTAL:	\$209,873,359

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PER YEAR (FY14-15)

In an effort to address youth violence in our urban communities and across the state, we provided additional funds to organizations and agencies that engage our children in anti-violence services and programs.

New Haven	\$521,402
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ANTI-VIOLENCE

PROJECT LONGEVITY

This initiative is a statewide approach that targets repeat criminals, creates alternatives for potential gang members and rallies neighborhoods against violence using state, federal, and municipal dollars. The state provided \$475,000 for FY14 and 15 to continue the program in New Haven and to also bring it to Hartford and Bridgeport. *(PA 13-184)*

GUN LAW REFORM

This law establishes a task force to establish minimum security standards for future school construction, creates a grant program so that existing schools can receive state assistance to upgrade their security infrastructure, and focuses on helping individuals and their families overcome obstacles to accessing mental health treatment and support. Furthermore, the law expands the current ban on assault weapons, bans the sale of magazines holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition, establishes a deadly weapon offender registry and requires a certificate for buying ammunition. *(PA 13-3)*

HEALTHCARE

PROVIDER NETWORK FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Under the Affordable Care Act, individuals making up to \$15,300 per year are eligible for Medicaid coverage beginning January 1, 2014. This law tasks the legislature's Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight with evaluating the provider network and making recommendations for reducing barriers to provider participation, improving care coordination, eliminating racial and ethnic disparities, and lowering costs. *(SA 13-7)*

FEDERAL MEDICAID WAIVER

This legislation requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of providing home care versus institutional care for Medicaid and HUSKY B recipients under age 18. It also makes recommendations on other Medicaid options the state may use to provide home care services to this population. *(SA 13-22)*

CALL ME FOR INFORMATION ABOUT:

Health Insurance/Exchange
Social Services/Programs
Financial Aid for Small Businesses
Animal Welfare Laws
Environmental Protection
Small Business Express Program
Genetically-Engineered Food
Student Loan Forgiveness

Legislation Impacting DCF/Your Kids
Increasing the Minimum Wage
Financial Aid for Students
Childhood Obesity Prevention
Clean Energy /Water Efforts
Youth Violence Prevention
School-Based Health Centers
The State's Budget Process

CHILDREN

DCF REFERRALS TO BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM

The first 100 days of a child's life are the most critical in his or her development. This session we passed a law that requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to use validated assessment tools to screen children up to three years old who are victims of abuse and neglect for developmental and socio-emotional delays. This allows these children an opportunity to get the help they need to reach the same learning level as their peers. *(PA 13-234)*

FOSTER CHILDREN

As a way to help ensure that these children have a bright future, state agencies will give preference to a young person between the ages of 18-24 who was in DCF custody on their 18th birthday over similarly qualified applicants when applying to internships within those agencies. *(PA 13-124)*

CARE 4 KIDS EXPANSION

This session we passed a law that expands the Care 4 Kids program to include those parents who are on maternity leave. This law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to grant up to six weeks of continued eligibility for Care 4 Kids funding to mothers on maternity leave who take unpaid leave from their jobs, securing their current child's spot in the program, even when they are unable to work. This allows children in the program to maintain the positive relationships formed with their caregivers that promote healthy brain development and better health, emotional and academic outcomes. *(PA 13-50)*

MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

We strengthened the system we have in place relating to children's mental health. Pediatricians will now get more training about signs of mental illness seeking to reduce mental, emotional and behavioral health issues in children through more early identification and intervention. It also promotes better consistency between home visitation programs and public education campaigns, asks the state to create a study of incarcerated youth with mental health issues, and creates a Children's Mental Health Task Force to look into these issues further. *(PA 13-178)*

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EDUCATION

STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

This law requires the state Department of Education to conduct a study to examine the fiscal, administrative and educational impact of these tests on our public schools. The law also allows the state's students to take their final Mastery Test in grade 11 rather than grade 10. *(PA 13-207)*

FINANCIAL AID MADE EASIER

This session the legislature worked hard to make the admissions process in Connecticut easier and more transparent by passing legislation that requires all Connecticut higher education institutions to provide uniform financial aid information prior to the enrollment deadline. Students and parents are now able to do side-by-side comparisons on each school's financial aid package, allowing the applicant to make a more informed decision on which school is right for them. *(PA 13-95)*

HOUSING

HELPING SENIORS LIVE AT HOME

This livable communities initiative demonstrates the state's commitment to giving seniors a choice in their long term care and support services. This legislation requires the Commission on Aging to establish and facilitate partnerships with municipal leaders, planning and zoning boards and social service organizations to encourage collaborative efforts for long term care planning. By January 1, 2014, state resources will be available that facilitate aging-in-place and the creation of livable communities, and the Commission will be required to establish a website that acts as a single portal for disseminating information on nationwide initiatives. *(PA 13-109)*

Increasing Access to Affordable Housing

Connecticut Housing Finance Authority is a quasi-state agency that creates affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families in the state. This law increases from \$1.5 billion to \$2.25 billion the amount of funds available for CHFA mortgage purchases and loans that are not guaranteed by certain state and federal entities. This allows CHFA to provide more mortgages, create construction jobs and boost economic activity in the state. *(PA 13-65)*

RESIDENTIAL STAYS AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

This law is aimed at preventing recidivism by ensuring inmates receive appropriate, timely services when they are transitioning back into the community following incarceration. Under the provision of this law, inmates may remain in their correctional facility for up to three months after their discharge date if a treatment facility is not available, in order to reduce the risk that they will reoffend while they await services. The Department of Corrections may charge inmates a reasonable daily fee for their stay. *(PA 13-165)*