

Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share with you the update on this 2014 legislative session. Each year brings a new set of challenges, and this session was no different. I focused on encouraging economic growth, helping working families, and making critical investments for the future of our children and our state.

Meeting these priorities while 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.

I am also extremely excited to share that Rep. Aresimowicz and I were able to secure a \$900,000 grant-in-aid to the town of Southington to finance renovations and improvements to the YMCA. Earlier this year, we also secured a \$200,000 grant to renovate the Southington Senior Center.

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

Sincerely,



State Representative David Zoni

Useful Numbers

Infoline	211
CT Tax Department	860-297-5962
CT Veterans Affairs	860-616-3600
Telebenefits line (for unemployment claims)	203-230-4939
Healthcare Advocate	866-466-4446
State Department on Aging	866-218-6631
Consumer Protection	800-842-2649
Unclaimed Property Hotline	800-833-7318

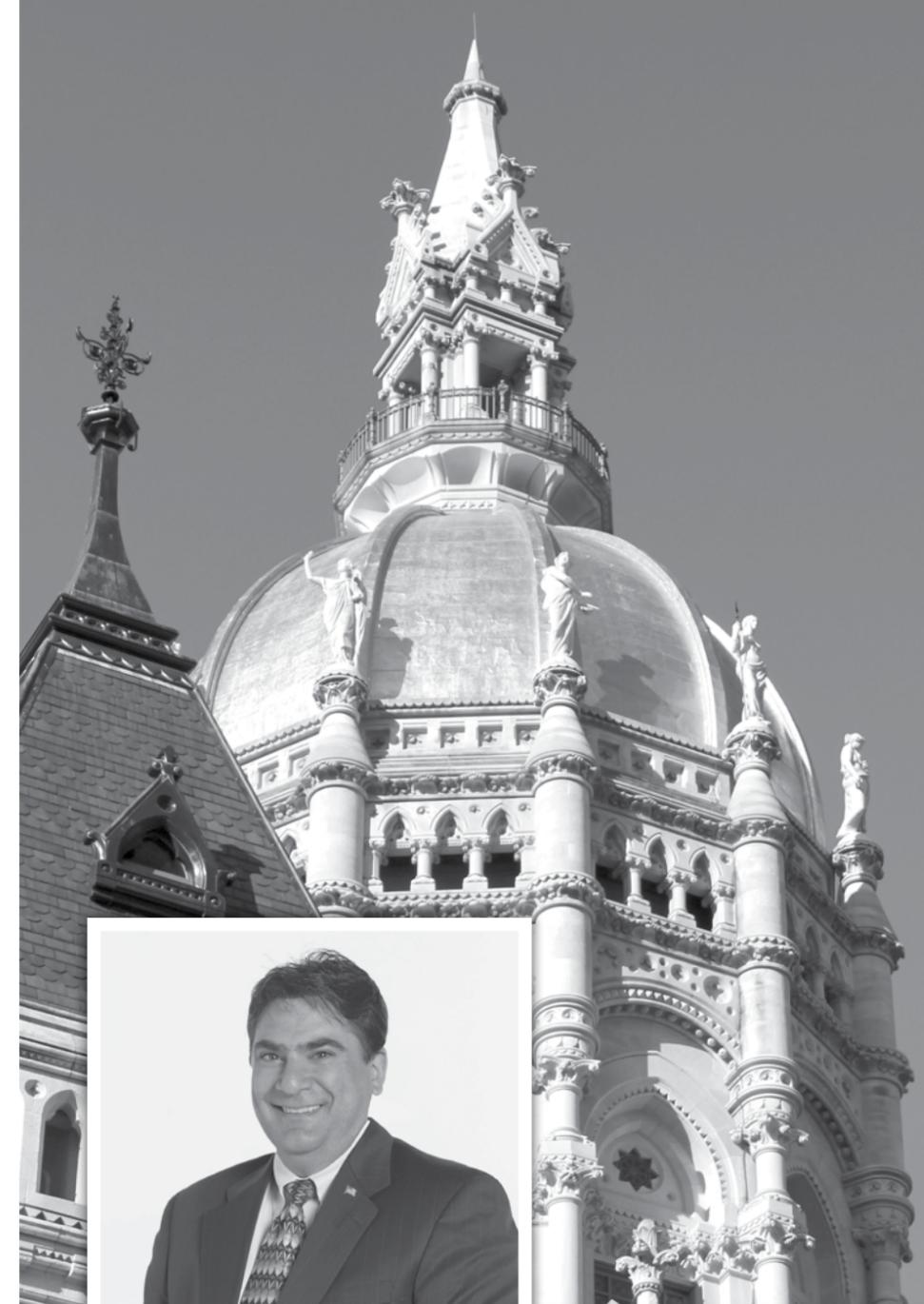
For information relating to **Reporting Fraud**, please contact 1-800-842-2155 or by email at clientfraud.dss@ct.gov.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID ZONI
PROUDLY SERVING SOUTHTON | 81ST HOUSE DISTRICT



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Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Zoni

BUDGET BALANCED WITH NO NEW TAXES

This session the legislature adopted a balanced budget for 2015 without raising taxes. The increases in aid for education and our municipalities are a necessary investment in our children and the future of our towns, and will stabilize local property taxes. We took steps to keep funding for state programs secure and we reopened programs that were designed to make the lives of Connecticut residents a little easier, such as the Rental Rebate program offered to seniors and the disabled.

VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICE

We owe it to active duty military personnel and veterans to guarantee all the benefits to which they are entitled. That is why we work hard to make jobs, housing, and other assistance available and to create new programs, easing the shift back to civilian life. Any school-aged child will now be granted 10 days of excused absence if their parent or legal guardian is an active-duty U.S. Armed Forces member, reservist, or National Guard member performing federal duties who has been called for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment in a combat zone or combat support posting. The Veterans' Opportunities Pilot Program will provide grants to nonprofit housing agencies to hire job placement specialists trained in veterans issues and will establish a statewide coordinator to manage the network of employment services for veterans. We also passed a law that allows Connecticut veterans to apply their military training toward qualifying for various occupational licenses. In addition, college credits can be awarded for appropriate specialty training.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVID ZONI

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PROTECTING CONSUMERS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

This session I worked for legislation to protect consumers in our state. Through increased fines we will curb misleading marketing and surprise price spikes by alternative electricity suppliers. We also passed legislation giving homeowners more say over whether their trees can be cut down or trimmed by utility companies.

We remained stewards of our environment by limiting trash burning and focusing on recycling at the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRRA). We also took steps toward more energy-efficient state buildings. In a bold step to limit toxic waste being trucked through our state, we enacted a three-year moratorium on the storage of fracking waste in the state. This ban will give the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection the time it needs to determine the existence of any safe by-products of fracking waste.



Rep. Zoni and Rep. Aresimowicz, along with Governor Malloy, secured funding for the Southington Senior Center. They were joined at the Capitol by Peter Freeman, Bob Verderame, Lt. Gov. Wyman, Deputy Town Manager Mark Sciota, Mark White, Richard Fortunato and Councilman John Barry.



Rep. Zoni and members of the Southington YMCA meet with Governor Malloy during the State Bond Commission meeting following its approval of a \$900,000 grant-in-aid for renovations at the YMCA. (From left to right: Tony Palmieri, Dave Donnelly, Rep. Zoni, Governor Malloy, YMCA Executive Director John Myers, Melissa Sheffy, and Donna Ayer)



Representative Zoni discusses upcoming legislation with colleagues.

“GO BACK TO GET AHEAD” PROGRAM

The “Go Back to Get Ahead” program encourages Connecticut residents who have some college credits but have not yet attained either an associate’s 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 three free college courses. This program is already up and running at www.gobacktogetahead.com

A STEP CLOSER TO UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The newly established Office of Early Childhood will develop a plan to improve access to preschool programs to achieve universal pre-kindergarten in Connecticut. In the meantime, we have increased school-readiness reimbursements and added 1,020 new preschool slots. We also removed the ceiling for grant funding, which will enable towns like Southington to apply for the funding that we need to accommodate additional preschool spaces.

CAPITOL UPDATE 2014