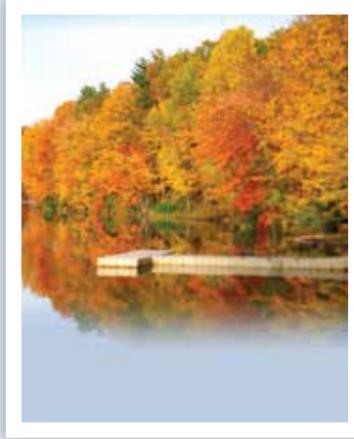


HELPING OUR SENIORS

PROTECTING THE ELDERLY

In situations where abuse or neglect is suspected, the Department of Social Services can now petition a probate court to gain access to that person's home to make an assessment. The definition of neglect has been expanded to include elderly people who do not live alone and whose caretaker fails to arrange for the services necessary to keep an elderly person healthy.



TOUGHENING OUR PROTECTIONS FOR SENIORS

We have taken steps to protect our seniors from abuse and from being taken advantage of financially. A number of protections have been enacted, including:

- EMTs have been added to the list of mandated reporters of elder abuse.
- Certain financial agents must receive training on elderly fraud, exploitation, and financial abuse.
- Those convicted of first or second degree larceny or first degree abuse of an elderly or disabled person are prohibited from inheriting or receiving insurance benefits, or receiving certain property.

BETTER LABELING ON PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES

To better protect and inform consumers, pharmacists are now required to include the manufacturer's name, website and telephone number with generic drugs for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's drug safety and reporting program (MedWatch). If a patient is given a generic drug, the pharmacist must include the brand name on the label.

REDUCING REQUIRED TESTING IN SCHOOLS

Since the rollout of No Child Left Behind almost 15 years ago, standardized testing has come under significant scrutiny. One area of concern has been that there simply are too many tests. For example, juniors in high school had been required to take the SBAC exam at a time when many had also been taking the SAT or ACT college admission tests.

As work continues statewide and across the country to improve the use of standardized tests, the legislature has taken another big step forward this year by allowing schools to waive SBAC testing for any students taking other college admissions tests.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DAVID ZONI

PROUDLY SERVING THE 81ST HOUSE DISTRICT | SOUTHINGTON



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DAVID ZONI

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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 during this legislative session, and it has been a privilege to represent the people of Southington during each of those discussions.

Connecticut's economy continues to recover. As I look back at the 2015 legislative session, I am proud of the steps the legislature took to grow our state's economy. We supported the successful Small Business Express Program, and made historic investments in transforming our state's transportation system.

We continued to support improvements in our educational system by providing additional aid to English Language Learners and students with learning disabilities. In addition, we took significant steps to lower the cost of higher education by becoming the first state in the country to establish a Student Loan Bill of Rights.

I hope you find the enclosed information to be helpful. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Zoni
State Representative



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www.facebook.com/repzoni

REDUCING HEALTH CARE COSTS TO CONNECTICUT CITIES AND TOWNS

Allowing municipal employees and retirees to join state employee health plans will considerably reduce healthcare costs for towns and cities around our state. The coverage costs are reduced because employees from participating towns would join a shared risk pool with state employees and other participating towns. The State Comptroller will be required to offer this coverage to towns and cities and to undertake certain actions to ensure that coverage is maintained.



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STANDING UP FOR CONSUMERS

We passed a number of important consumer protection laws this year. In addition to passing legislation that improves information given on prescription bottles, the legislature passed a bill that prohibits companies from requiring mandatory product registration for certain consumer warranty coverage. Also, anyone who provides material information which results in the successful investigation of a solicitor who tries to mislead consumers—commonly known as spoofing—will be compensated by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP).

New car dealers are now required to provide consumers with written information that explains the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act, which makes it illegal for new motor vehicle manufacturers or dealers to void warranties simply because aftermarket or recycled parts were installed in the vehicle or because someone other than the dealer performed service on the vehicle.

SMALL BUSINESS

This year, we allocated more funds for the highly successful Small Business Express Program. We also require that the Department of Economic and Community Development dedicate funds to develop a program for construction projects for minority business enterprises. These moves will create jobs and better economic opportunities for Connecticut families.



PROTECTING ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS

This year, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to protect residents from electricity providers who offer a low introductory rate that increases rapidly after a period of time. The protections that we enacted require competitive electric suppliers to give their customers a 60-day notice before the end of their contracts. Suppliers cannot charge these customers a termination or early cancellation fee, and must allow customers who want to switch to standard service the ability to do so within 72 hours. We also set up a process for the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to further investigate and take measures to completely eliminate variable electric rates when a customer's contract expires.



IMPROVING RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AT THE VETERANS' HOME IN ROCKY HILL

Since 1940, the Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill has served our vets in need with a range of rehabilitative, medical, and vocational services. A new law implements several recommendations from a 2014 study on the Home, including:

- Residents will have two seats on the Board of Trustees.
- A process will be developed for residents to file complaints.
- No veteran will go without housing should something happen to the Home.
- A plan will be submitted to the General Assembly to implement other recommendations— including more transitional housing and on-campus work programs, and greater privacy for residents.

Connecticut has been designated by the federal government as being the first state in the nation to have ended chronic homelessness among veterans.

MILITARY RETIREMENT INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

A new law fully exempts federally taxable military retirement pay from the state income tax. Prior law exempted 50% of this retirement pay. The exemption applies to federal retirement pay for retired members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard.

