

**COMMON SENSE GUN SAFETY:** We passed three gun safety bills, with bipartisan support, including Ethan’s Law (requiring a gun be properly stored so that individuals under the age of 18 cannot access the firearm), and a ban on “ghost guns” (untraceable weapons made from parts purchased online or made on a 3D printer).

**TOBACCO/TEEN VAPING:** As the mother of three young adults, I have seen up-close the fast-growing crisis of vaping by teens. Research by the Department of Public Health shows that if someone has not started smoking by 21 they likely never will, so I’m particularly proud we passed legislation that will raise the purchasing age of tobacco and vaping products to 21.

**EARLY VOTING:** The House, by supermajority, passed a resolution that would have put early voting onto a referendum in 2020. The Senate also passed this resolution, but not with the requisite majority for a 2020 referendum, so we will have to vote on this again in two years to be able to bring early voting (a reality in 38 states already) to Connecticut.

**VETERANS:** We passed legislation giving veterans access to any state-owned or state-controlled public transportation service at a reduced rate; provided a property tax exemption for veterans with disabilities; expanded access to in-state tuition for veterans’ families; and created a “Military to Machinists” workforce development program.

**ISSUES FOR THE LONGER TERM:** There were a few pieces of legislation that didn’t make it over the finish line this year, and I look forward to continuing to push for them in the future. One of those relates to internet connectivity, or “municipal gain.” The lack, or poor quality, of internet connectivity in our region is a significant concern for businesses, students, and young families relocating here. I worked on a bill that would address that, and got it through two committees (neither of which I sit on), but it did not get a vote in the Senate. I look forward to continuing to push for results on this issue that is of critical importance for our regional economy.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
Permit No. 3937

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Maria Horn**

PROUDLY SERVING CANAAN, CORNWALL, GOSHEN, KENT, NORFOLK, NORTH CANAAN, SALISBURY, SHARON, TORRINGTON



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Maria Horn**

Dear Neighbor,

Now that my first legislative session has ended, I wanted to give you a brief update on some of the legislation that passed.

As a vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, passing a two-year budget on time was a major accomplishment. It is a complicated document, coming in at over 500 pages, but it tackles our fiscal challenges directly and puts us on a stable path for the future, while investing in economy and protecting our most vulnerable. This is solid progress for the state of Connecticut.

Among my three committees (including Environment and Judiciary), I was privileged to introduce, co-sponsor, advocate for, and support a broad array of important legislation this term, some of which I highlight here.

Throughout the legislative session, I have settled into a routine of recording a weekly Facebook video (usually on Thursdays), followed by an email newsletter (usually on Fridays). You can sign up to receive those newsletters on my state website. I love hearing from you. Please continue to reach me by email, by phone, on Facebook or through my state website.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Horn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Legislative Office Building, Room 4000, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Maria.Horn@cga.ct.gov | 860-240-8585

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Horn](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Horn)

**PLEASE FOLLOW ME ON FACEBOOK:**  
[www.Facebook.com/StateRepHorn](http://www.Facebook.com/StateRepHorn)

# State Representative Maria Horn

## This Session I Was Proud to Work on These Issues:

**RAISING WAGES:** Income inequality is a serious problem in CT, with wage-earners having been left out of the recent economic recovery. I'm proud to have supported overdue legislation increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hour. I am equally proud to have pushed to ease the burden on employers, by extending the phase-in period and exempting tipped workers, whose compensation keeps up better with inflation. We also passed Paid Family Medical Leave, protecting employees from financial ruin by providing limited wage reimbursement to care for a family member with a serious health issue.

**PROTECTING SENIORS:** We protected the Medicare Savings Program for low-income seniors (rejecting an asset test), increased protection of Social Security income from taxation, phased out the pension and annuity tax, increased funding for Meals on Wheels, and provided a rate increase to nursing homes (thereby avoiding a costly strike).

**PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT & FAMILY FARMS:** A clean, healthy, environment is critical to the Northwest Corner, as both an economic asset and a moral trust. We passed a number of bills that make progress here, including: a ban on single-use plastic bags in 2021 (which will also reduce municipal recycling costs); extension of renewable energy programs, including traditional net metering and the Green Bank renewable solar investment program; expansion of the virtual net metering cap (reducing municipal energy costs); creation of a Green Jobs Career Ladder; development of energy capacity from offshore wind; and rebate incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles to help reduce polluting emissions. Another critical bill I advocated for will ensure that towns at risk when Cricket Valley Energy Center in NY comes online will get support from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for air quality monitoring.

I'm also proud we were able to protect funds from both Passport to Parks and the Community Investment Act (supporting agriculture, open space, affordable housing, and historic preservation) from being diverted to other purposes, and provided an additional \$1 million in funding to help sustain dairy farmers.



**HEALTHCARE:** Approximately half of our Connecticut population has experienced a problem affording health care in the past year, and 43% have either delayed or did not get care due to the rising costs of prescription drugs, increased deductibles, and insurance premiums. We made some progress this year, but there's more to do. I was disappointed that an excellent bill, that would have allowed importation of prescription drugs from Canada (where they are up to 50% less costly), and created other cost-cutting structures, passed the House but did not have a vote in the Senate.

- **Mental Health & Addiction:** Passed legislation to ensure health insurance companies give people with mental health and substance use disorders the same access to care as those with cancer and heart disease; expanded workers compensation protection for firefighters and police officers suffering from PTSD.
- **Pre-Existing Conditions:** Passed legislation that puts the ACA protections for those with pre-existing conditions into state law, ensuring that regardless of what happens at the federal level, people in CT with pre-existing conditions will be protected.
- **Expanded Access to Husky A:** About 3,500 people who had lost their healthcare coverage were restored to the program.



Capitol: 860-240-8585



Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591