

## From the House: A *Pro-Connecticut Agenda*

By Rep. Matt Ritter

We are truly in the heat of the 2017 legislative session. I'm proud to back a [legislative agenda](#) that provides a long-term vision for moving Connecticut forward – an agenda that looks to give a hand up to seniors, families and local businesses.

These bills will grow our economy and create jobs, make living here more affordable for seniors, and help keep our young people living and working in Connecticut.

**Exempting Seniors' Social Security Benefits from the Income Tax** Seniors have paid into the Social Security system for many years, and it doesn't make sense for them to pay twice. Exempting Social Security benefits from the income tax will help more seniors enjoy a comfortable retirement in Connecticut, instead of relocating to other states.

Connecticut is one of only 13 states that tax Social Security benefits.

**Making Connecticut Affordable for College Graduates** Young professionals are a critical part of Connecticut's economy, but many young people are struggling financially because of student loan debt. Our proposal would create a tax credit for recent college graduates who choose to live and work in the state in order to retain a highly educated workforce. **Small Business Assistance** Connecticut has [many programs](#) intended to help small businesses thrive, and we should make it as easy as possible for businesses to access these services. We are looking to create a small business hotline - a phone number that business owners can call to receive individualized guidance and information on state programs.

In addition, the Angel Investor program has been very successful at pairing willing investors with larger businesses. Let's expand the program to help hook up small business with new investors.

### Pay Equity

Equal pay for women is a top agenda issue and I am backing a bill to ensure that employees who perform substantially equivalent work are paid fairly and equally.

I encourage you to read more about these and many other legislative proposals at [housedems.ct.gov](http://housedems.ct.gov)