

## From the House

My office has received dozens of calls and emails over the past few weeks about winter heating assistance programs. I wanted to dedicate this column to alerting you and your neighbors that help is available through Operation Fuel and the State's home heating assistance program.

According to Operation Fuel, 322,000 Connecticut households cannot afford to pay their energy bills. [Operation Fuel](#) is a private, nonprofit program that provides emergency energy assistance year-round through its statewide network fuel banks. Their phone number is (860) 243-2345.

The [Connecticut Energy Assistance Program](#) (CEAP) is a cash assistance program designed to help offset the winter heating costs for households that struggle to pay their heating bills. The program covers your primary heating source whether it is oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal, wood or wood pellets. CEAP is open to both homeowners and renters. For households whose heat is included in their rent, one-time financial assistance is available.

In Hartford, the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is operated by the [Community Renewal Team](#) (CRT). You can reach them at (860) 560-5800.

Please also keep in mind that if you are eligible for the winter heating program, you may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. Insulation and weather-stripping can tighten-up an old, drafty house – conserving energy and lowering heating bills.

You can also contact the state's Infoline at 2-1-1 for more information on CEAP or Operation Fuel.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions or if I can be of any assistance. My email address is [matthew.ritter@cga.ct.gov](mailto:matthew.ritter@cga.ct.gov) and my telephone number at the Capitol is 860-240-8500.