

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

### **Reduce College Loan Interest Rates**

Student loan debt is a major concern for current and future graduates. College costs are soaring and students are saddled with more and more debt.

To help students and grads, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) recently started offering borrowers the chance to refinance their school debt with a new program entitled Refi CT.

This program from Connecticut's supplemental college-loan fund carries the option for a five-, 10-, or 15 year term and can help students refinance their loan with a fixed interest rate as low as 4.25 percent - which is usually more than a full percentage point lower than their original rate.

Applications can be submitted online at [www.chesla.org](http://www.chesla.org). There is no application or origination fee.

Providing student loan debt relief is essential in making sure Connecticut remains an attractive place to live and work.

### **Investing in Albany Ave.**

This week I'll be meeting with DOT to discuss the reconstruction project on Albany Avenue. This is a \$30 million state/federal investment in our city.

The goal of the project is to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety throughout the corridor along with streetscape and beautification enhancements.

There will be more signalized crosswalks and the addition of sidewalk bump-outs which decrease crossing distances. There will also be new dedicated left-turn lanes at intersections to increase traffic safety. A walkable city is a livable city.

One of the benefits of the project is jobs. DOT will hold a job fair for the project the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. I'll post details on my Facebook page, @RepresentativeMattRitter when DOT announces the location and time.

Construction is anticipated to start in mid-June

As always, please contact me if I can ever be of any assistance. I can be reached at [Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov), or by phone at (800) 842-1902, if you have any questions or concerns.

By Rep. Matt Ritter