

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



Press Release

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Richard Price
860-240-0071

Middletown Lawmaker Touts Refi CT Loan Program *Solutions Available To Reduce Debt Burden*

State Rep. Matthew Lesser (D-Middletown), chairman of the legislature's Banking Committee, is excited to announce new options for reducing the burden of student loan debt. **Refi CT** is a pilot program with more than \$5,000,000 to lend at interest rates as low as 4.25%. Borrowers may request a five, ten, or fifteen year repayment term.

"Being able to refinance student loans is really a game changer for thousands of Connecticut residents," says Rep. Lesser. "And it will help our economy as a whole - everything from housing to job starts. Refi CT is the culmination of a year and a half of work, and I'm proud of my role in helping usher in this important new tool."

Eligible borrowers must be a Connecticut resident seeking to refinance a CHESLA, federal or private student loan. Borrowers from outside Connecticut who are seeking to refinance a CHESLA loan are also eligible. And the program also allows a borrower to refinance parent PLUS loans taken on their behalf while in school.

CHESLA was created by the General Assembly in 1982 and helps students and their families meet the costs of higher education as a supplemental loan source. With Refi CT, CHESLA will also serve borrowers who are no longer students, but who are working to repay their student loans. Since 1985, CHESLA has originated approximately 43,365 loans totaling \$420,336,485.

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