

# The Connecticut General Assembly



For IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 24, 2016

Contact: Tess Koenigsmark  
860-240-8790

## **Rep. Ritter Honored by CT Alliance of YMCAs** *Named 2016 Legislative Champion for work as Public Health Co-Chair*

**Public Health Committee Co-Chair Matt Ritter** (D-Hartford) was presented today with the 2016 Legislative Champion Award by the CT Alliance of YMCAs. Rep. Ritter accepted the award at the YMCA of Greater Hartford's downtown Hartford campus.

"It's an honor to be recognized by the YMCA for my work in the legislature. Their programs and advocacy contribute significantly to the health and wellbeing of communities throughout Connecticut," **Rep. Ritter** said. "Reducing health inequities in our state is a critical component of the Public Health Committee's work. Access to healthcare impacts an individual's opportunities in every area of life – from pursuing an education and career to raising a family. I will continue to promote legislation that helps all Connecticut residents lead a healthy life."

"We thank Representative Ritter for standing with the YMCA and bringing forward new legislation that allows us to deliver transformative wellness programs to the people of Greater Hartford," said Harold Sparrow, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Hartford. "Matt's work as a lawmaker is a necessary component of reducing health disparities in our community."

"As Chair of the Public Health Committee, Matt has worked to pass legislation to help prevent deaths from opioid overdoses, increase hospital fee transparency, and require that more mental health services be covered by the private insurance market," said John Cattelan, Executive Director of the CT Alliance of YMCAs. "He has been a longtime supporter of the Greater Hartford YMCA."

In the 2016 session, Public Health Committee legislation also established the Diabetes Advisory Council within the Department of Public Health to review and make recommendations regarding diabetes prevention, control and treatment efforts in Connecticut.

###