

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. Godfrey Recognized for Commitment to Open, Accountable Government

Honored by the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information



Rep. Godfrey is presented the Bice Clemow Award by Dan Klau, President of CCFOI

State Rep. Bob Godfrey (D-Danbury) was honored by the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information (CCFOI) for his leadership in support of open and accountable government at the group's annual meeting yesterday.

He was presented with the 2017 Bice Clemow Award, named for the former editor of the *West Hartford News* who helped draft the law that created Connecticut's Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC).

"I'm honored to receive this award from the CCFOI, which has for over half a century led the fight in Connecticut for open and transparent government. As an elected official, I have always held that the people of our state got us into office, and they have a right to

know what we're doing while we're here," **Rep. Godfrey** said. "Too often, public officials have treated the Freedom of Information Act as an inconvenience to be circumvented, rather than as an integral part of an open democracy. I will always stand against any attack on the people's access to their government."

CCFOI's mission is to advocate and promote strong Freedom of Information Laws to help guarantee the rights of journalists and others under the United States Constitution and Connecticut Constitution.

In March, **Rep. Godfrey** wrote an [op-ed](#) published in the *Danbury News-Times* that denounced recent efforts by state legislators and the executive branch to weaken the Freedom of Information Act and impose devastating budget cuts on the FOIC.

Rep. Godfrey's efforts were critical to making electronic records subject to the Freedom of Information Act and to establishing the Connecticut Television Network (CT-N), which provides television coverage of state government events. He was instrumental in instituting the requirement that any state government documents available on paper must be available online simultaneously.

He was previously recognized for his work promoting open government in 2003, when the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission presented him with its Distinguished Service Award.

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