

# The Connecticut General Assembly



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Thursday, March 24, 2016

CONTACT: Alberto Negron  
(860) 240-8518

## **REP. McCARTHY VAHEY AWARDED PUBLIC POLICY CHAMPION BY THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY**

**State Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey (D-Fairfield)** was honored by the Connecticut Chapter of the National MS Society for her work on legislation that promoted accessibility for persons living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and other disabilities during MS Action Day at the Capitol.

Rep. McCarthy Vahey was presented with a 2015 Legislative Public Policy Champion award for getting legislation passed that creates a monetary fine when snow is dumped in accessible parking places.

“I was honored to be presented with this award for legislation I supported to curb the inappropriate blocking of access to necessary disabled parking,” **Rep. McCarthy Vahey** said. “It is imperative that we keep working to ensure that laws that protect accessibility are respected throughout the state.”

Fairfield resident Thomas Griffen was instrumental in achieving these important changes. Working with Representative McCarthy Vahey, Griffen helped to advocate for the legislation, later joining McCarthy Vahey for meetings with Fairfield Police and other state-wide advocates and elected officials.

“Tom’s concern and follow through has made a real difference here in Fairfield, and now in the entire state. He continues to fight for the rights of all those with disabilities and it is an honor to work alongside him,” **Rep. McCarthy Vahey** added.

The National MS Society advocates at the federal, state and local levels for increased MS research, access to quality health care, disability rights, long-term services and supports, and access to basic needs like year-round energy assistance, transportation and accessible housing.

Legislation supported this session includes:

- SB433, An Act Concerning Standards and Requirements for Health Carriers’ Provider Networks and Contracts between Health Carriers and Participating Providers. This bill will implement the recommendations of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners regarding health insurance carriers’ adequacy of health provider networks and contracting between the carriers and providers.
- SB 34, An Act Concerning Dispensation and Coverage of a Prescribed Drug for a Chronic Disease During Certain Adverse Determination Reviews, and Decreasing the Time Frames for Urgent Care Adverse Determination Review Requests. This bill would protect patients with chronic diseases during their insurers’ internal grievance process and require that the insurer cover the prescribed drug during the course of the internal appeal.

*Cristin McCarthy Vahey represents Fairfield's 133rd Assembly District. She serves on the Appropriations, Education and Transportations Committees.*

###