

## Langevin Visits Future Legislators

# Congressman pays visit to Coventry High club

### Langevin hears about proposed 'bills' from dozen Coventry students involved in club

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COVENTRY — Rhode Island United States Representative Jim Langevin spent a portion of Monday morning at Coventry High School listening to students who are members of the Model Legislature Club.

A dozen students presented Langevin with bills they're currently debating within their club, some of which cover the issues of police personnel being equipped with recording devices and other bills such as assisted suicide and people panhan-

dling on the streets.

The Model Legislature is a club that allows students to act in the roles of legislators by writing legislation and becoming delegates to the state Model Legislature held at the Rhode Island Statehouse in April.

Club members meet with other participating schools for state-wide party caucuses and committee hearings.

These culminate in a Saturday session at the Statehouse.

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**Rep. Jim Langevin (far right) talks with Coventry High's Model Legislature as CHS Principal Mike Hobin looks on.**

# Langevin visits Coventry HS Model Legislature

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Student Sage Pagliarina is proposing a bill that would require police officers to wear cameras while on duty, not only to protect the person that could be arrested but also the officer.

"In my research, I have found many cases regarding the issue and I think some might find it to be an invasion of their privacy, if they're doing their jobs, it shouldn't be an issue," she said.

Another student's bill takes on assisted suicide, which Langevin said would be difficult to even get to the floor, given that the legislature is Republican-dominated and has closer alignment with pro-life sympathies and there would definitely be opposition.

Michael Nolan, high school history teacher and advisor for the Model Legislator Club, called it an "amazing experience" for the students.

"We go to the General Assembly once a year and we meet once every two weeks," Nolan said. "We introduce our bills and then we finalize



Members of Coventry High's Model Legislature club got a visit from United States Representative Jim Langevin yesterday. Here, members of the club get together for a group photo with the Congressman, who has served on Capitol Hill since 2001.

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them. It's a great opportunity to learn about the process."

Some asked the Congressman how he got his start in politics.

Langevin first ran for office in 1986, when he was elected a Delegate to Rhode Island's Constitutional Convention and served as its secretary.

Two years later, he won election to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where he established a reputation as a hard-working reformer committed to good government.

In 1994, Langevin defeated a Republican incumbent to become the youngest Secretary of State in the na-

tion.

In 1998, Langevin won re-election to his second term as Secretary of State, achieving the largest plurality of any general officer in this century, and in 2000 he made a successful run for the U.S. House of Representatives, where he has served the Second Con-

gressional District ever since.

In addition to being involved in many other things, he is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the Seapower and Projection Forces and Strategic Forces.

"The key to establishing support is to be involved in the community and there are a wide variety of ways to do that and it's about having a good platform," he said.

Another proposed bill club members are working on is having community college free of tuition for the first year.

While Langevin is a huge supporter of higher learning and wants to help everyone receive a quality education, he also believes "you have to have some skin in the game."

"I've listened to arguments on both sides for tuition free for the first year but there are ways out there, through grants such as the Pell Grant as well as student loans, that make it possible because I think you have to have some investment in your future but it should be able to be obtainable," he said.