

Betty Gallo has lobbied the Connecticut General Assembly on behalf of organizations that advocate for civil rights and some of the most vulnerable people in Connecticut for 40 years. Betty began her lobbyist career as the Executive Director and chief lobbyist for Common Cause/Connecticut, a non-profit working in Connecticut on ethics codes for lobbyists and legislators. When she started lobbying, there were seven women lobbying the Connecticut General Assembly, all except one represented small non-profit organizations. The vast majority of lobbyists worked for large law firms representing corporate clients.

In 1980, Betty was on the Founding Board of Hartford Interval House, a domestic violence shelter, and worked as a volunteer lobbyist on women's rights and other civil rights issues. In 1981, she started her own government relations and lobbying firm, Betty Gallo & Co. Betty hoped to be able to represent small non-profits that could not afford a full-time lobbyist and incorporate her work on civil rights issues.

In 2014, Betty took on a partner, Kate Robinson, who had been a lobbyist with the firm for 14 years. The firm, Gallo & Robinson, represented over 40 non-profits during the 2017 General Assembly session including CWEALF, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, the American School for the Deaf, the American Association of University Professors – Connecticut State University Chapter, Legal Services programs, the Partnership for Strong Communities, SEIU Healthcare 1199NE, and the Connecticut chapter of the ACLU.

The firm has also sponsored the CT Lobbying Conference, a full day training session to teach people how to lobby the Connecticut General Assembly for 35 years, providing training for over 2,500 people.

Betty played a major role in the successful passage of such issues as the gay rights law, codification of the Roe v. Wade decision into Connecticut law, the Sandy Hook anti-gun violence bill, medical marijuana, transgender civil rights bill, marriage for same sex couples and abolishment of the death penalty. Betty credits the success of her work to the amazing people who have worked with her over the years; the hundreds of dedicated and tenacious advocates working on these issues; and the countless public officials who fought for and supported such legislation.

Betty was in the first class of women who graduated from Trinity College; there were four women in that class. Betty is the mother of two wonderful grown children, Amy and Chris, who in many ways made all of this possible, and grandmother to Harper Vania, who brings her great joy.