

HELPFUL RESOURCES



ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

▶ SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Choose Your Electric Supplier—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by 10 percent. 1-877-947-3873 or www.ctenergyinfo.com

Home Energy Solutions—This program helps customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-877-947-3873

Helping With Payments—Programs are available to help customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balances. 1-800-286-2828

▶ STATE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS

Connecticut provides sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products including: Insulation • Caulking • Doors • Fluorescent light bulbs • Furnaces • Geothermal heat pumps • Programmable thermostats • Water heaters • Windows

FOR SENIORS

▶ MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS (MSP)

Individuals who are enrolled in both Medicare and ConnPACE are no longer able to access ConnPACE benefits. Instead, those eligible for Medicare should apply to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) in order to receive prescription drug assistance. There is no asset test for this program, and the income limits are the same as those for ConnPACE.

MSP offers eligible seniors savings of at least \$1,000 per year in Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments to \$6.30 or less. For information call Infoline at 211, or CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422 or visit www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms.



FOR VETERANS

▶ COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Connecticut General Assembly's Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs advocates for active-duty military personnel, veterans and military families. 1-800-842-1420

▶ THE OFFICE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

This office supports Connecticut's military families, enhances their quality of life and advocates for the state's defense industry. 860-270-8074; www.ct.gov/oma



Additional Resources & Links

Follow links to these special pages from www.senatedems.ct.gov:

- ▶ Resources for Jobseekers
- ▶ Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures
- ▶ Veterans' Guide
- ▶ Health Care Programs in Connecticut



Talking with constituents at my October senior fair for area residents at Port 'N' Starboard at Ocean Beach in New London. The event, held for seniors and their family members, featured dozens of service providers and vendors who participated with displays and exhibits to showcase programs, products and services directed toward older residents.



Dear Neighbor:

These are unprecedented times: families are struggling, yet gridlock in Washington ensures that Congress gets nothing done. It's a different story in Connecticut. We put partisan differences aside and passed an historic jobs bill. The legislation will help create thousands of jobs by reducing red tape, cutting taxes for small businesses and investing in training and education.

Together, we're working to strengthen Connecticut's economy, balance the budget and show Washington that cooperation doesn't have to be a bad word.

This newsletter details some of the initiatives we've taken to help our economy and improve your quality of life. Please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Andrea Stillman
State Senator

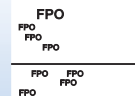
Stay Informed in a "Green" Way



Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It's a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit: www.SenatorStillman.cga.ct.gov



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Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

State Senator

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FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

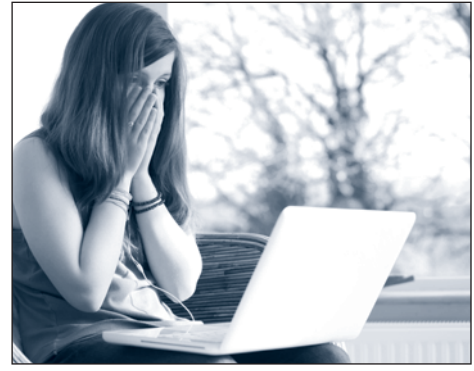
LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

Cutting Your Electric Bill

When was the last time you had a monthly bill reduced? Well, this year the state was able to eliminate the surcharge on CL&P electric bills that will save the average ratepayer as much as \$5 every month. It's a start to help reduce it further.

Cracking Down on Online Bullying

Bullying has become a national concern, leading in the worst cases to bullied students committing suicide. Connecticut already has a strong anti-bullying law, but we reinforced it this year with two key provisions: we've added electronic "cyberbullying" to the list of prohibited activities, and we've expanded the number of mandatory school reporters and the responsibilities of school districts to include bullying incidents that occur off school grounds. Bullying has expanded into the electronic world of social media, and Connecticut is keeping pace in protecting its younger citizens.



Improving Early Childhood Education

Getting our children off to a strong start early on in their education provides benefits that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. We passed legislation to create a coordinated system of early care education and child development to address the needs of children from birth to age 8 (changes take effect in 2013.) The plan will focus on developing oral language and social skills, as well as on closing the achievement gap, improving participation in early childhood programs and increasing parent engagement.

Helping Veterans Prove Their Service

We passed a law allowing the state DMV to include a veteran's status on his or her state driver's license or identity card. Both of these IDs are routinely carried everywhere and widely recognized as official, thereby helping veterans secure the cost-saving benefits they rightly deserve. We also extended free, lifetime passes to state parks, forests and other recreational facilities to any Connecticut resident who is a disabled wartime veteran.



GROWING JOBS

Jobs are the number one issue facing Connecticut today. We took action in the legislature this year to put more people back to work and get our economy growing again. Unlike the partisan gridlock in Washington, both parties came together in Hartford to pass a Jobs Bill of common-sense improvements. We focused on small businesses, **cut the business entity tax in half** and **streamlined state regulations**.



Other highlights of the bill include:

- ▶ **Helping small businesses with hiring**—We established a monthly hiring tax credit that increases when businesses hire unemployed, disabled or veteran workers. We also made it easier for businesses to hire new workers for on-the-job training.
- ▶ **Investing in start-ups**—At a time when many banks aren't lending, we invested in new start-up companies by building business incubators and expanding the angel investor tax credit.
- ▶ **Building a workforce of the future**—We will recruit students for vo-tech, agri-science and tech education by promoting the benefits of those programs with middle-school parents and local boards of education. We'll also establish manufacturing technology programs at three community colleges.
- ▶ **Investing in infrastructure**—We paved the way for economic development zones at Connecticut's general aviation airports, allocated funds for shovel-ready bridge projects and passed major reforms to lower energy costs and increase energy efficiency.



In separate legislation, we rebuilt the UConn Health Center, attracting bioscience leader Jackson Laboratories to build a \$1.1 billion research facility nearby. This will create 900 construction positions and up to 6,000 long-term jobs.

The national economy remains tough, but we took big steps this year to get Connecticut growing again.

Making Cuts While Protecting Municipal Aid

Connecticut's two-year budget includes more than \$1 billion in spending reductions and \$1.6 billion in labor concessions from state employees. It doesn't rely on borrowing or fiscal gimmicks to fund operating expenses, it fully funds the state's pension obligations and it remains under the state spending cap. At the same time, the budget protects state levels of municipal aid, which helps towns and cities avoid raising local property taxes.

As a result, I've ensured that **East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem** and **Waterford** receive their fair share of state funding for education, roads and much more.



Learning From Two Extreme Storms

Connecticut was hit hard with two extreme storms nine weeks apart. In both instances hundreds of thousands of households lost power, most for several days, and many for more than a week. The large number of lengthy outages across the state, primarily in CL&P coverage areas, has led to many questions about this utility's ability to prepare for and manage these drastic situations. CL&P is now under heavy scrutiny and action will be taken by the legislature to address their failure. In a series of post-storm hearings, we listened to suggestions from the public and local officials based on their experiences. We crafted their ideas into recommendations that have now been shared with the governor's Two Storm Panel.



A Proud Moment to Be Shared

The Waterford Little League South All-Stars visited the State Capitol in Hartford where they were congratulated by Governor Dannel Malloy and me. The team, which is comprised of players selected at the end of the regular season by coaches in the Waterford Little League South Division, won the 2011 9/10-Year-Old East Region Championship on August 6 in Cranston, Rhode Island. This is the highest title for the 9/10 age range and the Waterford team was undefeated throughout the tournament. To get to the tournament the team first had to win the sectional title, the state title, and the New England championship. Their final game in the East Region series was against the New York state champions (who were also Mid-Atlantic champions). The final score was 11-1. Congratulations Waterford Little League South!

