

Cracking Down on Illegal Gambling

Sweepstakes cafes are essentially illegal casinos, offering nothing more than slot machines disguised as computers. Patrons participating in the cafes are often seniors and are being exploited by a deceptive business with no regulation and no guarantee that their winnings will ever be paid out. Tax money is siphoned away from the state, and residents are put at risk. Several cafes have been shut down by the state police. The bill I introduced received bipartisan support and will permanently close the doors on these establishments before they spread any further.



Speaking out against illegal gambling parlors in Connecticut

Honoring Our Local Veterans

I was joined by Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz to present over 150 local veterans with the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal. Above, we stand after the presentation ceremony with veterans Tina and Lance Worboys and their children. Below, local veteran Calvin Bunnell receives his medal.



Your State Senator

Danté Bartolomeo

Representing Cheshire, Meriden, Middletown, Middlefield & Rockfall



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Making a Difference in Our Community

Here is an update on a few of projects in the 13th Senate District that I have been working on:

Cheshire

- Sponsored legislation allowing the town to seek years of retroactive sewer use payments for the Cheshire Correctional Facilities.
- Acquired state funds to relocate and build a new food pantry.

Middletown

- Changed state statutes regarding school expulsions to undo negative effects in the education system and re-established funding to preserve Middlesex Child First program.

Middlefield/Rockfall

- Facilitated the state's Parks Division cooperation in addressing the overcrowding, litter and safety concerns at Wadsworth Falls.

Meriden

- Acquired the funds necessary to complete the Hub revitalization project.



Wadsworth Falls State Park



Talking with workers after the groundbreaking for the Hub project in downtown Meriden last fall.

Stopping Drunk Drivers

Ignition interlock devices—small breathalyzers linked to a vehicle's ignition system—are one of the most effective tools we have to ensure the safety of a driver and all other people on the road. I co-sponsored a bill that expands their use to any driver with an administrative license suspension for drunken driving. If the driver's blood alcohol concentration is above a preset level, the car will not start. Use of these devices has been shown to reduce repeat offenses by 67 percent.



Danté Bartolomeo

Committed to Connecticut's Economic Recovery

As your State Senator, I am committed to helping small and mid-sized businesses grow, creating and retaining jobs and putting people back to work. Since their inception, the STEP-Up and Small Business Express Programs have helped almost 2,000 small businesses create or preserve more than 17,000 jobs. These initiatives offer job training support for the unemployed and grants for small businesses.

This year we created the Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund to provide certain manufacturers with financial assistance. This assistance which will come in the form of grants, extensions of credit, or loans can be used for investments such as manufacturing research and development, expanding facilities and modernizing of manufacturing equipment.



During a visit to Canberra Industries in Meriden I was shown a computer tablet running radiation detection software developed at the company. This tablet receives information from a robotic radiation detector, allowing police and other security officers to determine radiation levels without putting themselves at risk by going into the radiated area.

Jobs for Veterans

I co-sponsored a bill that will remove employment barriers for returning veterans who are entering the workforce. This legislation will require state licensing authorities to accept military training and experience, where appropriate, as a substitute for their requirements and will allow veterans to receive streamlined occupational certifications.



Veterans talk to employers at a Heroes for Hire job fair.

Resources to Grow Jobs

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- ▶ **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress, or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or Michelle.Peters@ct.gov
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: www.stepct.com
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- ▶ **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org
- ▶ Learn more about **Job Growth in Connecticut**: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Talking with Cheshire seniors about consumer protection legislation.

A Rebate for Senior Renters

Being able to stay in their own home is a top priority for many senior citizens. However, this is a challenge for those living on a fixed income. In order to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses, we've re-opened the Elderly Renters' Rebate Program. Eligible persons may apply between April 1 and October 1. Questions about the program and payments should be directed to the **Renter's Rebate Hotline** at 860-418-6377.

Third Party Energy Providers

Competition within the electric market has resulted in increased high-pressure sales tactics and misleading information from third-party electric suppliers. That's why we passed legislation requiring these suppliers to maintain their introductory "teaser" electric rates for at least three months. We also require that electric bills include the standard offer rate, so consumers can compare it with the rate they are paying. Finally, customers will have greater flexibility to change their electric supplier by reducing allowable early termination fees.

Early Childhood Education

The Office of Early Childhood was formally established and given the powers and authority of a state agency. It will be responsible for coordinating various programs in our state with a focus on the overall well-being of our youngest children.

Recognizing there is no better way to set students on the path to lifelong learning success than high quality education, we added 1,020 slots for children to attend preschool through the state's School Readiness Program. We also established the Smart Start Program which will provide more children access to early education in our schools. Combined with additional slots for private providers, our pre-K package will reduce the achievement gap and ensure that all children are prepared to learn when they arrive at kindergarten.



Singing with the pre-K students at Snow School in Middletown.