

HELPFUL RESOURCES

FOR SENIORS

▶ CHOICES PROGRAM

The CHOICES Program provides information to persons age 60 and older. Currently, CHOICES is assisting seniors who need help enrolling in Medicare Part D. 1-800-994-9422

▶ 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.



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

▶ FURNACE UPGRADES

The Energy Conservation Loan Program provides low-or no-interest loans for energy-efficient upgrades including furnaces and boilers, thermal windows and doors and insulation. 860-233-5165 ext. 2019 or 2023; www.chif.org

▶ ENERGY TAX CREDITS

To help reduce energy costs and protect our environment, the federal government is offering tax credits to individuals who invest in making their homes more energy efficient. www.energystar.gov



Additional Resources and Links

Find these special pages under “Resources” at www.senatedems.ct.gov:

- ▶ **Connecticut Veterans’ Guide; Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures; Health Care Programs in Connecticut; and more.**



Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state Senator.

The 2011 legislative session was both busy and productive. As chairwoman of the Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee, I was privileged to be able to focus on legislation which streamlined our university system, making it easier for students to transfer between schools and complete college. We also passed legislation that created **good paying jobs right in the Farmington River Valley**.

I have also been hard at work supporting local priorities. I sponsored a bill for **firefighters in Burlington** in need of better access to water in emergencies, secured money so **West Hartford children with disabilities** can have a safe place to exercise and socialize and worked to **restore manufacturing property tax assistance to Bloomfield**.

We face many ongoing challenges and I look forward to continuing my work in 2012. I wish you and your family a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Beth Bye
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.SenatorBye.cga.ct.gov



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Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

State Senator
Beth Bye

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Representing
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Burlington,
Farmington &
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STATE SENATOR **Beth Bye**

Serving Bloomfield, Burlington, Farmington & West Hartford

GROWING JOBS BY LISTENING TO CONSTITUENTS

Jobs are the number one issue facing Connecticut today. We took action in the legislature this year to put more people back to work. 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:



I recently toured Colt's Manufacturing factory on New Park Avenue in West Hartford as part of my district-wide listening tour of 10 manufacturers. Colt is the largest single employer in West Hartford with approximately 560 workers.

- ▶ **Helping small businesses with hiring**—Established a hiring tax credit that increases when businesses hire unemployed, disabled or veteran workers.
- ▶ **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**—Worked to promote vo-tech, agri-science and tech education programs and their benefits. We'll also establish manufacturing technology programs at three community colleges.
- ▶ **Investing in infrastructure**—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 other legislation, we repositioned the UConn Health Center, attracting bioscience leader Jackson Laboratory to build a \$1.1 billion research facility nearby. This will create 900 construction positions and up to 6,000 long-term jobs.

Architect's rendering of the new Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine near the UConn Health Center in Farmington.

FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns, Holding Down Property Taxes
State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That's why I fought hard to successfully protect funding for **Bloomfield, Burlington, Farmington and West Hartford**.

State Bonding Making a Difference

The district was very fortunate to receive an infusion of targeted state bonding over the past summer for two very worthwhile projects.



The first was \$250,000 toward the construction of a handicapped-accessible **'Miracle Field' at the University of Connecticut West Hartford Campus** on the east side of Trout Brook Drive. The funds will help pay for play areas and rest facilities that are fully accessible to all.

Meanwhile, \$15 million was granted to construct a 56,000 square foot building at **Tunxis Community College** with 18

classrooms and two computer labs. Our community college system is under increasing pressure as more state residents choose to attend these institutions. Adding classrooms and computer labs will help address that demand. The project will also create about 265 construction jobs.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

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 and education to address the needs of children from birth to age 8. 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.



The Future of Medicine

As America's population ages, health care is becoming more important—not only for personal care, but in the economic sector as well. That's why we are renovating and expanding the UConn Health Center campus in Farmington. Over the next few decades, this project will create at least 16,000 high-quality private sector jobs, attract millions of dollars in federal funding, and improve access to health care for families across Connecticut. The UConn Health Center is on track to become a regional economic and research powerhouse.



Streamlining for a More Efficient Government

We pursued the goal of making Connecticut's state government leaner and more efficient by consolidating and reorganizing our state agencies. One example is eliminating the boards of trustees for each state university and community college and replacing them with a single, new Board of Regents. The result is less cost, centralized oversight and better state budgeting.

JOB RESOURCES

- ▶ **CTWORKS CAREER CENTERS**
Regional Career Centers are located in area towns to provide guidance and services to those seeking employment. **Hartford: 860-256-3700; New Britain: 860-827-6200; Torrington: 860-496-3300.**
- ▶ **CT JOB CENTRAL**
An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resume and access various employment-related information. **1-866-268-6206 or www.jobcentral.org/ct**
- ▶ **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**
For an in-depth explanation of unemployment insurance and benefits call the TeleBenefits number in **Hartford at 860-566-5790.**
- ▶ **WHERE TO TURN WHEN UNEMPLOYED**
The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It contains information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at **860-240-0428** to receive this helpful publication or visit our Jobs Web page (www.senatedems.ct.gov/Jobs) to download a copy.

