

YOUR STATE SENATOR **Beth Bye**

Legislative Office Building, Room 3100, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO. 3937



West Hartford 5th-grader and Girl Scout Natalia Rolon "shadowed" me for a day at the Capitol to see the lawmaking process firsthand.

STAY IN TOUCH

Senator Beth Bye

Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-0428

www.SenatorBye.cga.ct.gov



Visit me on the Web to contact me, sign up for my e-newsletter, or to follow me on:

Facebook YouTube Flickr RSS



Please share or recycle when done with this mailer.



Growing an Economic Engine

With approximately 5,000 employees and generating nearly \$1 billion annually in gross state product, the UConn Health Center is a major employer and economic driver in our region. I recently toured the Center and talked to some of the researchers there who are doing the kind of work that has put Connecticut on the map as a bioscience center on the East Coast. Our state investments in a Bioscience Innovation Fund and bringing The Jackson Laboratory to Connecticut are already paying dividends in jobs and medical advancements.



Transparency in Food Labeling

Connecticut is helping usher in an era of transparency by requiring the labeling of food containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Families deserve the right to know if the food they're feeding their families has been genetically modified. Evidence suggests that increased use of herbicides that accompany GMOs is harmful to the environment. This first-in-the-nation legislation will help ensure Connecticut consumers have the information they need to make informed, healthy choices when feeding their families. To avoid complications in interstate trade, the new law will take effect after a number of other states adopt similar measures.

Teacher of the Year

It was an honor to attend a recent ceremony naming Hall High School Band Director John Mastroianni as Connecticut's 2014 Teacher of the Year. This award is a true testament to John's skill and talent as an educator, and it's also a testament to a school district which—even in the midst of budget tightening—has remained committed to its arts programming.



Seniors Staying Active & Involved

In September, I had the honor of meeting Edith McKenzie of Bloomfield—Ms. Senior Connecticut 2006—during the Annual Senior Expo at the Marilyn Michaelson Senior Center of Bloomfield. McKenzie was recruiting local entrants over age 60 to enter the Ms. Senior Connecticut 2014 contest to be held in April at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield.

Update from **SENATOR Beth Bye**

Committed to Economic Recovery

At the beginning of the global economic recession, Connecticut economists predicted a very slow recovery. At the State Capitol, we took action. During the last three legislative sessions and the 2011 October Special Session on Jobs, we passed historic, bipartisan, job-creating bills.

We launched and then expanded programs to help thousands of small and medium-size businesses. For example, the **STEP-Up** and **Small Business Express** programs—which so far have assisted nearly 850 firms to create or preserve almost 12,000 jobs—offer job-training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and state grants for small businesses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we have created more than 41,000 private-sector jobs since 2011.

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

To learn more about job growth in Connecticut, visit: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Support for Local Businesses

Locally, many businesses in the communities I represent are utilizing important programs like STEP-Up and Small Business Express to preserve and create jobs.

Burlington: PJP Coffee Enterprises, Laurel Land Design

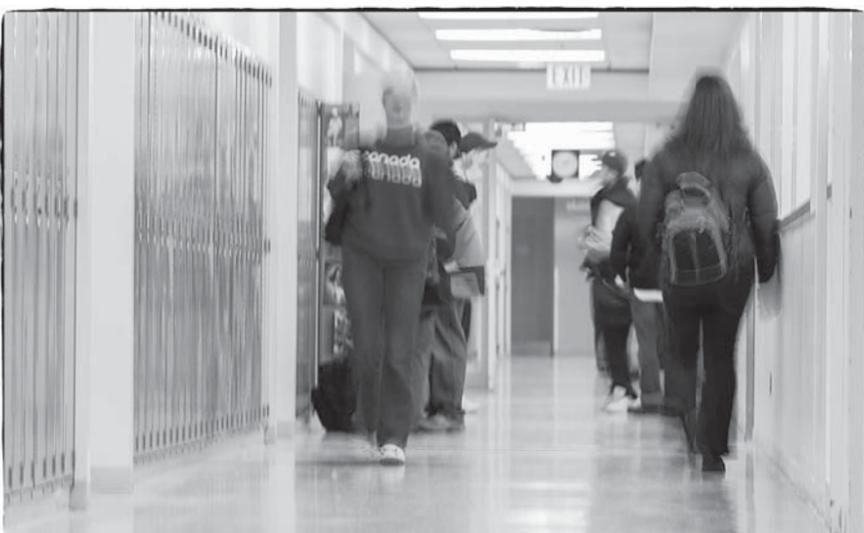
Farmington: Berstein Magoon Gay, Cheminpharma, Hodge, The Discovery Center, I-Mark, ADNET Technologies, Horen Chiropractic, The Walker Group, CJ Public Relations, Integrity Manufacturing, New England Mercantile Group

West Hartford: FLC II, Har-Conn Chrome (shown above), Master Carpenter, Hartford Baking Company (shown at left), A Little Something Bakery, Alternity Healthcare, Chatam Medical Offices, Effie's Place Restaurant, Gledhill Nursery, Imagine That, Realgly, Sacred Movement, Shri, State Farm Insurance, Advanced Scaffold Services of New England, SchoolChapters, Universal Connectivity, Gagliardi & Associates, Team K Holdings, Magee Construction Company, World Gym Fitness, Brave New Network, New England Integrated Health Associates, Children's Museum, West Hartford Fence, We Care Computers

Children's Mental Health

Following the Newtown tragedy, Democrats and Republicans came together to improve Connecticut's mental health care system, with a particular focus on the well-being of children.

The new law implements a strong, comprehensive, integrated system of care. It identifies strategies for reducing the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children. It promotes early identification and intervention, and ensures access to developmentally appropriate services to help treat children earlier. It also created a Children's Mental Health Task Force to study the effects of nutrition, genetics and medication on our youngsters.



Stamping Out Price Gouging



In light of recent severe hurricanes and historic snowstorms that have battered Connecticut, members of the public have been vulnerable to price gouging by shady service providers for snow removal, flood abatement, roof raking and lodging. That is why we expanded consumer protections by prohibiting price gouging for services that are essential for the health, safety and welfare of consumers in the aftermath of severe storms. This will be a deterrent to exploitative business owners and will protect consumers from predatory practices.

For more information about how to report price gougers, contact the **Department of Consumer Protection** at 860-713-6300 or visit www.ct.gov/dcp.