

Keeping in Touch With Seniors

Whether it's a senior center or a retirement community, in a grocery store or at a neighborhood event, I stay in touch with senior citizens in the region. More than a third of Connecticut's population is already over age 50, and by 2025, one out of every five residents in every town will be age 65 or older. That's why I'm committed to issues like Alzheimer's respite care, consumer protections for reverse mortgages,



emergency power needs in elderly housing, senior nutrition, elderly transportation networks, and a whole host of other senior-related issues.



Protecting Our Natural Resource

Responding to the concerns of Bloomfield residents, MDC water customers and environmentalists around Connecticut, I led Senate passage of a bill to increase the state's oversight of commercial water bottling companies. Specifically, it would require such companies to obtain a water diversion permit from the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection before diverting more than 500,000 gallons of water per day from state waters for the purposes of selling or bottling the water. It would also require the Public Health commissioner to give residential water customers priority over these water bottling companies during times of a public drinking water supply emergency, such as a drought. While the bill failed to come to a vote in the House, the need to develop sensible policies to safeguard this precious natural resource continues.



YOUR STATE SENATOR

BETH BYE

INVESTING IN & GROWING CONNECTICUT'S TALENT

Representing Bloomfield, Burlington, Farmington & West Hartford



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Advocating for Small Businesses

The economic benefits that high-speed, gigabit Internet service can provide to small businesses, homes, schools and others cannot be overstated. As we have moved from an agrarian to a manufacturing economy, our next step is an "innovation" economy, and that takes technology—fast, affordable technology. I'm part of a group of people who are encouraging cities and towns to partner with private companies to establish high-speed, gigabit fiber optic cable networks across the state to better serve consumers and businesses all over Connecticut.

Interested in expanding your small business?

Contact the Department of Economic & Community Development at **860-270-8105** or www.ct.gov/ecd



Talking with James Hines and Terry Ryan, owners of West Hartford's Cookshop Plus, about the economic benefits that high-speed, gigabit Internet service can provide to small businesses, homes, schools and others.

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Investing In & Growing Connecticut's Talent

Creating Jobs for the New Innovation Economy

This year I championed a law to focus on the innovation economy. We are building jobs for the next generation. From the Industrial Revolution to the modern jet engine, our state has been at the forefront of the nation's innovation economy. As the business world changes we must once again reinvent our economy to continue to lead. This new law uses our economic strengths—a highly educated and productive workforce, top-tier universities and existing businesses—to capture future job growth at startups and expansion-ready companies.

- ▶ Develops and attracts entrepreneurs who create new startups and jobs and helps grow successful startups into larger firms
- ▶ Establishes 'Innovation Places'—dense, local networks of innovators and entrepreneurs—where new businesses can grow faster together
- ▶ Connects colleges and universities with the private sector to convert research into new businesses



Jackson Lab Continues to Expand



In 2011, my Democratic colleagues and I were proud to pass a bill bringing bioscience to Connecticut: The Jackson Laboratory in Farmington. Jackson Lab is already exceeding the hiring goals it laid out for itself, doubling the number of employees it plans to hire this year. These jobs pay an average \$89,500 per year. Six thousand people from across the country applied for 90 open positions. When you

combine The Jackson Lab in Farmington with the new public-private Tech Park at UConn and our stem cell initiative, you know Connecticut is well-positioned to bring more high-quality, high-paying jobs to our communities.

Helping New Entrepreneurs Jump-Start Their Businesses

Starting a new business is an intimidating process. I worked to pass legislation establishing a new program to ease some of that burden by helping entrepreneurs make their business idea a reality. This law addresses the unique needs of the entrepreneurial community, allowing them to minimize some

of the expense of launching a new business. Connecticut Innovations will reimburse approved entrepreneurs for any state filing, permitting, or licensing fees associated with forming an information technology,

biotechnology or green technology business in Connecticut. Any time we can encourage Connecticut's entrepreneurs to make the leap and form a new business, we are helping grow our economy and create new jobs.



Protecting Critical Services



Despite a budget deficit, I worked hard to consolidate state government in a smart way in order to protect core services. We protected funding for seniors and people with disabilities and continued a strong level of local and higher education funding.

Holding Down Property Taxes

The most frequent concern that families, seniors and small business owners express to me is about property taxes. I am helping to provide towns with the resources needed to limit these crippling taxes. As we move forward, the state will dedicate a portion of its sales tax revenue to municipalities to help alleviate pressure on local property taxes.

Town	State Funding for Property Tax Relief
Bloomfield	\$438,000
Burlington	\$193,000
Farmington	\$335,000
West Hartford	\$1.8 million

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Dangerous People

I helped pass a critical new law to protect victims from their abusers immediately following the service of a temporary restraining order. Current protections are weak at the most dangerous moments for domestic violence victims. This new law allows the removal of firearms from the home during the most dangerous time in a victim's life—the seven days between the filing of the restraining order and the hearing to make the order permanent.



I met with Congresswoman Gabby Giffords before successfully pushing for legislation prohibiting recipients of temporary restraining orders from accessing firearms. I was also a part of a small White House working group addressing this issue nationally.