

# 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 ten percent. 1-877-947-3873 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)
- ▶ **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](http://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](http://www.energystar.gov)



## RESOURCES FOR FORECLOSURE RELIEF

- ▶ **STATE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM**  
The Connecticut Judicial Branch provides foreclosure mediation in order to help homeowners and lenders reach a mutually agreeable resolution that aims to avoid home foreclosure. For more information, visit the Judicial Branch's Foreclosure Mediation Program Web site. [www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure](http://www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & LINKS

Follow links to these special pages from [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov):

- ▶ **Resources for Jobseekers**
- ▶ **Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures**
- ▶ **Veterans' Guide**
- ▶ **Health Care Programs in Connecticut**
- ▶ **A Guide to the State Budget**



### 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.



Each fall I host my ever popular 17th District Senior Fair at Warsaw Park in Ansonia. This was the 25th year for the annual event which drew a large crowd seeking information from more than 40 non-profit groups, state and local agencies, and civic organizations with helpful products and services for seniors.



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,  
  
Joe Crisco  
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.SenatorCrisco.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorCrisco.cga.ct.gov)



What's happening at the State Capitol and around the state? Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr to find out.  
[www.facebook.com/CTSenateDemocrats](http://www.facebook.com/CTSenateDemocrats)  
[twitter.com/CTSenateDems](http://twitter.com/CTSenateDems)  
[www.flickr.com/ctsenatedems](http://www.flickr.com/ctsenatedems)



Please share or recycle when done with this mailer.

PRRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
PERMIT NO. 3937

## Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

### State Senator

# Joe Crisco

Legislative Office Building, Room 2800  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
[www.SenatorCrisco.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorCrisco.cga.ct.gov)  
1-800-842-1420

Representing  
Ansonia,  
Beacon Falls,  
Bethany,  
Derby,  
Hamden,  
Naugatuck  
& Woodbridge



STATE SENATOR **Joe Crisco**

Serving Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck & Woodbridge

**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:



Discussing the future of our vo-tech schools with Laurie LeBouthillier, principal of Emmett O'Brien Technical High School in Ansonia.

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Making the state more attractive to business**—We broadened the options for establishing captive insurance companies in Connecticut and make the state a more attractive home to those types of businesses.



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.

**A LEADER ON HEALTH CARE ISSUES**

As co-chair of the legislature's Insurance & Real Estate Committee, I've continued to take a leading role in introducing and passing numerous bills that have a direct impact on the health care of my constituents.

**Insuring MRIs to Fight Breast Cancer**

We've stepped up the fight against breast cancer by passing a law requiring certain insurance companies to pay for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for breast cancer screening when a woman has what's called 'dense' breast tissue. A typical mammogram may not reliably detect breast cancer tumors in such tissue. The new law also requires MRI coverage if a woman is at increased risk for breast cancer due to family history or prior personal history.



With Taiwanese breast cancer specialist Dr. Pai-Jung Huang of Tapei Medical University Hospital, who was visiting Connecticut to learn more about our groundbreaking breast cancer screening policies.

**Other Health Insurance Successes**

- ▶ Health insurance coverage of compatibility testing for potential bone marrow donors.
- ▶ Expanded insurance coverage for routine care required by patients who undergo clinical trials for treatment of progressive, life-threatening, or chronic and debilitating conditions.
- ▶ Insurance policies can no longer impose a coinsurance, co-payment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense for any additional colonoscopy a physician orders for an insured person in a policy year.

**Investing in the Future of Medicine: Health Benefits to the People of the District**

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 jobs, attract millions of dollars in federal funding, and improve access to health care for families across Connecticut, including in our part of the state. From a new patient tower and cancer center to bioscience research, the UConn Health Center is on track to become a regional economic and research powerhouse.

**FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY**

**Making Cuts While Protecting Municipal Aid**

Connecticut's two-year budget includes more than \$1 billion in spending cuts 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 **Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck and Woodbridge** receive their fair share of state funding for education, roads and much more.

**Continuing My Dedication to Support Local Projects**

- ▶ State funding (\$200,000) toward the Bethany Airport rehabilitation.
- ▶ Ongoing support and major funding for remediation of the Newhall section of Hamden impacted by the Olin Corporation decades ago.
- ▶ State assistance and funding for downtown redevelopment design work in Naugatuck.
- ▶ A \$500,000 grant toward conversion of the Ansonia Armory to a new community center.
- ▶ Funding for an accessible playground in Hamden for children of all abilities.
- ▶ Distribution of federal funding through the state Dept. of Economic and Community Development for housing rehabilitation in Ansonia and Derby.

**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. The large number of lengthy outages across the state has led to many questions about how our utilities prepare for and manage these drastic situations. 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. The Insurance & Real Estate Committee, which I co-chair, also held a public hearing to learn about concerns and complaints with the insurance industry's response to policyholders affected by the two storms.



Discussing recovery efforts following the October snowstorm with Governor Malloy at the Emergency Operations Center in the Bethany Firehouse.