

## SUPPORTING SENIORS

### Supporting Family Caregivers

Nearly 500,000 Connecticut residents act as caregivers and many of them feel unprepared to provide the technical care needed to keep their loved ones healthy. The CARE Act, a bipartisan bill that will **help to ensure that caregivers are given follow-up care instructions** when a patient is discharged from the hospital, will also reduce costly hospital readmissions.

#### The CARE Act requires hospitals to:

- Provide each patient with the opportunity to designate a caregiver during the patient's admission to the hospital;
- Make reasonable attempts to notify the designated caregiver if the patient is to be discharged back to his or her home; and
- Provide the caregiver with instructions on how to perform medication management, wound care, injections or other medical tasks for the patient when the patient returns home.

### Providing a Bill of Rights for Seniors in Continuing Care

Rather than moving directly from their homes to an assisted living facility or nursing home, many seniors are choosing to move to continuing-care retirement communities. Individuals choosing this option often invest their life savings in these communities with the understanding that the facility will be a wise steward of their funds. The General Assembly unanimously approved legislation **creating a bill of rights for residents of continuing-care retirement communities**. The legislation also allows residents to form their own council within each of these communities to establish a more effective communication system between themselves and the facility in which they live.



From your State Senator

## Joe Crisco

Legislative Office Building, Room 2800

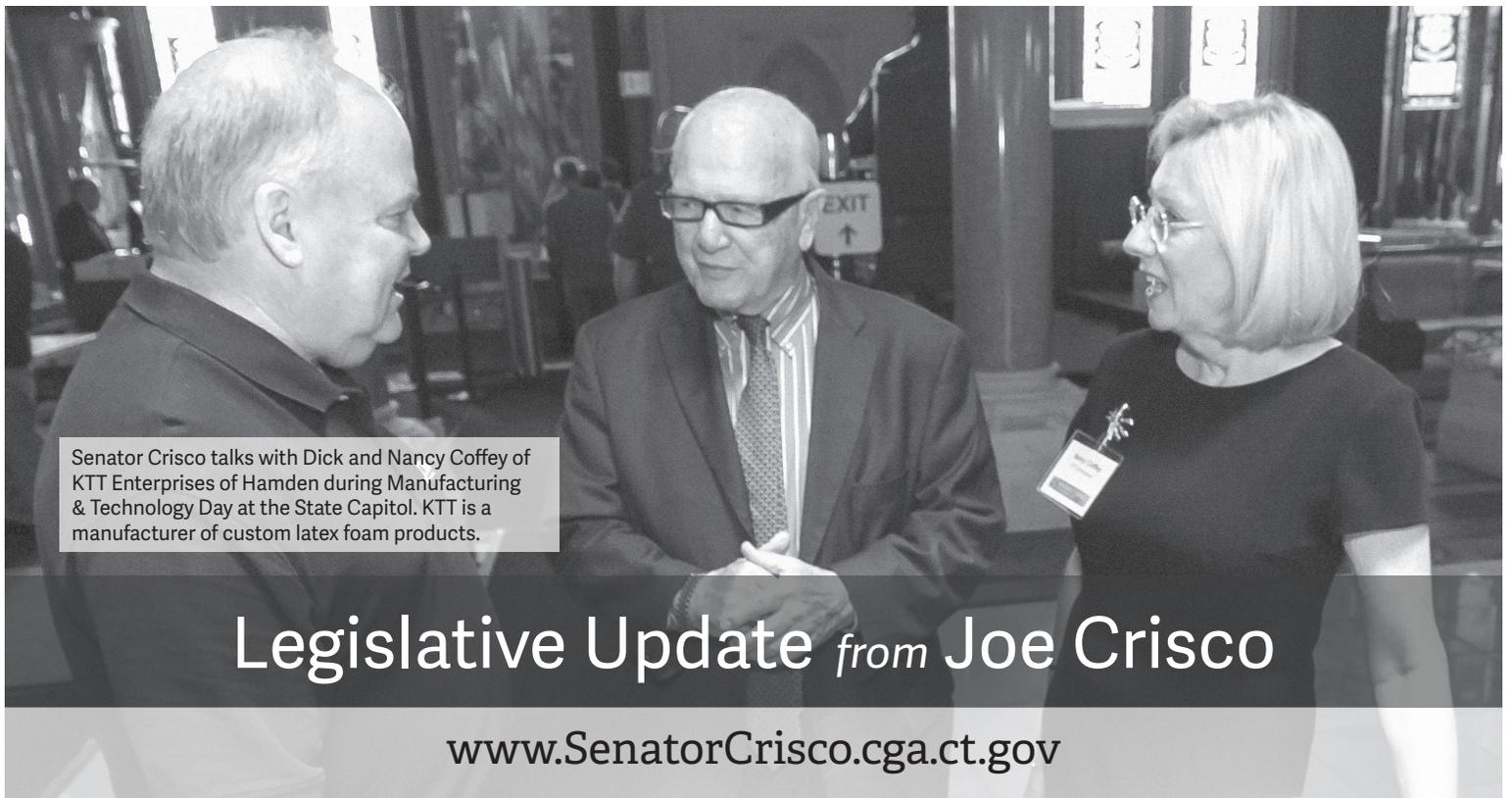
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Senator Crisco talks with Dick and Nancy Coffey of KTT Enterprises of Hamden during Manufacturing & Technology Day at the State Capitol. KTT is a manufacturer of custom latex foam products.

## Legislative Update *from* Joe Crisco

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# Legislative Update *from* Joe Crisco

## BUDGET REPORT FOR HAMDEN

### Car Tax Relief

We provided car tax relief to individuals and businesses in Hamden where the 39.93 mill rate is one of the highest in the state. Our budget caps the mill rate for vehicles at 32 in FY 17 and at 29.36 in FY 18. **This property tax relief benefits not only individuals and families, but also businesses that own trucks or vans.**

### ESTIMATED SAVINGS IN HAMDEN

Family with a Honda Accord with an assessed value of \$18,000



FY 15 Mill Rate	Current Car Tax	Mill Rate Cap of 32 (FY 17)	Mill Rate Cap of 29.36 (FY 18)	Savings in FY 16	Savings in FY 17
39.93	\$719	\$576	\$528	\$143	\$190

### Property Tax Relief: New Source of Funding for Municipalities

For the first time in history, Hamden and all other Connecticut towns and cities will be provided with a revenue source other than the property tax. That is because our budget designates a portion of the sales tax to go to municipalities. Through this new source, **Hamden will receive \$2.8 million more in total state funding in FY 17.**

### Property Tax Now to Be Paid on Residential Real Property Used for Student Housing

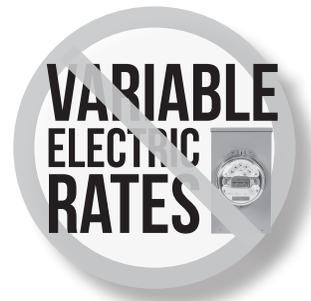
Beginning October 15, 2015, a private nonprofit institution of higher learning that purchases residential properties for the purpose of providing student housing will be required to pay the property tax on such properties. This is good news for Hamden residents who no longer will face an increase in their tax burden when a nonprofit university removes residences from the tax rolls in order to provide housing for its students.

## PROTECTING CONSUMERS

### Transparency and Fairness for Electricity Pricing

Many consumers have reported that they were enticed into signing a variable-rate contract with a low "teaser" rate, only to see their bills increase significantly without warning. Electric customers deserve stable, predictable rates, whether obtained through standard offer service or from competitive offers in the private supplier marketplace.

Public Act 15-90 will **ban variable-rate residential electric contracts and ensure fixed-rate contracts** provide consumers with stability and security.



In 2014, the legislature passed a bill which enacted several reforms for the protection of electric consumers. Beginning this month, every residential electric customer's monthly bill must display his or her rate for the coming month. **To file a consumer complaint, contact PURA: 1-800-382-4586 or [www.ct.gov/pura](http://www.ct.gov/pura)**

## STANDING UP FOR VETERANS

### Women Veterans' Program

The General Assembly unanimously approved and the governor signed into law the Connecticut Women Veterans' Program, which will require the state Department of Veterans' Affairs to **establish a program that will reach out to women veterans to improve their awareness of federal and state veterans' benefits and services.** The bill also calls for an assessment of women veterans' needs for benefits and services, as well as a review of programs and initiatives currently available to women veterans in our state.

### Tax Cut for Retired Veterans

The legislature approved a tax cut for military veterans which **provides a 100 percent exemption from the state income tax for federally taxable military retirement pay.** State law used to provide for only a 50 percent exemption to retired members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard.

## EDUCATION

### Easing the Burden of Testing on High School Students

Many 11th-grade students are overburdened with the numerous standardized tests placed on them. In addition to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test, many juniors also take the SAT, ACT, Advanced Placement Exams and class finals all within a window of just over a month.

The General Assembly passed a bipartisan measure to **eliminate the requirement that 11th-grade students take the SBAC test and require instead that they take a nationally recognized test** such as the SAT at no cost to the students and their families.

By providing a free college readiness exam for all of Connecticut's high school students, the state is not only saving families money, but also making college more accessible to all of our students.

