

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A Safer Ride to School

The recent school bus tragedy that impacted Rocky Hill directly led us to review current safety requirements.



While I advocated for seat belts on all school buses, we achieved passage of a compromise bill that provides towns with an incentive—not a mandate—to install seat belts in school buses.

Aid For Our Towns

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That's why I fought hard to protect funding for **Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill** and

	Fiscal Year 10-11
Wethersfield.	Total Education Grants \$48,203,508
This table shows the	Town Aid Road Fund Grant \$1,017,904
state grants and	Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant \$1,997,275
reimbursements for our	Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) \$911,449
district in Fiscal Year	Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) \$10,207,825
2010–2011.	Total State Funds to the 9th Senate District \$62,337,961

Honoring Veterans, Active-Duty Personnel and Their Families

The General Assembly continued its efforts to support veterans, active-duty personnel and their families. I'm proud that with my support, we were able to pass laws that:

- ▶ Extend the expiration date of driver's licenses for active-duty service members serving out of state
- ▶ Provide credit or an exemption toward the requirements of a professional license or certificate for members of the armed forces who received substantively similar training during their military service
- ▶ Honor Vietnam veterans by proclaiming March 30th of each year as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"



Working Together to Balance the Budget



The 2010 legislative session began with the state facing a projected deficit of more than \$1.2 billion for the current two-year budget. Despite the daunting task of closing the deficit, we were able to work together in a bipartisan fashion with Governor

Rell to balance the budget. We did it without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we cut state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars and worked hard to maximize federal funding.



Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget.

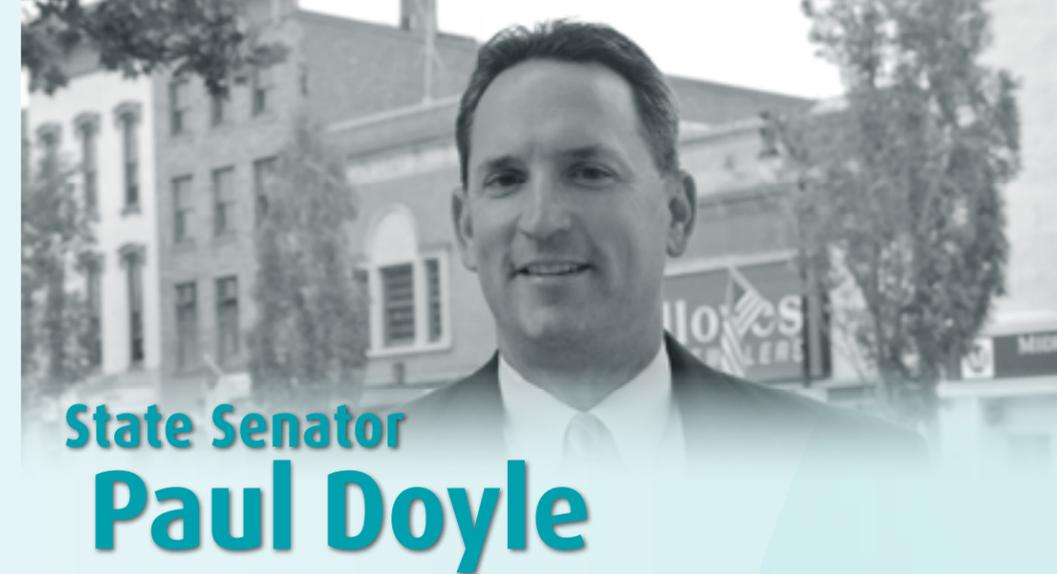
This session we worked with Governor Rell to pass a historic bipartisan jobs bill. The initiative helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.

We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we balanced the budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending and maximized federal aid to achieve a bipartisan budget compromise.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues its slow road to recovery.

Sincerely,


Paul Doyle
State Senator



State Senator
Paul Doyle

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860-240-0498 1-800-842-1420

I'm proud to represent the citizens of
Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield

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.SenatorDoyle.cga.ct.gov



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STATE SENATOR Paul Doyle

Serving Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield

HELPFUL RESOURCES

NEW LAWS

Stepping Up the Fight Against Domestic Violence

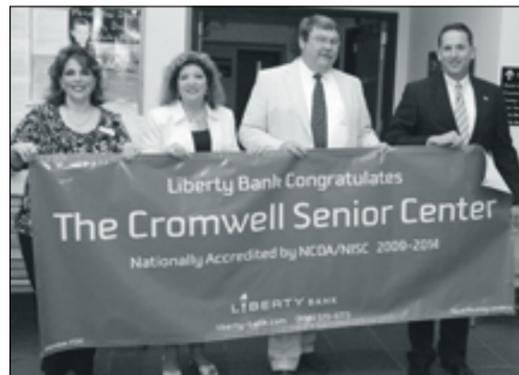
Domestic violence is a serious epidemic. The General Assembly took action this legislative session by passing a package of bills that will help protect victims, prevent future abuse and increase public awareness.

- ▶ **Judicial and Criminal Justice Systems**—Changes include: implementing a pilot program for electronic monitoring of the highest risk domestic violence offenders; improved enforcement of protective orders; and the creation of three additional domestic violence court dockets.
- ▶ **Education Changes**—This bill added teen dating and domestic violence education to education staff training programs.

Helping Seniors Survive the Recession

The effects of a recession on seniors can be especially profound. Fortunately, we were able to pass several laws which help reduce health care costs, keep seniors in their homes and protect them from scam artists. The General Assembly:

- ▶ Reduced the 15 percent co-pay on the **Home Care Program for Elders** to 6 percent. The reduction will save the average client in the program nearly \$100 per month on co-pays
- ▶ Reopened the **Alzheimer's Respite Care Program** to provide respite services for caregivers
- ▶ As a result of information received from the **Newington Senior Center**, we protected the privacy of those who participate in senior center programs by exempting their personal information from the Freedom of Information laws. This means that information, including addresses and telephone numbers, won't be available to the scam artists.



At the announcement of the Cromwell Senior Center's accreditation by the National Council on Aging. L-R: Liberty Bank's Nicki Crawford, Cromwell Senior Center Director Theresa Strong, Cromwell First Selectman John Flanders and me.

GROWING JOBS

Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans for small businesses to help fund expansions and additional hires
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and grants for education and careers in green technology and health information technology
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green businesses



Reducing Red Tape for Connecticut Businesses



Hearing from a local business owner at the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce's legislative forum in Cromwell.

Growing jobs must be Connecticut's top priority. A new law streamlines the state's environmental permitting process for economic development projects by reducing government bureaucracy. We worked with environmental advocates and business leaders to ensure that a faster permitting process doesn't jeopardize the quality of the air we breathe or the water we drink.

Helping Connecticut Schools Race to the Top

The Obama administration's Race to the Top program made \$4.3 billion available to states that reform public education. To meet that challenge, we approved a landmark education bill that uses technology to track students' academic growth, creates new teacher accountability standards and provides options to fix failing schools. With these reforms, Connecticut will improve its chances to secure Race to the Top funds, close the achievement gap and ensure that our graduates can compete in the global economy.



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. 1-888-922-3782 or www.ctenergyinfo.com

The **Weatherization Residential Assistance Partnership (WRAP)** helps income-eligible customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-800-388-9727

Home Energy Solutions provides energy audits for a subsidized fee of \$75. 1-877-947-3873

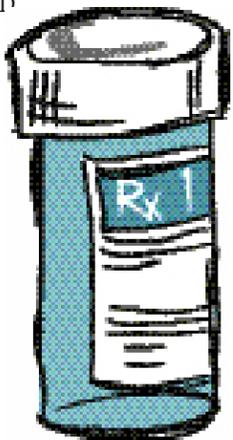


FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **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)**
By joining MSP, eligible seniors could save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums, and the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments. Most individuals in ConnPACE are eligible for Medicare and can enroll in MSP.

As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. Your pharmacy co-pay could be reduced to as low as \$2.50 for generics and \$6.30 for brand-name drugs on Medicare Part D's Drug list. For more information, call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422, speak to a representative at 211, or visit www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms.



CONSUMER PROTECTION

- ▶ **Making the "Do Not Call" List Stronger**
Current law allows the state to impose fines for violations of the "No Sales Solicitation Calls" statute under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and legislation passed this year would allow the state to impose an additional \$11,000 fine. To register a telephone number, consumers may call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-888-382-1222 or the state Department of Consumer Protection at 1-800-842-2649.



OTHER RESOURCES AND LINKS

Find more helpful resources for jobseekers, veterans, those facing foreclosure and more at www.senatedems.ct.gov.