

HELPFUL RESOURCES

FOR SENIORS

▶ MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS (MSP)

Individuals who are enrolled in both Medicare and ConnPACE are no longer able to access ConnPACE benefits. Instead, those eligible for Medicare should apply to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) in order to receive prescription drug assistance. There is no asset test for this program, and the income limits are the same as those for ConnPACE.

MSP offers eligible seniors savings of at least \$1,000 per year in Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments to \$6.30 or less. For information visit www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms or call Infoline at 211 or CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422.



This fall I hosted my Fifth Annual 9th District Senior Expo at the Cromwell Senior Center. The event provided resources for seniors seeking information from non-profit groups, state and local agencies and civic organizations with helpful products and services.

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 10 percent. Call 1-877-947-3873 or visit www.ctenergyinfo.com for more information.

Home Energy Solutions—This program helps customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-877-947-3873

Helping With Payments—Programs are available to help customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balances. 1-800-286-2828



CONSUMER PROTECTION

The state Department of Consumer Protection works to ensure fair and equitable practices in Connecticut's marketplaces. 1-800-842-2649

▶ CONCERN ABOUT CHARITIES

Before making any charitable donation, visit one of two Web sites: www.charitynavigator.org or www.guidestar.org. Both sites provide information on thousands of charitable organizations, and will help you evaluate a particular charity's financial stability, funding and even the CEO's compensation. You can also call Connecticut's public charities unit in the attorney general's office at 860-808-5020.

▶ 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 last 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.



Additional Resources and Links

Find much more on programs for veterans and jobseekers, those facing foreclosure, as well as guides to health care and the state budget by following the "Resources" tab at www.senatedems.ct.gov.

Dear Neighbor:

These are unprecedented times: families are struggling, yet gridlock in Washington results in Congress getting 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,

Paul Doyle
State Senator

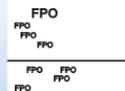
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Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

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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**.



The CEO of Clearwater Systems announcing the company's move to the new Centerpoint Connecticut complex in Middletown with 20 employees and plans to expand in future.

Other highlights of the bill include:

- ▶ **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 their benefits 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.

In separate legislation, we rebuilt the UConn Health Center which resulted in attracting bioscience leader Jackson Laboratories to build a new research facility nearby. This project will create 900 construction positions and up to 6,000 long-term jobs.

The national economy remains bleak, but we took steps this year to get Connecticut growing again.



I had the pleasure of talking with Richard Linnon of American Legion Post 117 in Newington, one of thousands of U.S. Armed Forces veterans who attended the "Stand Down 2011" event at the Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill in September.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

Transforming Power Plant Safety Procedures

As a result of the deadly 2010 explosion at the Kleen Energy power plant in Middletown, we passed a new state law—the first of its kind in the country—that prohibits anyone from using flammable gas to clean or blow an electric generating facility's gas piping. The federal Chemical Safety Board and National Fire Prevention Association are now using Connecticut's law as a national model, which shows how forward-thinking Connecticut is when it comes to public and worker safety.



Speaking in Middletown at the announcement of the new federal safety regulations stemming from the Kleen Energy explosion. Looking on is National Fire Prevention Association President Jim Shannon.

Covering Early Colon Cancer Screenings

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in the United States. Nearly all colon cancers begin as noncancerous polyps, which slowly develop into cancer. However, early diagnosis often leads to a complete cure. That's why I voted to prohibit certain health insurance policies that cover colorectal cancer screening from imposing a coinsurance, co-payment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense.

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.

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 and it fully funds the state's pension obligations. At the same time, the budget protects current state levels of municipal aid, which helps towns avoid raising property taxes. I don't support "passing the buck" to our local governments.

As a result, I've ensured that **Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill** and **Wethersfield** receive their fair share.

Saving Money on Wastewater Treatment

Earlier this year, I sponsored and fought for successful passage of legislation enabling Middletown to join the Mattabasset District—which Middletown voters approved joining by a two-to-one vote in November. Now Middletown, Berlin, Cromwell and New Britain will share upgrade and operating costs at the Mattabasset facility, resulting in lower rates for residents and maximizing environmental benefits.



Saving the Rocky Hill Ferry



The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury River Ferry is the oldest continuously operating ferry in the United States. During this year's budget crisis, many feared the ferry might close. After much public debate and my advocacy, funding for the ferry was preserved. Yet this is no permanent guarantee. A Ferry Working Group consisting of our neighbors is working to achieve self-sufficiency for the ferry.

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, most for several days, and many for more than a week. The large number of lengthy outages across the state, primarily in CL&P coverage areas, has led to many questions about CL&P's ability to prepare for and manage these drastic situations. CL&P is now under heavy scrutiny and action will be taken by the legislature to address its performance problem. In a series of post-storm hearings, we listened to suggestions from the public and local officials. We crafted their ideas into recommendations that have now been shared with the governor's Two Storm Panel. We hope to minimize future outages.

