

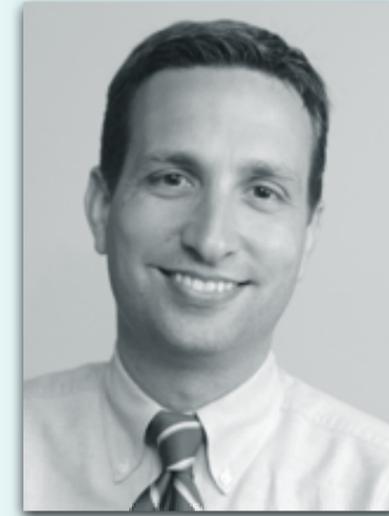
WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

State Funding for Local Roads

Norwalk received \$437,325 and Darien received \$166,082 for this year's Town Aid Road grants. These funds directly benefit our community and are one of the largest non-education grants provided by the state.



In honor of Earth Day, I read "Iggy and Me Saving Energy" at Stepping Stones Museum for Children.



State Senator **Bob Duff**

Legislative Office Building, Room 2400
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov
Bob.Duff@cga.ct.gov
Home: 203-840-1333
Capitol: 860-240-0414
Toll-free: 1-800-842-1420

Dear Neighbor,

Our work at the State Capitol this year is about jobs, improving the economy and getting our fiscal house in order.

While it is difficult, as a state, to overcome the tsunami effect of the national and international recession, we must still rise to the occasion so that we can land on our feet.

That's why I am pleased that the budget deficit for fiscal year 2010 was eliminated through bipartisan action. Projections are the same for fiscal year 2011 provided that our modest recovery continues.

We still have tough decisions ahead of us. Only with the governor and legislature working together, which is what you expect, can we continue to make the necessary choices good for the long-term.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you. I urge you to stay in touch.

Sincerely,



New Canaan Avenue Bridge Update

Last year, when I noticed work had stopped at the New Canaan Avenue bridge, I began to investigate the cause. After some calls and e-mails, I found out that there were disagreements between CL&P and the Department of Transportation (DOT) bringing everything to a halt.

In May, CL&P finished installing new electrical lines across the bridge clearing the way for DOT and their contractor to resume work on-site.

I was in touch with CL&P almost weekly and I plan on doing the same with DOT until the project is completed sometime in November.

Supporting Local Businesses

Supporting our local businesses, especially during these tough economic times, is a high priority.

I was pleased to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Darien Toy Box with owner Bill Jensen, the Darien Chamber of Commerce and First Selectman David Campbell.



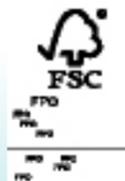
Stay Informed in a "Green" Way



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.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov



What's happening at the State Capitol and around Norwalk & Darien? Follow me on Facebook and find out. Once again, it's paperless, informative and immediate:
www.facebook.com/senatorduff



Please share or recycle when done with this mailer.

I'm proud to represent the citizens of
Norwalk & Darien

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



STATE SENATOR **BOB DUFF**

Serving Norwalk & Darien

NEW LAWS

Helping Patients Get Answers

When health insurers deny your claim it's easy to feel confused and frustrated. Now, when health insurance companies deny coverage for procedures because they claim they're "not medically necessary" or "not a covered benefit" they must provide patients with contact information for the Office of the Healthcare Advocate. Staff helps patients determine if they have been wrongfully denied coverage and take appropriate action.

Public Education Reform

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 have a better shot at securing Race to the Top funds, closing the achievement gap and ensuring that our graduates can compete in the global economy.



Reading to Ms. Dominick's first-grade class at Fox Run Elementary School.

Raising Penalties for 'Do Not Call' List Violations

Unwanted sales calls in the middle of dinner can be irritating. This year I voted for an additional \$11,000 penalty for companies that ignore the 'Do Not Call' list. That should deter telemarketers from violating state statute—and your right to privacy.

Cracking Down on Distracted Driving



The updated law, which does not impact drivers who go hands-free, will send 25 percent of all fees collected for citations on cell phone users and texters back to the municipality that issues the ticket, giving local police a greater incentive to crack down on this dangerous behavior.

GROWING JOBS

Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. 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 Businesses

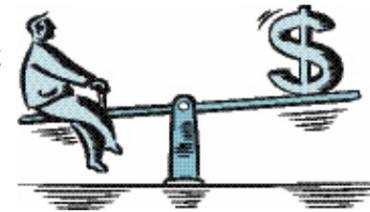
A new law streamlines the state's environmental permitting process for economic development projects by reducing government bureaucracy. In business, time is money—and now Connecticut businesses will have the opportunity to save both. Of course, environmental safeguards cannot be overlooked. That's why 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 water we drink.

One-Stop Shopping for Small Businesses

The legislature passed a bill that requires the state Department of Economic and Community Development to provide a single contact point for small businesses seeking financial and technical help, to coordinate all state small business revolving loan funds and to create an informational Web page with small business resources.

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. We were able to work together in a bipartisan fashion 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, reduced borrowing and worked hard to maximize federal funding.



Protecting the State's Credit

We took aggressive action to de-authorize or reduce \$422 million in previously approved projects this year—bringing us safely under the borrowing cap while preserving credit and helping to control future debt.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

▶ **THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND**

This fund provides grants in times of financial hardship for the immediate families of active-duty military personnel and of National Guard and Reserve members who have been mobilized for service in the Global War on Terror. 1-860-524-4968

▶ **THE SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND MARINES' FUND**

This fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families for needs including home heating assistance, help with rental payments and medical and dental expenses. 1-800-491-4941 or www.ct.gov/ssmf



▶ **MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM**



The new voluntary Medicare Savings Programs could save eligible seniors \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums, and the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy would lower prescription drug co-payments.

As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. By joining Medicare Savings Programs and receiving the Low-Income Subsidy, 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.

1-800-994-9422 (CHOICES); 211 (InfoLine) or www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms

▶ **DON'T GET SCAMMED BY UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS**

Contractors—including carpenters, electricians, plumbers, heating and cooling specialists, stump removers and other tradespeople—must be registered (www.ct.gov/dcp) to conduct work in the state. Similarly, arborists must be registered (www.ct.gov/dep). Homeowners can verify the status of a contractor by calling 1-800-842-2649.

▶ **MORTGAGE CRISIS JOB TRAINING PROGRAM**

The Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program offers free job training, employment services, credit counseling and other services to homeowners who are at least 60 days past-due on their mortgages and have a household income less than \$120,000. 1-866-683-1682 or info-MCJTP@workplace.org

▶ **SAVINGS IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

We rolled back outdoor recreation fees to help families save. The resident fishing license was reduced from \$40 to \$28 and resident firearms hunting license from \$28 to \$19. Camping and park entrance fees were reduced by more than 32 percent for places in our area like Sherwood Island State Park and Squantz Pond State Park.

