

REPRESENTING NORWALK & DARIEN

YOUR STATE SENATOR **Bob Duff**



Legislative Office Building, Room 3900, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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

STAY IN TOUCH

Senator Bob Duff

Legislative Office Building, Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-0414 or 1-800-842-1420

Home: 203-840-1333

Bob.Duff@cga.ct.gov

www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov



Visit me on the Web
to contact me, sign up
for my e-newsletter,
or to follow me on:



Please share or recycle when
done with this mailer.



Rejuvenating a Struggling Industry

Over the last ten years Connecticut's lobster industry has seen a dramatic decline, corresponding with the introduction of new pesticides into Long Island Sound. This year I worked with Roger Frate, president of the West End Long Island Sound Lobster Association and owner of the Darien Seafood Market, to pass new legislation aimed at curtailing the use of chemicals in the hopes of rejuvenating the industry.



Increased Support for Norwalk Schools

It is essential that we provide our children with a good education. I am proud to announce that, alone among all Connecticut municipalities, Norwalk schools will receive an increase in Priority School District funding from the state in 2014 and 2015, an additional \$1.37 million in each year. That amounts to an

8 percent increase over prior years. This appropriation will help ensure that Norwalk's children have the resources they need to get a good education and to build a bright future for themselves.

Multiple Local School Improvements

Recent weeks have brought a number of great announcements for our local schools. Pursuant to this year's Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety Act, 14 Norwalk schools will soon receive various security improvements,



including new interior and exterior doors, windows, locks, communications systems and surveillance equipment. Briggs High School will soon enjoy the use of brand-new computers and furniture. Also, the Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk and the Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County both won competitive awards for their after-school programs. These initiatives will help our students to build skills that will stay with them far beyond the classroom.

www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov

Update from **SENATOR Bob Duff**

Committed to Economic Recovery

At the beginning of the global economic recession, Connecticut economists predicted a very slow recovery. At the State Capitol, we took action. During the last three legislative sessions and the 2011 October Special Session on Jobs, we passed historic, bipartisan, job-creating bills.

We launched and then expanded programs to help thousands of small and medium-size businesses. For example, the **STEP-Up** and **Small Business Express** programs—which so far have assisted nearly 850 firms to create or preserve almost 12,000 jobs—offer job-training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and state grants for small businesses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we have created more than 41,000 private-sector jobs since 2011. It's the highest rate of job growth in more than 20 years.

Resources to Grow Jobs

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- ▶ **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress, or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or Michelle.Peters@ct.gov.
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: www.stepct.com
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- ▶ **Job & Career ConneCTion** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more about job growth in Connecticut, visit: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Support for Local Businesses

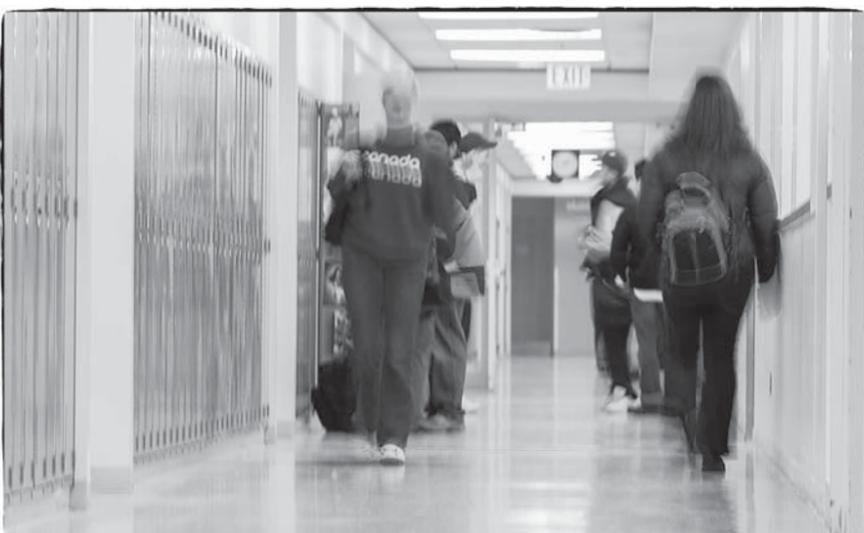
Locally, these businesses in the communities I represent are utilizing important programs like STEP-Up and Small Business Express to preserve and create jobs.

Blue Wave Enterprises LLC • Clare Hair Darien • Darien Auto Specialists Inc.
Green Mountain Products • Mayan Corporation • Beehive Heat Treating Service Inc.
Baker Funeral Services Inc. • Connecticut Tick Control LLC • Conversion Rate Marketing LLC
Sono Market Place LLC • The Insurance Station • Junior Art & Music LLC
David Gonzales Agency Inc. • Herb's Place • Smart Health & Fitness LLC
Jaystar Group, Inc. (shown at left) • Engage 121 Inc. aka ENR Services Inc. • Owlstone Inc.
Akademos Inc. (shown above) • Yumi Ecosolutions • Devine Brothers Inc.
New England Bread • Darien Fabricare Center Inc. • Petrini Six Enterprises • NuKitchens LLC
Veto Pro Pac • Kain Management Group LLC • HealthPrize Technologies LLC
Tuscan Oven of Norwalk LLC

Improving Children's Mental Health

Following the Newtown tragedy, Democrats and Republicans came together to improve Connecticut's mental health care system, with a particular focus on the well-being of children.

The new law implements a strong, comprehensive, integrated system of care. It identifies strategies for reducing the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children. It promotes early identification and intervention, and ensures access to developmentally appropriate services to help treat children earlier. It also created a Children's Mental Health Task Force to study the effects of nutrition, genetics and medication on our youngsters.



Stamping Out Price Gouging



In light of recent severe hurricanes and historic snowstorms that have battered Connecticut, members of the public have been vulnerable to price gouging by shady service providers of snow removal, flood abatement, roof raking and lodging. That is why we expanded consumer protections by prohibiting price gouging for services that are essential for the health, safety and welfare of consumers in the aftermath of severe storms. This will be a deterrent to exploitative business owners and will protect consumers from predatory practices.

For more information about how to report price gougers, contact the **Department of Consumer Protection** at 860-713-6300 or visit www.ct.gov/dcp.