

State Senator Bob Duff's Clip & Save

Please utilize my office if you have questions, issues or concerns regarding a state agency or program. Call me at:

1-800-842-1420

Visit my website to reach me via e-mail:

www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov

Other Helpful phone number:

- INFOLINE (community services)..... 211
- Dept. of Motor Vehicles..... 1-800-842-8222
- Renter's Rebate Hotline.....860-418-6377
- Consumer Protection
- Fraud Hotline..... 1-800-842-2649
- Health Care Advocate 1-866-466-4446
- "Do Not Call" list 1-888-382-1222
- Careline (to report child abuse or neglect) 1-800-842-2288



Charged Up to Celebrate Earth Day

I had the opportunity to test drive a solar-powered hydrogen fuel vehicle with Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner Robert Klee as my passenger. We were celebrating Earth Day by introducing a new electric vehicle charging station outside DEEP headquarters in Hartford. Although this particular hydrogen fuel vehicle isn't available in the state yet, there are a growing number of options for electric vehicles with more and more charging stations coming online each month.



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Your State Senator

Bob Duff

Representing Norwalk & Darien



Beardsley Zoo Director Gregg Dancho introduces Senator Andres Ayala and me to a baby Nile crocodile at the State Capitol. Beardsley is Connecticut's only zoo. It's right up the road in Bridgeport and worth the trip.

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



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Increased Education Aid for Norwalk & Darien

I am pleased to report that this year's state budget includes another increase in support for our schools. State formula grants for Norwalk and Darien will increase by \$750,655 for a grand total of \$18.3 million in state support for municipal services in the coming fiscal

year. These funds not only support our students and their future, but they also help to relieve pressure on local property taxes.

Taking Job Training to School

Preparing our children for the future means providing them with the job skills they will need to succeed. This September the Norwalk Early College Academy will open its doors at Norwalk High School to offer students both a high school diploma and a no-cost Associate Degree in Applied Science. There are no tests or screening required for admission, and graduates will be first in line for jobs at school partner IBM. I am thrilled to have such an innovative collaboration between schools and employers here in Norwalk.

Support for Norwalk & Darien

In addition to education funding, I am proud to say that both Norwalk and Darien will be the recipients of significant resources from the state in the coming Fiscal Year 2015. These will include:

State Grants	Darien	Norwalk
Education Cost Sharing	\$1,616,006	\$11,275,807
College & Hospital Reimbursement		\$1,597,453
Town Aid Road Fund	\$334,138	\$883,599
Pequot & Mohegan Revenue Grant	\$9,558	\$857,029
Local Capital Improvement Projects	\$110,587	\$632,242
State Owned Property Reimbursement	\$108,488	\$404,133
Municipal Revenue Sharing Account		\$378,941
Adult Education	\$79	\$69,039
Public School Transportation	\$290	\$66,178
Non-Public School Transportation		\$10,422
TOTAL	\$2,179,146	\$16,174,844

Bob Duff

Committed to Economic Recovery

Since the start of the global economic recession I've made it my mission as your State Senator to help small and mid-size businesses grow, create and retain jobs and put people back to work. As a result of bipartisan legislation, we launched the STEP-Up and Small Business Express initiatives which have assisted almost 2,000 of Connecticut's small businesses in creating or preserving more than 17,000 jobs. These initiatives offer job training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and grants for small businesses.

Over the past four years we have created more than 65,000 jobs and our unemployment rate recently fell below 7 percent for the first time since 2009. However, our work is not done.

Looking forward, Connecticut's new partnership with United Technologies Corporation will solidify our position as a world leader in aerospace manufacturing. Most importantly, this agreement has a direct impact on the 75,000 jobs at the thousands of aerospace supply chain companies throughout the state, ensuring they are keeping and creating good-paying jobs with good benefits for men and women in nearly every city and town in Connecticut.



Talking with Stacey Kodonas and John Ioannidis, sister and brother of the family owned Dairy King in Norwalk about small business issues.

Jobs for Veterans

I supported a bill that will remove barriers to entry into the civilian workplace for those who learned employable skills while in the service. This legislation will require state licensing authorities to accept military training and experience, where appropriate, as a substitute for other requirements, and will allow veterans to gain streamlined occupational certifications.



At the American Legion in Norwalk with Commander Rich Olson and Fire Commissioner Irene Dixon.

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
- ▶ Learn more about **Job Growth in Connecticut**: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs

A Rebate for Senior Renters

Being able to stay in their own home is a top priority for many senior citizens; however, this is a challenge for those living on a fixed income. In order to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses, we've re-opened the Elderly Renters' Rebate

Program. Eligible persons may apply between April 1 and October 1. Questions about the program and payments should be directed to the **Renters' Rebate Hotline** at 860-418-6377.



I joined the Norwalk Exchange Club to serve pizza and cake to seniors during their "Service to Seniors" lunch at the ElderHouse day center in March.

A Stronger Do Not Call List

Shady telemarketers are increasingly ignoring our "Do Not Call Registry" resulting in unwanted and intrusive telemarketing calls and text messages. As technology evolves it is easier to get around the law and employ high-pressure sales tactics. That's why we passed a law this year to help Connecticut crack down on violators by increasing penalties and eliminating unsolicited text messages. To be placed on the "Do Not Call" list, call 1-888-382-1222.

A Smart Start for Our Kids

Recognizing there is no better way to set students on the path to lifelong learning success than a high quality pre-kindergarten experience, we created the Connecticut Smart Start program to provide 50,000 more children access to vital early education in our public schools. Combined with additional slots for private providers, our comprehensive pre-K package will reduce the achievement gap and ensure that all children are ready to learn when they arrive at kindergarten. Every dollar invested in pre-K saves \$7 in avoided special and remedial education and criminal justice costs.



Having a fun conversation about healthy food choices with pre-K students at Fox Run Elementary School in Norwalk.