



## Making College Campuses Safer & Protecting Domestic Violence Victims

Building on groundbreaking legislation passed in 2014, Connecticut will now require that all public and private universities adopt policies establishing affirmative consent—or the presence of permission, rather than the absence of objection—as the standard used when adjudicating sexual assault cases through the student disciplinary process on campus. This critical shift in how we approach sexual assaults on campuses will help foster safer climates for all students, while providing clarity for university disciplinary officials.

I was also proud to author bipartisan legislation that protects victims of domestic violence at the most dangerous moment of their lives, when they are fleeing violence and filing for a restraining order. This new law will ensure that firearms are removed from these volatile situations.

## Standing Up for Patients & Their Caregivers

Recognizing the need for caregivers to receive better training and support following a loved one's hospitalization, I helped pass a law called the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act, which guarantees that caregivers are given follow-up care instructions when a patient is discharged from the hospital. This year, I strengthened this law by extending that requirement to nursing homes, which must now provide designated patient caregivers with a written discharge plan, outlining how to care for wounds, administer medication and use medical equipment to improve the transition of care for the patient. It is also meant to ensure that those who are caring for a patient who has been released from a nursing home have the support and knowledge necessary to provide the best possible at-home care of the patient.



OUR STATE SENATOR

# MAE FLEXER

## AN ADVOCATE FOR US

Representing Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson & Windham



With Windham Hospital employees Darrin Iacoboni, a surgical technologist, and Jesse Tremblay, a registered nurse. "I feel like someone is fighting for us," said Tremblay.

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# An Advocate for Us

## PROTECTING OUR HOSPITALS

### DAY KIMBALL HOSPITAL

Day Kimball Hospital (DKH) in Putnam is vital to Northeastern Connecticut, both as a health care provider and as one of the largest employers in our region. When the governor proposed deep cuts to hospitals, our delegation sprang to action to demand funding be restored. We successfully made the case that our small community hospital is different, and established a Small Hospital Pool to protect funding for DKH in future budgets.

Additionally, I'm proud to say that I helped change Connecticut's budget by establishing a protected line item specifically for hospitals. This will limit the governor's ability to cut funding going forward, and protect our hospital from the turmoil it faced over the last year.

### WINDHAM HOSPITAL

I have repeatedly denounced the staff and service reductions at Windham Hospital and insisted that our community deserves to be heard when those decisions are made. The hospital is critical to our community, and the consequences of limiting access to care is especially burdensome to a place like Windham, threatening residents' health and severing connections with medical staff.

I was proud to propose legislation that would require a public hearing before the state Office of Health Care Access whenever corporate buyouts or major staff and services cuts are threatened at our community hospitals. A new task force is working to ensure that these changes happen and that community input will always be heard when access to health care is threatened.



Day Kimball Healthcare employees thanked Representative Danny Rovero, Representative Christine Rosati Randall and me for our efforts to protect DKH's state funding.

# Mae Flexer

*An Advocate for Us*

## Creating Jobs for the New Innovation Economy

This year I championed a law to focus on the new innovation economy to build jobs for the next generation. From the Industrial Revolution to the modern jet engine and the financial industry, our state has been at the forefront of the nation's economy. But as the business world changes we must once again reinvent our economy to continue to lead. This new law uses our economic strengths—a highly educated and productive workforce, top-tier universities and existing businesses—to capture future job growth at startups and expansion-ready companies. This initiative:

- ▶ Develops and attracts entrepreneurs who create new startups and jobs and helps grow successful startups into larger firms
- ▶ Establishes 'Innovation Places'—dense, local networks of innovators and entrepreneurs—where new businesses can grow faster together
- ▶ Connects colleges and universities with the private sector to convert research into new businesses
- ▶ Attracts more private funding to support growing companies



## Placement & Training for Today's Job Openings



While some state initiatives are focused on the next generation's economy, too many families need jobs now, not ten years down the road, not after four years of college—right now. Thanks to new legislation that I fought for, we are

connecting people with the training they need and employers who need them. Connecticut will be preparing more software developers, programmers and other applicants for in-demand tech jobs through apprenticeship programs and initiatives like the new Advanced Manufacturing Center at QVCC. We are investing in night classes at vo-tech schools for high school students and adults looking to change careers or learn new job skills in areas like plumbing, electrical, tech support, and other skilled trades. These initiatives will help connect Connecticut residents with good-paying, middle class jobs.

## Growing Our Economy Through Partnerships

Manufacturing is a key driver of Eastern Connecticut's economy, so I am focused on creating partnerships between Eastern Connecticut State University, Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC), UConn, Ellis Tech, Windham Tech (shown above), employers and other resources that will prime our region for new economic development opportunities. I recently organized a roundtable discussion at QVCC (shown below) focused on fostering connections and building partnerships between educational institutions and economic leaders to grow jobs in our region.



## Supporting Active Duty Families

When a family member is called up for active duty military service, families deserve to be able to take the time to prepare and support them. Under new legislation that I spearheaded, certain private employers and the state must allow employees to take unpaid time off when there is a need related to a direct family member's active duty service or when they have been notified of an impending call or order to active duty in the armed forces. It is imperative that our military families receive this support and job security while their loved ones complete their service to our country.



## Supporting Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

Connecticut is poised to be one of the most veteran-friendly states in the nation. Part of that effort is ensuring our veterans can earn a good living when they return home. Under a new law that I championed this year, veteran-owned small businesses will now receive additional preferences that will make it easier for them to start and grow businesses. This new policy is a continuation of my multi-year focus on improving the lives of our veterans and ensuring our state is doing everything it can to properly thank our veterans and contribute to their success.



***"The Chamber is grateful to Senate leadership for its support of this initiative, which is vital to our more than 40,000 veteran-owned businesses"***

Andrew S. DiSilvestro Jr., Executive VP, CT Veterans Chamber of Commerce

## Property Tax Relief for Veterans

It's essential that we give back to our veterans and their families in as many ways as we can. This year, we doubled the maximum property tax exemption that a municipality may provide to wartime veterans or their surviving spouses to \$20,000, while disabled veterans may be eligible for a further property tax exemption of \$3,000. Now municipalities can opt in to this program and help local veterans save on their property taxes.