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SeeClickFix.com includes a map of Hartford where you can see all the problems others have already tagged, and vote to draw more attention to them.



Help point out problems to improve our city at www.seeclickfix.com/hartford

Building Opportunities in Education

Advancing the American DREAM

The concept of a new law I supported is simple: all state residents who are graduates of Connecticut high schools should be able to attend community colleges and state universities at the in-state tuition rate regardless of their immigration status. A component of the law requires that these students sign an affidavit vowing to legalize their immigration status. This law will help higher education become accessible for deserving, hard working students who are pursuing the American dream and will ensure that these young adults don't suffer for a decision their parents made very long ago.



Advancing Early Childhood Education



I believe that early childhood education can set young students on a path to success for the rest of their life. Every year, I introduce a bill mandating universal pre-kindergarten in underperforming school systems, and I will continue to do so until it becomes a reality.

Governor Malloy has promised that education reform will be a highlight of next year's legislative session, and I look forward to working with him to strengthen early childhood education for all students.

Finally, An Earned Income Tax Credit!

After many years of effort, my legislative colleague and I secured passage this year of a state earned income tax credit (EITC). This means approximately 180,000 Connecticut households with low-income working people will receive an average tax credit of about \$540 next year as a state supplement to funds received under the federal earned income tax credit. That's money that will be spent locally in stores, restaurants and other locations to stimulate the economy and increase the resources of low-income families.



I joined Mayor Pedro Segarra and dozens of Little League players and their coaches at Hartford's Hyland Park in September to dedicate a brand new baseball field. The ball field was constructed with \$500,000 in state bonding that I helped to secure for the project. It will be used by 400+ players a year, from both the Mayor Mike Peters Little League and the Roberto Clemente Little League. Beginning at left, the coaches include Pedro Nieves, Efrain Bracero and Tim Cheevers. At center, Mayor Segarra and myself. On the right: Councilman Luis Cotto and Blaise Brescia (both kneeling), and Dave McKinley.

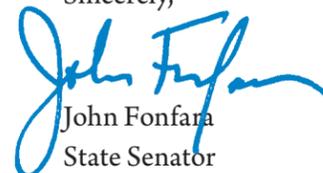
Dear Neighbor:

As we near the end of 2011, I want to share with you some of the work done in this year's session that I feel will make a difference to the residents and neighborhoods of Hartford and Wethersfield.

Though much of this past session was spent on crafting a balanced state budget in the face of a challenging deficit, we did some important things to help our working and middle-class families, including protecting aid to our cities and towns and our public schools. As usual, I focused my efforts on measures that I believe are relevant to the communities that I represent, both local and statewide initiatives.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


John Fonfara
State Senator

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STATE SENATOR **John Fonfara**

Serving Hartford & Wethersfield

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

For 20 years Connecticut has been at the bottom when it comes to job creation. One of my most important responsibilities as your state Senator is to work on your behalf to change that.

Helping New Businesses Get Started

At a time when many banks aren't lending, new businesses must look elsewhere to find the resources they need. I was pleased to support legislation this year that will build additional business incubators across Connecticut, which help to provide new companies with space, equipment, staff and more. I also voted for an expansion of the angel investment tax credit to provide incentives for a larger number of private investments in new Connecticut companies.

Addressing Chronic Unemployment

Chronic unemployment is a longstanding problem in Hartford and other urban communities, especially in this tough economy. This fall I voted for legislation to create the "STEP-Up" program which will help eligible urban small businesses to hire new employees and provide them with on the job training. For qualified businesses the program will cover between 25-100 percent of a new employee's wages over six months. There is no simple fix to the unemployment problem, but this initiative should help some people find a job.



Creating a World-class Research Triangle



We are investing in a world-class research and technology park near UConn's main campus in Storrs. This project is expected to create thousands of high-quality jobs and generate tens of millions of dollars in federal and private funding for Connecticut's emerging research triangle—

spanning Farmington, New Haven and Storrs. The project calls for construction of a 125,000 square-foot multi-story building comprised primarily of large, flexible-use laboratories containing specialized equipment for industry-university research.

In separate legislation, we are reinvesting in the UConn Health Center, attracting bioscience leader Jackson Laboratory to build a \$1.1 billion research facility nearby. This will create 900 construction positions and up to 6,000 long-term jobs.

A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

Energy is increasingly essential to our lives. It powers our lights, computers, how we communicate and so much more. As Chair of the Energy Committee, I was proud to lead passage this year of the most sweeping energy policy reform in a decade.



Getting a demonstration of the Chevy Volt electric/gas car during the Electric Vehicle and Infrastructure Forum I hosted in April.

Creating a Full-time Energy Department

The growing importance and great complexity of energy issues requires the dedication of an expert staff to solve the most pressing problems. I am very proud to report that for the first time in Connecticut history, our state now has a full-time agency dedicated to energy policy: the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Growing Energy Industries Here in Connecticut



Connecticut is well situated to benefit from the development of new energy-related industries. A new green bank and various subsidy programs run by DEEP will aid in the growth of new solar, energy storage, fuel cell and other alternative energy ventures. The efficient energy these companies produce will help to make all of Connecticut's other businesses more competitive. Time and again

throughout history, our state has led the country through innovation, and that's an area where we can continue to excel.

Power Outages & Severe Weather

Severe weather this year left many people without power for days. As Chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, I will be working with Governor Malloy to find practical ways to reduce the length of power outages after major storms. Trees must be trimmed away from power lines, and bare wires should be insulated in key areas. Utility staffing levels must be increased and communication improved with customers and local government officials. We will consider ways to equip critical locations such as gas stations, grocery stores and nursing homes with backup generation.



WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Improvements in Local Health Care

Medical patients do best when treated at a quality facility close to home, near their friends and family. That's why I fought for \$13.5 million in improvements for multiple hospitals and health centers in Hartford, including an Institute for Primary Care innovation at St. Francis, a simulation center at Hartford Hospital and renovations at the Hispanic Health Council, Charter Oak Health Center and Community Health Services. Working with my legislative colleagues from Wethersfield I am also fighting to prevent Wethersfield Health Care Center from closing. Such a closure would evict almost 180 residents and cause 266 workers to lose their jobs.

Local Recreation

Youth athletics build character and encourage our children to follow a healthy lifestyle. They also bring communities closer together, as family and friends gather to take in the latest game. Working with my Wethersfield legislative colleagues and local advocates I am proud to have helped secure \$200,000 for the installation of lights at Cottone Field in Wethersfield, in addition to \$500,000 for the construction of a new little league ball field at Hyland Park in Hartford.



Improving Local Roads



I regularly hear complaints about the quality of local roads and speeding cars in our neighborhoods. After utility companies cut into pavement for underground repairs, the patches they make in the road often sink over time. I worked to pass legislation this year to require that these road cuts

be revisited one year later, and repairs conducted as necessary. I also secured \$250,000 in state funding to place speed tables at key area locations and reduce speeding in residential areas.