

Expanding Access to Telehealth Services



Last year the General Assembly passed legislation expanding coverage for telehealth services to privately insured people. This year I supported a bill that expands telehealth services to Medicaid

recipients. This will allow for more access to healthcare, particularly to providers of mental health and substance abuse treatment in the form of e-consulting among other telehealth methods. Telehealth will greatly improve health outcomes and cut costs by allowing patients to be monitored between physician office visits and reach medical experts when one is not available in their area.

Improving Access & Transparency for Families of People with Disabilities

I supported passage of legislation to help families in need of services for their loved ones with disabilities gain access to resources and better communicate with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The bill requires that DDS provide families with information about their eligibility for state resources and the status of their requests for services. Additionally, families will now be better informed on how they can get involved with DDS Regional Advisory Councils, which serve as local support organizations for families of DDS clients. By improving communication and transparency in this process, we will help improve access to services and give families some peace of mind.



STATE SENATOR

JOAN HARTLEY

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

Representing Waterbury, Middlebury & Naugatuck



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An Independent Voice

HELPING OUR FIREFIGHTERS

Our firefighters put their lives at risk for us, and far too many of them contract cancer in the line of duty. That's why I stood with local first responders to successfully push for legislation to create the firefighters cancer relief account and the firefighters cancer relief program to help these firefighters. Paid and volunteer firefighters that have been diagnosed with cancer from the dangerous work they do are eligible for benefits and wages through these funds. At the same time I ensured that this new protection is funded and will not impact local town budgets. It is our duty as a society to provide these benefits to these brave men and women.



Joan Hartley *An Independent Voice*

Placement & Training for Today's Job Openings

Jobs are the number one issue in our state. In continuing my work to grow the Connecticut economy, I championed legislation and regulatory policies that are connecting people with training and employers that need new workers today.

- ▶ Trains more software developers, programmers and other applicants for in-demand tech jobs through apprenticeship programs
- ▶ Invests 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
- ▶ Coordinates community colleges and local employers to match direct job needs in manufacturing

These initiatives will help connect Connecticut residents with good-paying middle-class jobs in today's economy.



Cutting Spending & Consolidating Government

This year, Connecticut faced a budget gap, and given our tough economic reality, I dug in with my fellow legislators to consolidate government and create efficiencies, institute fiscal reforms and reduce government benefits. To balance the budget:

- ▶ **NO taxes were raised**
- ▶ **Reduced spending by \$1.5 billion**
- ▶ **Significantly cut the government's payroll**
- ▶ **Capped nonunion state pensions**
- ▶ **Increased health care premiums for nonunion state workers**



The cuts we made were not easy, but it was the only way forward without burdening taxpayers and businesses.

Helping New Entrepreneurs Jump-Start Their Businesses

Starting a new business is a daunting, intimidating process. I introduced and led passage of legislation establishing a new program to ease some of that burden by helping entrepreneurs make their business idea a reality. This bill directly addresses the unique needs of the entrepreneurial community, allowing them to minimize some of the expense

of launching a new business. Specifically, Connecticut Innovations will reimburse approved entrepreneurs for any state filing, permitting, or licensing fees associated with forming an

information technology, biotechnology or green technology business in Connecticut. Any time we can encourage Connecticut's entrepreneurs to make the leap and form a new business, we are helping grow our economy and create new jobs.



Fighting Connecticut's Opioid Crisis

Heroin and prescription drug overdoses are claiming more lives in Connecticut every year. I fought for legislation that will positively impact the state's opioid crisis. The legislation improves access to Naloxone, often

known as Narcan, a medication that is used to treat opioid overdose. Expanding access to Narcan is an important step in this public health crisis. Allowing more first responders to carry Narcan will save lives. The legislation also caps first-time opioid painkiller prescriptions to a seven-day supply, strengthens the prescription monitoring program, and releases health care professionals from liability when they administer an opioid antagonist, such as Narcan, to treat an overdose.



Reducing Regulations & Protecting the Environment



Manufacturers have reported that Connecticut's regulations regarding spills on the manufacturing floor are too vague, making them overly burdensome. I led passage of a bill that requires the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to establish a reasonable regulation clarifying what spills need to be reported. A qualified environmental and health professional will establish these standards, ending the current practice of over-reporting while still ensuring that employee health and the environment remain protected.