

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## FOR SENIORS

### ▶ MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS (MSP)

Individuals who are enrolled in both Medicare and ConnPACE are no longer able to access ConnPACE benefits. Instead, those eligible for Medicare should apply to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) in order to receive prescription drug assistance. There is no asset test for this program, and the income limits are the same as those for ConnPACE.

MSP offers eligible seniors savings of at least \$1,000 per year in Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments to \$6.30 or less. For information visit [www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms](http://www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms) or call Infoline at 211, or CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422.



Speaking at a press conference in New Haven with Mayor DeStefano and local police officers about legislation creating a pilot program that would give the chief of police a chance to comment on liquor license renewal applications.

## JOB RESOURCES

### ▶ CT JOB CENTRAL

An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resume and access various employment-related information. 1-866-268-6206 or [www.jobcentral.org/ct](http://www.jobcentral.org/ct)

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

### ▶ SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

**Choose Your Electric Supplier**—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by 10 percent. 1-877-947-3873 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)

**Home Energy Solutions**—This program helps customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-877-947-3873

**Helping With Payments**—Programs are available to help customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balances. 1-800-286-2828

### ▶ STATE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS

Connecticut provides sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products including: Insulation • Caulking • Doors • Fluorescent light bulbs • Furnaces • Geothermal heat pumps • Programmable thermostats • Water heaters • Windows



## RESOURCES FOR FORECLOSURE RELIEF

### ▶ STATE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Connecticut Judicial Branch provides foreclosure mediation in order to help homeowners and lenders reach a mutually agreeable resolution that aims to avoid home foreclosure. For more information, visit the Judicial Branch's Foreclosure Mediation Program Web site. [www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure](http://www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure)



### Additional Resources

Find additional information on these issues and more at [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov).



## Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

State Senate Majority Leader

# Martin M. Looney

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Representing  
New Haven  
& Hamden

Dear Neighbor:

These are unprecedented times: families are struggling, yet gridlock in Washington means that Congress fails to respond to our nation's needs. Connecticut offers a different story. We put partisan differences aside and passed an historic Jobs Bill. The legislation will help create thousands of jobs by reducing taxes for small businesses, investing in training and education, and providing incentives for hiring new workers.

Together, we're working to strengthen Connecticut's economy, balance the budget and show Washington that cooperation is essential to responsible government.

This newsletter details some of the initiatives we've taken to help our economy and improve the quality of life in our state. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Martin Looney  
State Senator

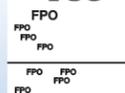
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STATE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER **Martin Looney**

Serving New Haven & Hamden

**LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS**

**Cracking Down on Online Bullying**

Bullying has become a national concern, leading in the worst cases to bullied students committing suicide. Connecticut already has a strong anti-bullying law, but we reinforced it this year with two key provisions: we've added electronic "cyberbullying" to the list of prohibited activities, and we've expanded the number of mandatory school reporters and the responsibilities of school districts to include bullying incidents that occur off school grounds. Bullying has expanded into the electronic world of social media, and Connecticut is keeping pace in protecting its younger citizens.



I visited Amity High School with Senator Joe Crisco, who also represents part of Hamden, to highlight the features of our new law to combat bullying in schools.

**Fighting Against Domestic Violence**

This year we passed a domestic violence law that strengthens a victim's access to restraining and protective orders, improves information sharing about domestic violence incidents, and expands the ability of victims who have experienced a pattern of threatening or stalking to request a restraining order. We also fixed a contradiction in state law that exempted people who are dating from arrest when a domestic violence crime is committed. Connecticut is making it easier for victims to protect themselves and making it harder for perpetrators to commit such crimes.

**Insuring MRIs to Fight Breast Cancer**

We've stepped up the fight against breast cancer by passing a law requiring certain insurance companies to pay for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for breast cancer screening when a woman has what's called 'dense' breast tissue. A typical mammogram may not reliably detect breast cancer tumors in such tissue. The new law also requires MRI coverage if a woman is at increased risk for breast cancer due to family history or prior personal history.



**GROWING JOBS**

Jobs are the number one issue facing Connecticut today. We took action in the legislature this year to put more people back to work and get our economy growing again. Unlike the partisan gridlock in Washington, both parties came together in Hartford to pass a Jobs Bill of common sense improvements. We focused on small businesses, **cut the business entity tax in half**, and **streamlined state regulations**. Other highlights of the bill include:



At the November groundbreaking in New Haven for a new, \$6 million facility being built by Greenleaf Biofuels that will turn used cooking and vegetable oil into clean-burning biodiesel fuel. The new Greenleaf plant will be the largest biofuel facility in New England and the first with deepwater and railroad access.

- ▶ **Helping small businesses with hiring**—We established a monthly hiring tax credit that increases when businesses hire unemployed, disabled or veteran workers. We also made it easier for businesses to hire new workers for on-the-job training.
- ▶ **Investing in start-ups**—At a time when many banks aren't lending, we invested in new start-up companies by building business incubators and expanding the angel investor tax credit.
- ▶ **Building a workforce of the future**—We will recruit students for vo-tech, agri-science and tech education by promoting their benefits with middle school parents and local boards of education. We'll also establish manufacturing technology programs at three community colleges.
- ▶ **Investing in infrastructure**—Paved the way for economic development zones at Connecticut's general aviation airports, allocated funds for shovel-ready bridge projects, and passed major reforms to lower energy costs and increase energy efficiency.

In separate legislation, we rebuilt 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.

**Access to Your Medical Test Results**

We passed legislation this year that will require health care providers, except in limited circumstances, to supply a patient upon request with his or her medical test results, along with other information about his or her diagnosis or treatment. The bill will also require clinical laboratories to share test results with all of a patient's medical providers, upon the patient's request, so that medical care can be better coordinated and the same tests need not be repeated needlessly.

**FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY**

**Making Cuts While Protecting Municipal Aid**

Connecticut's two-year budget includes more than \$1 billion in spending cuts and \$1.6 billion in labor concessions from state employees. It doesn't rely on borrowing or fiscal gimmicks to fund operating expenses; it fully funds the state's pension obligations, and it remains under the state spending cap. **At the same time, the budget protects state levels of municipal aid, which helps towns and cities avoid raising local property taxes.**

As a result, I've ensured that **New Haven** and **Hamden** receive their fair share of state funding for education, social services and much more.

**Finally, An Earned Income Tax Credit**

I was recently recognized for my advocacy in securing a state earned income tax credit (EITC), which 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.



With Jim Horan, executive director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services, after I was honored for my 12-year campaign to pass an EITC in Connecticut.



**Learning From Two Extreme Storms**

Connecticut was hit hard with two extreme storms nine weeks apart. In both instances hundreds of thousands of households lost power, most for several days, and many for more than a week. The large number of lengthy outages across the state has led to many questions about how our utilities prepare for and manage these drastic situations. In a series of post-storm hearings, we listened to suggestions from the public and local officials based on their experiences. We crafted their ideas into recommendations that have now been shared with the governor's Two Storm Panel. I'm committed to do what I can as your state Senator to ensure that the state is better prepared for the next emergency.



Listening to town officials and first responders during a legislative hearing on the utilities' readiness and response to Tropical Storm Irene.