

Honoring Our Veterans

The Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal was established by the General Assembly in 2005 to honor all Connecticut veterans with qualifying wartime military service. I had the honor of joining state Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Sean M. Connolly in awarding nearly 200 veterans from New Haven and Hamden with the Medal.

Our veterans have served and sacrificed on behalf of this nation, and I am committed to not only improving the critical services our veterans receive, but also to ensuring that veterans are properly recognized.



English Station Cleanup

Great news: an agreement has been reached that should the state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ultimately approve the proposed acquisition of UIL Holdings (UI) by Iberdrola, the companies will commit the necessary resources to remediate the island in New Haven that currently houses the contaminated English Station power plant.

The shuttered site has long been a dangerous environmental blight on the Fair Haven community. Cleaning up English Station is critical for the health and safety of New Haven residents and the neighborhood's future.

Rebuilding the Pier

For generations, families from the New Haven area have fished from the pier at Fort Hale Park, and it is important for that tradition to continue. That's why, after Superstorm Sandy rendered it unusable, I worked to secure state funding to restore the pier.

These repairs will ensure that this important community asset will again become a top destination for recreational and sport fishing on New Haven's East Shore.



State Senate President Pro Tempore

Martin Looney

Representing New Haven, Hamden & North Haven



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Protecting Your Privacy



News stories about data breaches have become too common. That is why I championed and my colleagues unanimously passed one of the strongest cybersecurity laws in the nation. The law requires health insurance companies to ensure that customers' most private data is kept secure by developing comprehensive security programs to safeguard the personal information of their enrollees and insureds. For tips and resources on protecting your identity, use the links provided by the state Department of Consumer Protection at www.ct.gov/dcp under "Awareness & Prevention."

Transparency & Fairness for Electricity Pricing

Growing numbers of electric consumers reported being coaxed, through the lure of low introductory rates, into signing variable-rate contracts. Many testified that, soon after the contracts were signed, and without warning, their rates increased significantly and they were charged costly fees to terminate their contracts. Electric customers deserve stable, predictable rates. That is why we passed legislation to **ban variable-rate residential electric contracts beginning October 1, 2015.**

Also, please be aware that state law requires that every residential electric customer's monthly bill must display his or her rate for the coming month. To file a consumer complaint, contact PURA: 1-800-382-4586 or www.ct.gov/pura.



Warning Consumers About Price Gouging

With severe weather once again threatening Connecticut, I joined first responders to warn consumers that they may be vulnerable to price gouging by shady service providers for snow removal, flood abatement, roof raking and lodging. Our law protects consumers by prohibiting price gouging for services that are essential for the health, safety and welfare of consumers in the aftermath of severe storms. We are confident that when the next storm hits, our law will deter exploitative scam artists and protect consumers from predatory practices.



Property Tax Cuts to Save Families & Businesses Hundreds of Millions of Dollars

Whether talking with families, seniors, small-business owners or others in our community, the concern most frequently expressed to me is about property taxes. Historically, state law has limited the ways in which cities and towns can generate revenue almost entirely to property taxes. That's why I am helping lead the charge to limit these crippling taxes.

Cutting Car Taxes

In 2016, **car taxes throughout the state will be capped** at 32 mills and in 2017 the cap will be lowered to 29.36 mills for every year thereafter. About one-third of our towns currently have a mill rate of 32 or above, and more than half have a mill rate above 29.36. Statewide, it is estimated that families and businesses will benefit from **a property tax cut of more than \$78 million in 2016 and \$107 million in 2017.**



Increasing Municipal Aid & PILOT Funding

While the **car tax cap will cut local taxes by hundreds of millions of dollars** throughout the state over the next several years, more needs to be done at the local level to get property taxes under control. Democrats in the General Assembly also created a **new source of revenue for municipalities.** Beginning in 2016, a portion of the Connecticut sales tax revenue, 0.5 percent of the tax, will be **designated to every municipality in the state to help alleviate pressure on the property tax.** In addition, grants to municipalities for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for college, hospital and state-owned property will be increased for communities like New Haven and Hamden that have significant amounts of tax-exempt property.

Supporting Family Caregivers



Nearly 500,000 Connecticut residents act as caregivers, and many of them feel unprepared to provide the care needed to keep their loved ones healthy. The CARE Act will help to ensure that caregivers are given follow-up care instructions when a patient is discharged from the hospital. It will also reduce costly hospital readmissions.

The CARE Act requires hospitals to:

- Provide patients with the opportunity to designate a caregiver during their admission;
- Make reasonable attempts to notify the designated caregiver if the patient is to be discharged; and
- Provide the caregiver with instructions on how to perform medication management, wound care, injections or other medical tasks when the patient returns home.

Lower Taxes for Veterans

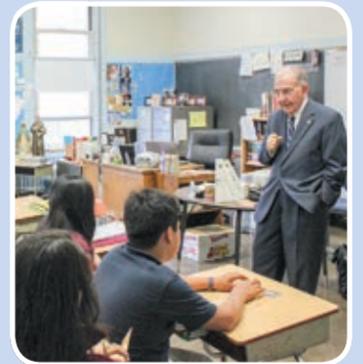


Senate Democrats led passage of a tax cut for military veterans. Veterans will no longer pay Connecticut income tax on their military retirement pay. State law used to provide for a 50 percent exemption to retired members of the Armed Forces; now

there is a 100 percent exemption. Not only is this the right thing to do for those who fought to defend our freedoms, it also helps keep veterans in our state to build our skilled workforce. Many of today's growing businesses are looking to hire highly skilled workers with strong leadership abilities, qualities that most veterans possess.

Helping Children with Dyslexia

Thousands of Connecticut children struggle with dyslexia, a learning disability that impacts reading. Our state statutes did not provide guidance to school systems about how to detect and assist students with dyslexia. Families with children facing this learning challenge had nowhere to turn. Senate Democrats led unanimous passage of important legislation that requires the State Department of Education to help parents and boards of education detect and intervene for students with dyslexia.



Easing the Burden of Testing on High School Students



Until this school year, 11th-graders were overburdened with duplicative tests. In addition to taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test, many high school juniors also took the SAT, ACT

and Advanced Placement Exams. Senate Democrats led bipartisan passage of legislation to eliminate the requirement that 11th-grade students take the SBAC test and require instead that they take a nationally recognized test such as the SAT at no cost to the students and their families.

This measure not only reduces over-testing, it also provides a free college readiness exam for Connecticut's high school students, making college more accessible to all students.

Student Loan Borrowers

Students across the country are accruing crippling amounts of student loan debt. Often, students sign contracts without fully understanding language relating to interest, principal, or the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans. We passed legislation to establish student loan education courses at institutions of higher education. The Department of Banking is required to oversee the implementation of the courses and provide guidance to student loan borrowers. These courses will help students better navigate the funding sources available and ensure they are equipped to become responsible borrowers.