

State Senator
Cathy Osten's
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Please utilize my office if you have questions, issues or concerns regarding a state agency or program. Call me at:

1-800-842-1420

Visit my website to reach me via e-mail:

www.SenatorOsten.cga.ct.gov

Other Helpful phone number:

- INFOLINE (community services)..... 211
- Dept. of Motor Vehicles..... 1-800-842-8222
- Renter's Rebate Hotline.....860-418-6377
- Consumer Protection
- Fraud Hotline..... 1-800-842-2649
- Health Care Advocate 1-866-466-4446
- "Do Not Call" list 1-888-382-1222
- Careline (to report child abuse or neglect) 1-800-842-2288



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Plans for the Savin Lake Dam

Listening with Lebanon First Selectwoman Joyce Okonuk to Town Planner Philip Chester at Lebanon's deteriorating Savin Lake Dam, which the state will remove and replace further downstream. Savin Lake is generally recognized as the headwaters of the Yantic River.

Your State Senator

Cathy Osten

Representing Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich & Sprague



With Naisun Pierre of Norwich, a member of the local "Bully Busters" club.



Legislative Office Building, Room 3100, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Call me @ **860-240-0579** or **1-800-842-1420**

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Fighting Hunger in Norwich

I recently visited with Barbara and Joe Trocki, co-managers of the Norwich Area Clergy Association Emergency Food Locker at the Central Baptist Church in Norwich. I brought along nine boxes full of food that had been collected as part of a food drive I helped organize. The Emergency Food Locker served 12,000 meals to over 1,500 people in 2013, ranging from individuals to families of six.



Help for Children With Dyslexia

When Allison Quirion of Hebron called me last fall and wanted to talk about her son's dyslexia, we agreed that schools should recognize dyslexia as a special education need and train teachers in how to recognize its symptoms. Thanks to Allison's advocacy and the hard work of other parents with dyslexic children, Connecticut now recognizes dyslexia on the special education forms used to get students proper instruction for their disabilities. I was proud to co-sponsor this law which marks a major step forward in helping children with this common learning disability.



With kids who came to a public hearing to support my proposal to add dyslexia to the list of individualized education programs in the state.

Cathy Osten

Committed to Economic Recovery

As your state Senator, I've made it my mission to help small and mid-sized businesses grow, create and retain jobs and put people back to work. The STEP-Up and Small Business Express programs have helped almost 2,000 small businesses create or preserve more than 17,000 jobs. These initiatives offer job training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and grants for small businesses.

For the first time since 2009 our unemployment rate has fallen below 7 percent, and over the last two years alone we have created more than 25,000 jobs. However, we have more work to do.

Looking forward, Connecticut's new partnership with United Technologies Corporation will solidify our position as a world leader in aerospace manufacturing. Most importantly, this agreement has a direct impact on the 75,000 jobs at thousands of aerospace supply chain companies throughout the state, ensuring they keep and create good-paying jobs with good benefits for men and women in nearly every city and town in Connecticut.



Mark Sellew, owner of the family operated Prides Corner Farms, invited me to tour his nursery in Lebanon. With a workforce of 450, it is the largest agricultural employer in Connecticut.

Jobs for Veterans

I supported a bill that will remove barriers to entry into the civilian workplace for those who learned employable skills while in the service. This legislation will require state licensing authorities to accept military training and experience, where appropriate, as a substitute for other requirements, and will allow veterans to gain streamlined occupational certifications.



Veterans talk to employers at a Heroes for Hire job fair.

Resources to Grow Jobs

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- ▶ **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress, or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or Michelle.Peters@ct.gov
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: www.stepct.com
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- ▶ **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org
- ▶ Learn more about **Job Growth in Connecticut**: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Talking about issues of the day with a constituent at the Ledyard Senior Center.

A Rebate for Senior Renters

Being able to stay in their own home is a top priority for many senior citizens; however, this is a challenge for those living on a fixed income. In order to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses, we've re-opened the Elderly Renters' Rebate Program. Eligible persons may apply between April 1 and October 1. Questions about the program and payments should be directed to the Renter's Rebate Hotline at 860-418-6377.

A Stronger Do Not Call List

Shady telemarketers are increasingly ignoring our "Do Not Call Registry" resulting in unwanted and intrusive telemarketing calls and text messages. As technology evolves it is easier to get around the law and employ high-pressure sales tactics. That's why we passed a law this year to help Connecticut crack down on violators by increasing penalties and eliminating unsolicited text messages.

A Smart Start for Our Kids

Recognizing there is no better way to set students on the path to lifelong learning success than a high quality pre-kindergarten experience, we created the Connecticut Smart Start program to provide 50,000 more children access to vital early education in our public schools. Combined with additional slots for private providers, our comprehensive pre-K package will reduce the achievement gap and ensure that all children are ready to learn when they arrive at kindergarten. Every dollar invested in pre-K saves \$7 in avoided special and remedial education and criminal justice costs.

