



## Tax Relief for Veterans

There is no act more selfless than serving in the U.S. military. That's why I worked to ensure that we pay back our veterans and their families in as many ways as we can, to honor their commitment to our country. We have doubled the maximum property tax exemption that a municipality may provide to wartime veterans or their surviving spouses to \$20,000, while disabled veterans may be eligible for a further property tax exemption of \$3,000.

## 'Granny Pods' a Way to Age-in-Place

As Connecticut's population ages, we are committed to finding innovative ways to allow seniors to stay close to home or to family members, and 'Granny Pods' are a way to do that. A task force will study the zoning of temporary health care structures and develop a model zoning ordinance for single story tiny houses. These units are a cost-effective solution for aging residents who don't require the care of a nursing facility, and would prefer to age-in-place.



Courtesy of Better Living Express

## Standing Up for Homeowners

In response to the crumbling concrete foundation crisis, the state is implementing new measures to assist affected homeowners. For many, a home is the biggest and most important investment in a lifetime, and we are committed to securing long-term relief for impacted homeowners. Those affected will be able to seek immediate local property tax relief. Residents reporting claims to the Department of Consumer Protection and state Attorney General's Office can also rest assured that their records will be kept confidential.

YOUR STATE SENATOR

# CATHY OSTEN

## GETTING RESULTS

Representing  
Columbia, Franklin,  
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Ledyard, Lisbon,  
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Norwich & Sprague



Legislative Office Building, Room 2100, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: **860-240-0579** or **1-800-842-1420**

Web: [www.SenatorOsten.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorOsten.cga.ct.gov)

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## Getting Results

### THE FUTURE OF OUR WORKFORCE

As Eastern Connecticut's economy continues to change, the State has made a commitment to planning for the transition of former casino employees into other employment sectors.

We know that casino-based employment has and will continue to change. While I am dedicated to protecting jobs in that sector, it is prudent that we prepare our community for other quality employment opportunities in the future.

Moving this subject past the "conversation phase" to the planning stage is the smart thing to do, and the right thing to do, to ensure that our families continue to have good quality employment opportunities close to home.



## Creating Jobs for the New Innovation Economy

This year I championed a law to focus on the new innovation economy so we are building jobs for the next generation. From the Industrial Revolution to the modern jet engine and the financial industry, our state has been at the forefront of the nation's economy. But as the business world changes we must once again reinvent our economy to continue to lead. This new law uses our economic strengths—a highly educated and productive workforce, top-tier universities and existing businesses—to capture future job growth at startups and expansion-ready companies.

- ▶ Develops and attracts entrepreneurs who create new startups and jobs and helps grow successful startups into larger firms
- ▶ Establishes 'Innovation Places'—dense, local networks of innovators and entrepreneurs—where new businesses can grow faster together
- ▶ Connects colleges and universities with the private sector to convert research into new businesses
- ▶ Attracts more private funding to support growing companies



With Peter and Monica Obuchowski of XUARE (pronounced "square"), a young entrepreneurial company in Norwich that designs and installs automated systems, including robotics, to improve manufacturing processes.

## 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 we did not raise taxes and**

**reduced spending by \$1.5 billion.** The cuts we made were not easy, but it was the only way forward without burdening taxpayers and businesses.



## Supporting Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

As policymakers, we must improve the lives of our veterans and ensure they earn a good living and contribute to our economy. Under a new law that I championed this year, veteran-owned small businesses will now receive additional preferences that will make it easier for veterans to start and grow businesses. This new policy is a continuation of my multi-year focus on improving the lives of our veterans and supporting them in every way possible.



***"The Chamber is grateful to Senate leadership for its support of this initiative, which is vital to our more than 40,000 veteran-owned businesses"***

Andrew S. DiSilvestro Jr., Executive VP  
CT Veterans Chamber of Commerce

## 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 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.

## 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.

