

HELPFUL RESOURCES



ENERGY ASSISTANCE

▶ STATE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS

The following items are exempt from CT state sales tax:
Insulation • Caulking • Doors • Fluorescent light bulbs •
Furnaces • Geothermal heat pumps • Programmable
thermostats • Water heaters • Windows

▶ FURNACE UPGRADES

The Energy Conservation Loan Program provides low-or no-interest loans for energy-efficient upgrades including furnaces and boilers, thermal windows and doors and insulation. 860-233-5165 ext. 2019 or 2023; www.chif.org

FOR VETERANS

▶ THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND

This fund provides grants in times of financial hardship for the immediate families of active-duty military personnel and of National Guard and Reserve members who have been mobilized for service in the Global War on Terror. 1-860-524-4968

▶ THE CONNECTICUT SOLDIERS', SAILORS' & MARINES' FUND

This fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families for needs including home heating assistance, help with rental payments and medical and dental expenses. 1-800-491-4941 or www.ct.gov/ssmf



Additional Resources and Links

Follow links to these special pages from www.senatedems.ct.gov:

- ▶ Resources for Jobseekers
- ▶ Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures
- ▶ Veterans' Guide
- ▶ Health Care Programs in Connecticut
- ▶ A Guide to the State Budget



A great day in September at the Ludlow Commons Congregate Housing picnic held in Norwalk for residents and family members.

Dear Neighbor:

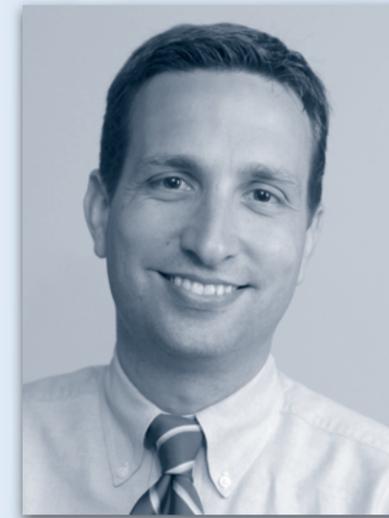
These are unprecedented times: families are struggling, yet gridlock in Washington ensures that Congress gets nothing done. It's a different story in Connecticut; we put partisan differences aside and passed an historic jobs bill.

The legislation will help create thousands of jobs by reducing red tape, cutting taxes for small businesses and investing in training and education. Together, we're working to strengthen Connecticut's economy, balance the budget and show Washington that cooperation doesn't have to be a bad word.

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

Sincerely,

Bob Duff
Connecticut Senate



State Senator Bob Duff

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Representing
Norwalk & Darien



It was a beautiful day for a run in September at the 32nd annual Darien Road Race. I'm with other volunteers, helping to check-in runners.

Stay Informed in a "Green" Way



Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It's a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit:
www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov



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STATE SENATOR **BOB DUFF**

Serving Norwalk & Darien

FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

Investing in the Future of Medicine

We are renovating and expanding the UConn Health Center campus in Farmington. Over the next few decades, this project will create at least 16,000 high-quality jobs, attract millions of dollars in federal funding, and improve access to health care for families across the state.



Keeping Our Water Clean

This year, we made additional investments in various Clean Water Fund projects. The fund helps cities and towns plan, design and construct wastewater collection and treatment plants that result in better public health, cleaner rivers and a healthier Long Island Sound.

Cracking Down on Online Bullying

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.

Improving Early Childhood Education

We passed legislation to create a coordinated system of early care education and child development to address the needs of children from birth to age 8, which will take effect in 2013. The plan will focus on developing oral language and social skills, as well as on closing the achievement gap, improving participation in early childhood programs and increasing parent engagement.



Visiting students in Rowayton to talk about how our state government affects even our youngest citizens.

Fighting Against Domestic Violence

This year we passed a domestic violence law that strengthens a victim's access to restraining and protective orders and improves information sharing about domestic violence incidents.

Fairer Taxes for Afghanistan Veterans

We passed a law that now requires cities and towns to waive the interest on property taxes owed by soldiers serving in Afghanistan. Armed forces members serving in other parts of the Middle East are also eligible for this waiver on property tax interest.



Overdue Diplomas for our Korean War Veterans

The legislature has now expanded a local school boards' authority to award high school diplomas to veterans who did not receive them because they left high school for Korean War military service. It's a long-overdue recognition that is well-deserved.

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 their medical test results, along with other information about their 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.

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.



I-95 Improvements

Construction to add dedicated entrance and exit lanes on I-95 Southbound between US 7 and Exit 14, and on I-95 Northbound between Scribner Avenue and the Fairfield Avenue off ramp is scheduled to start in the early spring of 2012.

Questionable Water Rate Increase

I plan to introduce legislation early next year that will require any municipal water provider seeking a 10 percent or more rate increase to go before the state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (formerly the DPUC) for a public hearing and decision. That Authority would then be able to approve, reject or modify any application for an increase based on its analysis and feedback from the public.

Support For Norwalk

The State Bond Commission has approved \$5 million for public improvements associated with the Waypointe mixed-use development proposed for the West Avenue Corridor area. It is important that Norwalk continue to attract vibrant, creative development that provides jobs and spurs regional economic growth.



With Poko Partners CEO Kenneth Olson and state Department of Economic & Community Development Commissioner Catherine Smith on a tour of the proposed mixed-use development project in central Norwalk.

A Balanced Budget

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

Streamlining for a More Efficient Government

Connecticut's government is leaner and more efficient because the legislature and governor reorganized our state agencies and consolidated them by 30 percent. There are thousands fewer positions filled than just a few short years ago.

Connecticut is Open for Business

We worked with the governor to establish the First Five jobs creation program. This initiative provides state financial assistance to the first five Connecticut businesses in each of the next two years that create at least 200 new jobs in 24 months or invest at least \$25 million and create at least 200 jobs within the next five years. First Five has been so successful, we expanded it to add another five companies.