

## 2013 Legislative Preview

I want to thank you for your support and for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your representative in the Connecticut General Assembly. I consider it an honor to hold such responsibility. For this term, I have been appointed to positions on the General Law Committee, the Public Health Committee, and the Public Safety & Security Committee.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School is in the hearts and minds of all legislators as we begin the 2013 Legislative Session and we have been called to action by our constituencies wanting positive changes for the safety of our communities.

We are all facing difficult times as Connecticut turns the corner toward economic recovery. I am committed to working to bring a leaner more efficient government while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens and keeping essential services properly funded.

Please keep in touch and contact me should you have any issues or concerns. I am convinced that with your input and support, we can address the most pressing needs of our community.



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# State Representative **DAVID ARCONTI JR.**

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## **Job Growth Is #1**

To keep Connecticut economically competitive with neighboring states, we must strengthen business growth and job creation. Attracting businesses, training workers and providing incentives for them to remain in the state translates into a healthier local economy and better job opportunities. Consolidating and increasing tax credits for new hires, investing in emerging technologies and providing more employment for our veterans have shown great success but more needs to be done. Building a better-educated, skilled workforce and a more business-friendly climate will ensure a thriving economy in Connecticut's future.

## **Education**

Connecticut has a storied history of excellence in education but we still must strive to make our schools a top priority in 2013 as they face new challenges. In 2012, the legislature passed historic educational reforms, and now we must continue the work of implementing those important changes. Educating today's students for 21st century

jobs means closely aligning vocational-technical schools and community colleges with the needs of Connecticut industries. There are significant challenges, but they must be overcome to ensure not only the success of our children, but also Connecticut's prosperity.

## **Public Safety**

Of course the tragedy in Newtown has turned our attention to the safety of our children in schools and other public places. We will be taking a close look at how to keep our kids and families safe by looking at all related issues, including school security, gun safety, and access to mental health care. A special bipartisan task force announced by legislative leaders and charged with developing recommendations designed to prevent gun violence, enhance school safety and increase access to mental health care has a new website: [www.cga.ct.gov/asafierconnecticut](http://www.cga.ct.gov/asafierconnecticut).

## **Supporting Our Seniors**

Helping our seniors in their later years is an important responsibility of government. Seniors face a variety of challenges such as maintaining their health and keeping up

with the bills on a fixed income. The legislature supports seniors in a number of ways: It sends state funds to towns to help stabilize local property taxes, passes tough consumer protection laws and increases grandparents' visitation rights. Looking ahead, expect to see proposals to help seniors keep their independence as their healthcare needs increase. A special task force on "aging in place" is recommending ways to help older adults safely, independently and comfortably remain in their homes.

## **More Affordable Healthcare Options**

Thanks to the federal health care reform law, Connecticut residents now have more control over their healthcare options. The new law will provide relief to families that have struggled under the burden of rising healthcare costs and unfair practices by insurance companies. This includes helping people denied coverage due to chronic conditions get coverage and allowing young adults to remain on their parent's insurance until age 26. In addition, seniors have received rebates to help them afford prescription drugs and more have received preventive screenings with no co-pays.