



Credit for Fishing & Hunting Licenses

Sports enthusiasts who bought their licenses early this year and paid a higher price will be eligible for a credit that will be applied to the next license, permit, or tag purchase. The DEP will reserve the credit and apply it to purchases made after October 1, 2010.

CT Grown Foods

To encourage the production and sale of locally grown food:

- » Farmers are now allowed to sell their own pickles and salsa directly to consumers

Improvements to the UConn Health Center

This year the legislature took steps to modernize the UConn Health Center (UCHC) with a project that will improve patient care, enhance medical training and create jobs. This legislation:

- » Authorizes improvements to UCHC, including the construction of a new patient tower and renovations of research labs
- » Creates a regional health network through partnerships with Hartford Hospital, St. Francis, Bristol Hospital and the Hospital of Central Connecticut
- » Establishes an Institute for Primary Care Innovation to improve delivery of routine and preventive care services
- » Stimulates economic growth through infrastructure projects and the development of an enterprise zone in the region

Berlin and Southington Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Aid

PILOT: State Owned Property	\$58,823
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$145,164
Town Aid Roads	\$429,284
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$411,861
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$194,466
Adult Education	\$28,832
School Transportation	\$548,095
Educational Cost Sharing	\$26,008,518
Total State Funds to the 30th District	\$27,825,043

State Representative

JOE ARESIMOWICZ

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State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

Joe Aresimowicz

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



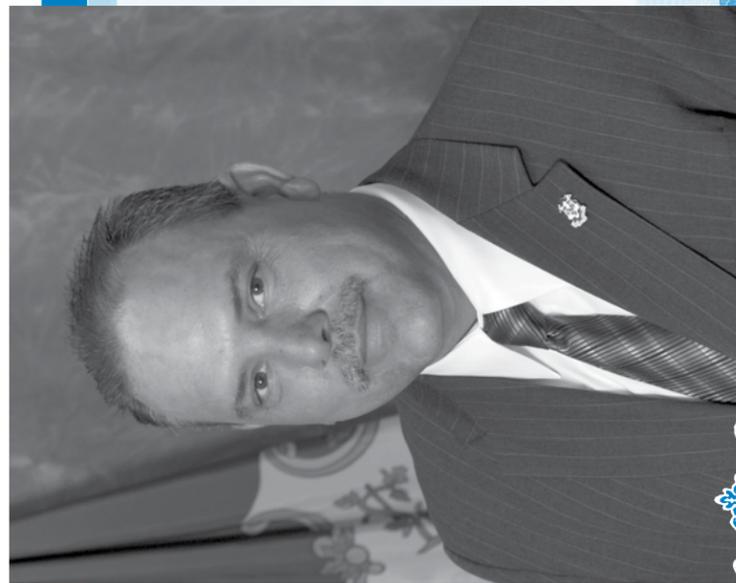
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Capitol Update

This session I sent out a survey to you asking for help in facing the challenges of this great state. As a result of your responses, I chose to vote against the compromise budget. The budget has many positive parts, including no new taxes and no cuts in funding to Connecticut's towns; however I felt it contained hidden charges for electric rate payers. I could not in good conscience vote yes to raise your electric bill. The budget also borrows \$956 million which will be paid back by using funding from an energy efficiency program paid for by electric consumers and a surcharge on electric bills that was set to expire at the end of the year. Many of you contacted me voicing concerns about this scheme and urging me to not raid your electric bills. The budget also transfers \$5 million from the dedicated Community Investment Act (CIA) fund to the state's general fund. CIA funds come from a \$40 land records filing fee that was created specifically to fund things like affordable housing, open space and farmland preservation. I don't believe we should be playing this type of "bait and switch" game with your money. If we say that fees will be used for one thing, we should not just take that money to pay for something else whenever we face a budget problem. I'm disappointed that we chose to borrow and use one-time revenue sources, including federal stimulus funds to solve long-term deficits, instead of using this year's budget crisis as an opportunity to make the type of structural changes that these tough economic times demand. If you would like to discuss the budget or any other items in this newsletter, feel free to contact me on my cell: 860-371-6887.



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If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

**State Representative
Joe Aresimowicz**

Capitol Phone 860.240.8500

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We all recognize the importance of recycling to protect our environment. Connecticut residents will now be able to recycle more through changes made to state law that:

- » Allows for more types of paper and plastic to be recycled
- » Requires private trash collectors to offer recycling
- » Requires recycling bins in public areas where regular trash bins are located

Saluting Our Veterans

- » A bill I introduced allows Veterans in nursing homes the ability to use the VA as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers
- » Honorably discharged retired veterans with 30 years or more of service can now apply for "retirement promotions" and move up one grade in rank
- » Active duty service members out of state will get an extension for 30 days to renew their expired driver's licenses after their return to Connecticut
- » March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day
- » Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses

Student Athletes & Concussions

As a coach I take my responsibility to your children seriously. I worked with my colleagues to introduce a law to avoid serious long-term injuries. We enacted new legislation that will provide these new protections:

- » Student athletes who sustain head injuries will need medical clearance before re-joining athletic activity
- » Athletic coaches will now be trained to recognize and respond to concussions
- » Anyone with a coach's permit issued by the State Board of Education will need to complete a course by the start of their sports season next school year
- » The state school board can revoke a permit if any of these requirements are not followed

Good News for Seniors

Reducing Costs for Homecare Services

Seniors using the CT Homecare Program for Elders will soon see a reduction in their monthly costs for critical in-home services, such as meal deliveries and personal care assistance. The budget reduces the percentage seniors pay for these services from 15% to 6% -- saving the average client nearly \$100 each month.

Supporting Services for Alzheimer's Patients

Last year's budget protected the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, which provides small grants to family members caring for people with Alzheimer's to fund personal care, home health and adult day care services. Governor Rell closed the program in 2009, but working with advocates, the legislature was able to re-open the program in May, allowing Connecticut families to receive these important services.

Improving the Senior Driver Discount Program

New legislation encourages seniors to keep their driving skills sharp by making it easier to qualify for safe driver discounts. People age 60 and older will now be able to complete a shorter, 4-hour driving program to be eligible for a two-year discount of 5% or more on their automobile insurance.

Protecting Seniors from the Medicaid Spend-Down

New legislation will help seniors protect their assets when their spouse needs to enter a nursing home. Under current law, the spouse remaining at home must spend down half of his or her assets in order to allow the ill spouse to qualify for Medicaid coverage. This year, we increased the asset cap, so that the couple can keep assets up to \$110,000 and still qualify the ill spouse for Medicaid.



Creating Jobs

Number One Priority – Dig Out of the Recession

One of the best ways to pull Connecticut out of the recession is through job creation. This session we passed a significant jobs bill that will help put Connecticut on the road to economic recovery, that includes:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and nonprofits
- » Student loan reimbursement and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- » Personal income tax credits for investments made in new and emerging technologies
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies, and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month per new employee
- » A Community-Technical College advisory board to assess the training needs of unemployed residents
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Reformed environmental rules that speed up the business permitting process and maintain environmental protections
- » Changes to the state's film tax credit program that will create more film production jobs in Connecticut



Saving money by Working Together

Saving on School Busing

Every town in Connecticut can now save money on their school transportation costs.

- » A new grant is available for boards of education from multiple towns that work together to provide transportation services
- » There will be new money coming to Berlin and Southington school system

Saving on Health Insurance

Cities and towns can now save money on health insurance costs.

- » Two or more towns or boards of education can join together to purchase health care benefits at lower costs
- » A larger group size can achieve lower premiums, better benefits for employees and more bargaining power for towns

Taxpayers Off the Hook for Evicted Property

- » Local taxpayers have been relieved of the cost of storing the belongings of evicted tenants
- » Tenant's rights will be protected because state marshals will be responsible for removal, delivery and storage of belongings

Lower-Cost Drugs

- » Municipalities can now take advantage of lower-cost prescription drugs through state discounts
- » The bargaining power, low administrative costs, and discounts negotiated by the state will save cities and towns money

