



Deputy Speaker Aresimowicz with students from Hubbard School.

Protecting Domestic Violence Victims

Even one incident of domestic violence in our state is too many, but when more than 20,000 incidents resulting in arrest occur in a single year, something had to be done. We need to put a stop to this terrible crime. The task force on Domestic Violence is doing just that.

Building on last year's landmark legislation, this year we passed laws improving the state's response to domestic violence:

- maintaining funding for 24/7 staffing at emergency shelters
- improving information sharing among state agencies
- allowing victims who experience a pattern of threatening or stalking to request a restraining order; people of any age, including teens, can request a restraining order
- requiring offenders to surrender firearms to police or sell them to a federally-licensed firearms dealer if the offender is barred from possessing them
- providing restitution to the families of victims
- fixing a contradiction in the statutes that exempts people in dating relationships from arrest when a domestic violence crime is alleged to have been committed, so that police have clear authority to make such arrests

Unfortunately, many domestic violence tragedies result from dysfunctional and dangerous practices within our bail bond system. The practice of "undercutting" occurs when bondsmen compete for business by discounting the bond premium – not charging clients the statutorily required amount. As a result, defendants post bond more easily and are quickly released back into the community without any "cooling off" period. Our law protects victims by prohibiting the practice of undercutting.

Three Million for Remediation Secured

I am happy to report that Rep. Zalaski and I were able to secure \$3 million for the remediation at the Ideal Forging site. This is great news for the Greenways Common Project and for Southington's Economic Future.



Deputy Speaker of the House

Joseph Aresimowicz

Proudly Serving Berlin · Southington | 30th District

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

Legislative Office Building
Room 4110
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol Phone 860.240.8500
Home Phone 860.371.6887



www.housedems.ct.gov/Aresimowicz

State Representative | Deputy Speaker of the House

Joseph Aresimowicz

Proudly Serving Berlin · Southington | 30th District

Dear Friend,

As we near the end of 2011, I thought it would be important to review some of the important measures that were passed this past session.

Though difficult economic times made the budget process a tough one, we were able to pass a balanced budget, which protected the middle class and poor, and did not rely on gimmicks or borrowing. We saved taxpayer dollars by encouraging innovative approaches to regionalizing services. Some other advances include education enhancements, health insurance reform, protecting the environment and help for veterans and domestic violence victims. I also protected the services you expect and state aid to cities and towns that support our local budgets.

I hope you find this report informative and I am happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state. As always, I appreciate hearing from you.



CAPITOL REPORT 2011



Joseph Aresimowicz

Proudly Serving Berlin • Southington | 30th District



State Representative Joseph Aresimowicz

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

Capitol Phone 860.240.8500
Home Phone 860.371.6887



A Safer Connecticut

We strengthened Connecticut's criminal justice system by cracking down on repeat drunk drivers, making it easier to match DNA evidence to help solve crimes, strengthening our domestic violence laws, and making it easier to hire experienced police officers.

Preventing Drunk Driving

Ignition interlock devices will be required for repeat drunk driving offenders that will prevent them from starting the car if their blood alcohol content exceeds .08 percent.

Expanding DNA Collection

DNA samples will now be collected from convicted felons after a subsequent arrest. Since felons are likely to have committed other crimes, DNA can solve these crimes with matches against a national database.

Education

Providing our children with the best learning environment

A good education is the greatest gift that we can provide for our children. Even in tough economic times, I am proud that we found smart and responsible ways to improve our educational system. Our goal was to foster an environment that was conducive to learning, and I believe we did that. This session we also:

- Kept critical education funding intact
- Protected vo-tech schools from harmful cuts that would undermine education
- Created laws to combat school bullying, including cyber-bullying
- Formed an Achievement Gap Task Force
- Expanded eligibility for schools to provide free breakfast for children
- Made sure autistic children are being cared for by trained professionals
- Raised the drop-out age to 18 to ensure our children are getting high school diplomas

Saluting Our Veterans

Providing a better life to those who protect us

Veterans, along with their families, have sacrificed so much so we can enjoy our freedom and a democratic way of life. Veterans returning from foreign engagements need to know that we appreciate what they do for us and that means passing legislation that helps them and their families.

Veterans' bills passed this session:

- Offer veterans' license plates to a member of the U. S. armed forces or his or her surviving spouse
- Allow veteran status to be on a driver's license or identity card
- Provide disabled wartime veterans with free parking, admission, and boat access parking to state recreational areas
- Expand the waiver of property tax interest for certain armed forces members in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Waive the \$20 fee for one certified copy of a veteran's death certificate when requested by family
- Create a one-stop website for services available for veterans

Streamlining Government

To address the state budget crisis we cut costs and streamlined government. Connecticut is being run more efficiently this year with:

- A 28 percent reduction and consolidation of State agencies, saving the State \$9 million
- Upgraded technology
- Over \$700 million in spending cuts
- No borrowing
- Fully funded pension obligations
- A commitment to staying below the constitutional spending cap



Funding Secured for Connecticut Fire Academy

Chet Haber, Berlin's Director of Training at the County Fire School worked with Rep. Aresimowicz to secure \$3.2 million in funding for improvements to the Fire Academy. This has been a long term project for the area, spanning eleven years, and I am happy to have had a hand in making sure it happened for Berlin. This facility will help ensure that our local firefighters are properly trained.

CAPITOL REPORT 2011

Putting Connecticut Back to Work

With the state budget balanced, my top priority is putting Connecticut back to work. We took some significant steps this year to address that need:

- Encouraging businesses to create jobs by providing tax incentives through the "First Five" program
- Expanding our reinvestments in manufacturing by restoring the manufacturing, machinery and equipment grants for towns
- Allowing employees to earn paid sick leave
- Providing student loan reimbursements for green-tech degree holders after two years employment in the field
- Saving our Vo-tech schools that teach the skills that put people to work.

Creating Jobs and Helping the Environment

What could be better than turning unused and abandoned property into productive land and creating jobs in the process? That's what new legislation on brownfield remediation does, it:

- provides funding for clean-up and re-use of contaminated and abandoned sites
- turns them into productive and safe properties for economic development, open space or other public uses

Our cities, small towns and rural areas are all winners with this legislation because these remediation projects can be a catalyst for job creation and real estate development.

