



Dear Friends,

From jobs to education to improved response to natural disasters, we worked to help our citizens this legislative session.

It started last October when we passed comprehensive, bipartisan jobs legislation that invested hundreds of millions of dollars in small businesses, gave firms hiring incentives, and eliminated red-tape for growing companies.

This spring, historic changes were made to our educational system so that our children can succeed.

I am proud to have supported a budget that includes \$6,787,508 in state funding for Berlin and \$21,296,307 for Southington, including funding for education and vital services to help stabilize our property taxes.

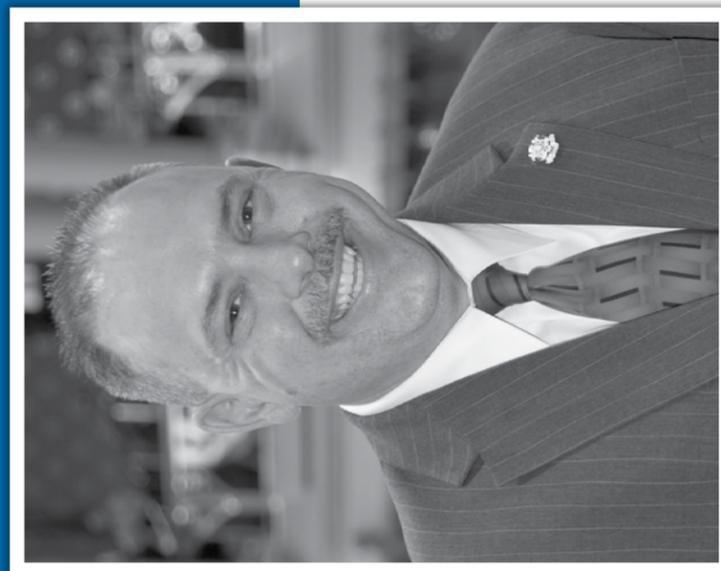
I hope that this report is informative. I am happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future.

## Let's Keep In Touch

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# Deputy Speaker **Joe Aresimowicz** Proudly Serving Berlin & Southington

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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2012

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Deputy Speaker

# JOE ARESIMOWICZ

Proudly Serving Berlin and Southington's 30th District



Rep. Aresimowicz with Teacher of the Year, David Bosso.

## Saving Taxpayer Dollars

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) has a new tool to cut costs on road construction projects. We have replaced the more traditional design-bid-build approach where design and construction services must be undertaken in sequence with Design-Build. This means the design and construction phases of a project are combined into one contract, allowing design and construction to run at the same time while saving taxpayers' money.

## Sharpening Storm Response

In the aftermath of the October Nor'easter and Tropical Storm Irene, the legislature has set up emergency preparedness and response standards that include:

- Preparing a comprehensive plan for civil emergency preparedness both before and after a severe weather event
- Adopting utility performance standards
- Expediting procedures for road clearing
- Formulating tree trimming practices to reduce outages due to fallen limbs
- Promoting underground power lines
- Targeting recovery and restoration of service based on emergency



## Looking out for Connecticut's Children

### Statewide Education Reform

Working with parents and educators, we made sure that this year's historic education reforms provide new support to help turn around underperforming schools and prepare our children for the 21st Century workforce by:

- Expanding pre-school programs—1,000 new seats for children
- Strengthening of early reading assessments and programs
- Improving teacher evaluation procedures
- Creating a "Commissioner's Network" to turn around 25 of Connecticut's lowest performing schools
- Increasing funding for school-based health centers and family resource centers



Rep. Aresimowicz greets Girl Scouts visiting the capitol.

## Children with Special Needs

New requirements for children identified as deaf or hearing impaired can make the difference between success and failure for these students. The individual education plan for each child must now reflect the child's primary language, educational options, teacher's qualifications, including their proficiency in the child's primary language or mode of communication, and assistive devices and services for the child.

## Caylee's Law

Criminal penalties are now in place if a parent, guardian or person who has custody or supervision of a child fails to report the disappearance of the child.

## Infant Heart Screening

Newborns will now be screened for congenital heart defects since failure to detect heart disease early can result in developmental delays. All health care institutions must perform a simple, inexpensive and non-invasive procedure starting in 2013.

## Creating Jobs

Growing jobs continues to be my number one priority. That's why I supported Summer Jobs for Youth, the CT Made Program to promote products from hometown employers and the Small Business Express program which offers loans and grants to local companies, like Berlin's Music People. As a result, Music People expects to hire eight new employees in Berlin.

## Tax Relief for Small Businesses

Small business is the backbone of our economy. That's why we slashed the business entity tax in half for small businesses and we are providing tax credits to firms that hire new workers.

## Workforce Development

To help ensure Connecticut's workforce matches the high-demand job needs of manufacturing and IT employers, we enhanced manufacturing technology programs at Connecticut's vo-tech, community colleges and universities.

## Redeveloping Old Industrial Sites

This year we directed the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to perform an in-depth analysis of the state's brownfield programs and recommend changes to allow swifter conversion of contaminated and long-abandoned properties to productive sites for economic development and other public uses.

## Cutting Red Tape

Burdensome state regulations have been updated or fully eliminated. We shortened the time it will take businesses to get permits from the state—certain economic development projects may now be approved in 60 days. State websites were also made easier for businesses to navigate and use.

## Job Resources

**CT WORKS CAREER CENTERS** – A regional Career Center is located in New Britain to provide guidance and services to those seeking employment. For more information, call 860-827-6200.

**CT JOB CENTRAL** – An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resume and access various employment-related information is located at [www.jobcentral.org/ct](http://www.jobcentral.org/ct).

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE** – For an in-depth explanation of unemployment insurance and benefits call the TeleBenefits number in New Britain at 860-566-5790.

**WHERE TO TURN WHEN UNEMPLOYED** – The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It contains information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at 1-800-842-8267 if you would like a copy.