



Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share with you this update following the 2013 legislative session. Every session offers its own set of challenges, but this year's were unique because it began just a few short weeks after the Sandy Hook tragedy, requiring the entire state to grapple with its aftermath.

I am proud we worked in a bipartisan manner and made progress on school safety, mental health, supporting first responders and protecting the privacy of victims of violent crimes.

We also completed an on-time balanced budget that protects the safety net with no sales or income tax hikes. We took steps to build a better future with increased education funding for our towns and renewed investment in our flagship university.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful. Please feel free to call or email me for any reason—legislative or otherwise.

*It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative—
Thank you!*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOE ARESIMOWICZ

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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SOUTHINGTON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | MAJORITY LEADER

JOE ARESIMOWICZ

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If you need help or have questions,
please contact me:

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KEEPING US ALL SAFE

Safer Schools — Parents need peace of mind knowing that their children are safe in their schools. Making sure that our children are safe at school was a priority this year and I worked to:

Make Pools Safer — Public school swimming pools will now have a qualified swimming coach or lifeguard present, in addition to the individual who is instructing the students. (PA 13-161)

Strengthen School Security — With so many schools now employing armed officers or security guards, we now require that all armed school staff be retired police officers or state troopers if they are not currently law enforcement officers. (PA 13-188)

Protect Student Athletes — Athletic Directors must now meet minimum state standards to ensure that our student athletes and our school athletic budgets are better protected. (PA 13-41)

Keeping Seniors Safe in their Homes — Beginning January 1st homemaker companion agencies must notify a client in writing that a background check was performed before a companion is sent to a home. Billing for higher skilled services than needed will also be prohibited. (PA 13-88)



Joe with Southington's Mark Murdy and Berlin's Lexi Kavarsky, who wrote the winning essays in a contest sponsored by Joe for middle school students to propose a new state law.

PUTTING OUR CHILDREN FIRST

Easing State Mandates On Our Schools — We have set up a task force to study mandate relief for high performing high schools. I have appointed Tony D'Angelo from Southington to serve as one of the eight members of this task force so that our town's concerns are well represented. (PA 13-108)

Revisiting Standardized Tests — How well do standardized tests really measure what our students are learning? The state is examining the effectiveness of these tests to see how we can improve things. Students can now take their final Mastery Test in 11th grade rather than 10th grade. (PA 13-207)

Preparing Teachers for the Classroom — Education is more than learning to read and write—it is also social development. Now, to earn professional certification, teachers must complete training in children's social and emotional learning along with their traditional coursework. (PA 13-133)

College Readiness for All — Not all high school graduates are immediately ready for college and preparing them is key to their success. Local adult education programs can now offer college preparatory classes to high school grads ensuring college readiness for all. (PA 13-121)

Making Sure Child Abuse is Reported — No one should be afraid to come forward to report child abuse or neglect for fear of losing a job. Employers are now prohibited from hindering employees from reporting child abuse. It is also now a felony to interfere with someone making a report of child abuse or neglect. (PA 13-53/PA 13-297)



Joe with Southington residents, Laura Schiavone & Janet Ferracci-Carter, and State Rep. David Zoni. Laura & Janet are active AARP members who were at the Capitol advocating for seniors.

LOOKING OUT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

State Funding For Southington Arts Center — I worked to secure \$500,000 to help defray the costs of converting the Gura Building on Main Street in the town center into a community cultural arts center. It will serve as a teaching, exhibiting and performing arts space for the Southington community—giving our young people the opportunity to discover and improve their talents.

Stamping Out Price Gouging — In the aftermath of recent severe storms, certain unethical businesses took advantage of consumers by price gouging for storm-recovery services and lodging. A new law makes it a crime to sell goods or services for excessive prices during weather emergencies. (PA 13-175)

Simplifying Financial Aid — The fine print of the financial aid process may be confusing and families may not understand the real cost of college. Beginning next July Connecticut colleges will be required to supply students with uniform financial information that makes clear the amount of financial aid the student is eligible for and the real cost of attending their institution. (PA 13-95)

Encouraging Young People To Save — In these tough economic times, saving money has become a real challenge. In order to motivate people to save money and secure their financial futures, Connecticut credit unions are now allowed to offer a savings promotion raffle to add an extra incentive to people—especially young adults—to start saving. (PA 13-96)

Streamlining State Government — State government needs to be more efficient and cost-effective. That's why we removed some of that "bloat" by eliminating 32 boards and commissions. (PA 13-299)