

FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY

I am very pleased to report that over the past year we secured funding for the Southington Senior Center, the Southington Community Cultural Arts Center and the Southington YMCA.

Last June we were able to secure \$500,000 for the Southington Community Cultural Arts Center. The funds will specifically help defray the costs of converting the Gura Building on Main Street into a community cultural arts center. It will serve as a teaching, exhibiting and performing arts space for the community.

During a meeting in late November with the Southington Senior Citizens Commission, I was made aware of how crucial it was to start the process of expanding the Senior Center so they will be able to accommodate Southington's rapidly growing senior population. With the commission's dedication and hard work, I was able to expedite their request for funding and in January the State Bond Commission released \$200,000 for the Southington Senior Center renovations.

This past May, the State Bond Commission also approved a \$900,000 grant-in-aid to the town of Southington to finance renovations and improvements to the Southington YMCA. This funding will give the facility necessary improvements and renovations so it can continue to provide a safe and fun place for people of all ages to enjoy.

SOUTHINGTON FISCAL YEARS 2014-2015 AID

Education Cost Sharing	\$40,638,928
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$51,737
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$280,941
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$294,739
Public School Transportation	\$325,234
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$561,096
Town Aid Roads	\$1,042,762
Adult Education	\$27,248
MRSA Payments	\$1,543,912
Total State Funds to Southington	\$44,766,597



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOE ARESIMOWICZ

PROUDLY SERVING THE 30TH DISTRICT OF SOUTHINGTON & BERLIN

CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOE ARESIMOWICZ

PROUDLY SERVING THE 30TH DISTRICT OF SOUTHINGTON & BERLIN



Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to share with you this update following the 2014 legislative session. This year was a short three-month session, but I am proud of the work that we were able to accomplish within this time span.

We were able to adopt a balanced budget with no new taxes, we worked in a bipartisan manner to increase funding for education and enable more children to attend preschool, and we made additional investments in job creation programs such as STEP-UP, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed.

We also worked to promote retirement savings by establishing the Connecticut Retirement Security Board, which will conduct a study to develop a comprehensive proposal for implementing a public retirement savings plan in the state of Connecticut. This retirement plan could help the 50 percent of Connecticut workers aged 25-64 who are not covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan.

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!

Joe

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOE ARESIMOWICZ

PROUDLY SERVING THE 30TH DISTRICT OF SOUTHWINGTON & BERLIN



VETERANS

HELPING OUR VETS FIND WORK AND HOUSING

The Veterans' Opportunity Pilot Program will assist nonprofit agencies to secure work and housing for our vets. Additionally, the Department of Labor will manage a statewide network of employment services for veterans to lower the number of homeless and unemployed veterans in our state.

CREDITING VETERANS' JOB SKILLS

This session we worked to streamline the state licensing process for our job-seeking veterans. Connecticut veterans can now apply their military training towards occupational licenses. In addition, college credits can be awarded for specialty training and apprenticeship credits applied to specific trades.



Joe at the Hope for Heroes fundraiser during the 2014 session.



Joe at the ribbon cutting ceremony for ESPN's new Welcome Center in Southington.

PUTTING OUR CHILDREN FIRST

HELPING STUDENTS OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES POSED BY DYSLEXIA

This year the State Department of Education will add dyslexia to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) form that is used to provide special education to students. Teacher preparation programs will also be required to include instruction on the identification of, and appropriate interventions for, students with dyslexia.

THE NEW OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

This year, we formally established the Office of Early Childhood. This coordinated system of care will better utilize, better educate, and better care for our most impressionable population in an efficient and holistic way.

SMART START

This competitive grant program will target communities with a need for additional preschool slots. School districts will be able to receive capital grants for classroom renovations or expansions and for expenses directly related to student learning.

KEEPING US ALL SAFE

SAFETY ZONES FOR SENIORS

Our seniors are increasingly becoming victims of crimes, including sex crimes. This year we created a task force that will study the establishment of senior safety zones, and how best to protect senior citizens in their homes, at senior centers and at long-term nursing facilities from interaction with sexual offenders.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

This year we added much-needed transparency to an issue that we heard about from many state residents regarding predatory energy providers and confusing energy bills. Energy suppliers will now be prohibited from offering consumers short-term "teaser" energy contracts with low rates, then switching to much higher variable rate contracts within weeks. Termination fees would be capped at \$50 under the law, and a consumer could switch back to the standard rate charged by UI or CL&P within 72 hours.

JOBS

ENCOURAGING BUSINESS GROWTH

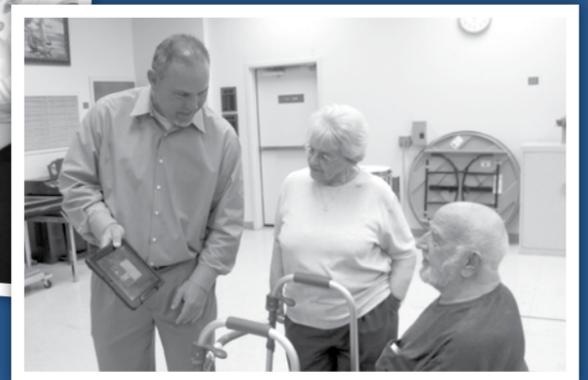
We are always looking for ways to improve job opportunities and economic and business prospects in Connecticut. This year we created the Commission on Connecticut's Leadership in Corporation and Business Law, to explore ways to encourage businesses to incorporate in our state by streamlining our business corporation laws, business taxes, and Judicial Branch operations. This is a step toward bringing in potential businesses to our state.



Joe and Rep. Zoni giving a tour of the Capitol to Southington High School students.



Joe with Berlin and Southington Police Officers after he accepted the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association's Legislative Award.



Joe helping out members of the Berlin Senior Center.

UTC COMMITS TO MAKING CONNECTICUT ITS HOME FOR YEARS TO COME

Connecticut has a long and proud tradition in the aerospace manufacturing industry. This year we cemented this tradition by working with United Technologies Corp. (UTC) to make Connecticut its home for years to come. UTC has committed to upgrade and expand its current facilities and to invest in research and development. This agreement will bring high paying jobs to Connecticut and lower the property tax burden in our communities. It will also positively impact all of the small businesses that serve as direct suppliers to UTC.