

Saluting Our Veterans

Desecrating veteran memorials

Honoring the present and past sacrifices of our veterans is one of my highest priorities. It is shocking to see an increase in thefts and vandalism of veteran memorials. We increased penalties for desecrating veteran's memorials beyond the monetary value of what was vandalized.

Diversionsary programs for Vets with PTSD & Legal Issues

So many of our service men and women return home and face a variety of challenges, not the least of which are legal issues and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. A federally funded pilot program for veterans dealing with these issues is helpful but limited, so we expanded the program to more locations throughout the state.

Custody Orders While on Deployment

In order to reduce the psychological trauma a parent feels when they leave a small child for an extended period of time, we protected parents' permanent custody orders in the event of deployment. We provided an opportunity for the military parent to create temporary custody orders that remain in effect only as long as they are away on deployment and for as much contact as possible between children and the parent who is absent while on military duty by providing contact by phone or email.

CT Veterans Charity Network

Fraudulent charity groups often misrepresent veterans, trying to take advantage of our good will toward those who serve our country. We helped protect consumers from these fraudulent groups by creating a legitimate charities list on the Department of Veteran's Affairs website.



Rep Berger being awarded the Audrey Beck Historic Preservation award by Connecticut Preservation Action (CPA), for his leadership and work toward passage of legislation that expanded the use of the historic rehabilitation tax credit in Connecticut. Left to right: Anita Mielert, President, Connecticut Preservation Action; Jack Shannahan, Member of the Board, Connecticut Preservation Action; Senator Gary D. LeBeau.

State Representative
JEFFREY J. BERGER

sign up for email updates:
www.housedems.ct.gov/Berger

find us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/CTHouseDemocrats

State Representative

Jeffrey J. Berger

Proudly Serving Waterbury | 73rd District

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

Legislative Office Building
Room C-110
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 800.842.8267
Home: 203.756.3440
www.housedems.ct.gov/Berger



www.housedems.ct.gov/Berger

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937



HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

CAPITOL REPORT 2012

State Representative

Jeffrey J. Berger

Proudly Serving Waterbury | 73rd District



State Representative

Jeffrey J. Berger

Proudly Serving Waterbury | 73rd District

Jobs are Priority #1

We continued the state's commitment to job growth and economic recovery with new legislation during special session that expands the Small Business Express Program, allowing an estimated 3,600 additional businesses to have access to state funding. The program allows small businesses to access much-needed funding for capital investments and hiring. In addition, the bill:

- Establishes the Unemployed Armed Forces Member STEP-UP (Subsidized Training and Employment Program) with grants to subsidize a business's cost of hiring unemployed veterans during their first 180 days (about six months) on the job.
- Creates the "Connecticut Made" and "Connecticut Treasures" programs to promote products made in Connecticut and promote the state's cultural, educational and historic attractions.
- Develops a plan to allow the state to give preferential incentives and economic development assistance to companies that will relocate jobs from overseas to Connecticut.

We created new job opportunities for young people by funding the Youth Employment Summer Jobs program. We also supported adult evening education programs, as well as the Small Business Express Program and a "Connecticut Made" initiative to promote products from local businesses.

Additional, high level job opportunities will result from economic development funding for the Jackson Labs project that builds on our decision to become a world leader in bioscience and biotechnology.

We recognize the challenges facing cities and towns and secured funding for municipalities, relieving pressure on local property taxes.

Senior Focus

Protecting the quality of life for our senior citizens is a top priority. This year the legislature focused on healthcare.

HOSPICE CARE - With just two licensed hospices in the state, this new law will permit hospices to follow federal standards, giving smaller hospice facilities the opportunity to provide high quality services that allow patients to stay closer to family and friends. This bill will help our state to ensure that residents have access to health care services across the full continuum of care.

PRESERVING MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY - This legislation ensured thousands of seniors and people with disabilities could continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles by raising the income limit for MSP to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1. It would have been a tragic irony if a welcome increase in Social Security made some Connecticut residents ineligible for these Medicare benefits.

I am proud to support these and other initiatives for our seniors. After working throughout their lives and contributing to society, seniors deserve our respect and assistance to help them enjoy their later years.

Brownfields Remediation



Job Creation through Brownfield Cleanup

This bill allows swifter conversion of contaminated and long-abandoned properties to productive sites for economic development, open space and other public uses. This session, we directed the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to perform an in-depth analysis of the state's brownfield remediation and development programs and recommend changes to those programs.

Anti-Blight Bill

This year I worked with other legislators to see an anti-blight bill passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Blighted and abandoned properties have plagued our city for too long. This Important legislation will be instrumental in holding absentee landlords and property owners responsible for cleaning up their properties or face hefty fines and eventual foreclosure if they willingly violate this law. I am proud to have to have sponsored this bill which I believe will help increase our tax base and improve the quality of life for Waterbury residents. We must make sure property and land owners in our cities maintain them as an important component of revitalization. Unkempt and garbage-strewn lots contribute to the perception of abandonment and increased crime. The bill requires towns that have housing blight ordinances to include in their regulations a written notice to the property's owner and occupant when a violation occurs to provide a reasonable opportunity to remediate the conditions before any enforcement action.

Current law allows fines of between \$10 and \$100 that can be imposed for each day a violation continues. The new law allows fines of up to \$250 per day for a willful failure to eliminate blighted conditions.

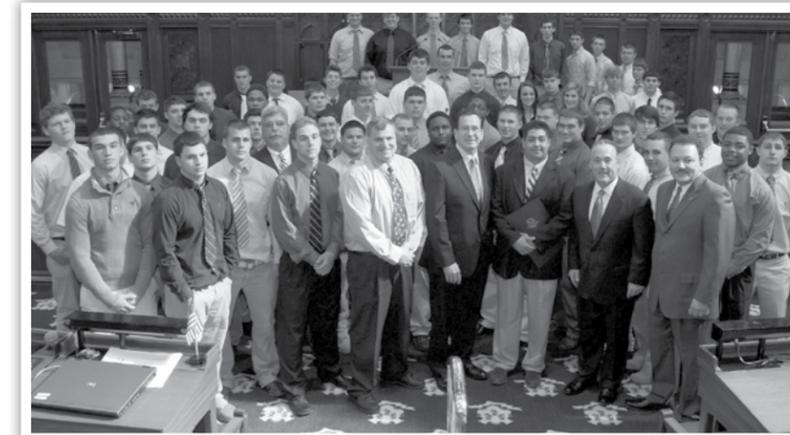
Brownfield Cleanup in Waterbury

Anamet Site

This year we were able to work for the release of previously bonded funds of \$1,311,000 for brownfield remediation at the long-dormant Anamet manufacturing site on South Main Street in Waterbury. Every grant and every loan is one step forward to Waterbury being free and clear of contaminated eyesores. I am pleased to see progress on the ultimate goal of putting these properties back to use and putting people back to work.

MacDermid Site

The State Bond Commission also approved \$850,000 in funding for remediation of MacDermid site on Huntingdon Avenue in addition to approving \$8 million for a brownfield remediation pilot program. The continued work of the Commerce Committee and Brownfields Task Force has once again benefited economic growth, the tax base, and employment in the City of Waterbury. It continues to be my mission to advance that work and I thank Governor Malloy for supporting this effort.



Representative Berger welcomed the Class S State Champion Holy Cross High School Football Team to the Capitol for a tour and special recognition of their accomplishment

YOUR TAX MONEY

Coming back to Waterbury

Waterbury Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Aid	
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$4,151,805
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$6,405,076
Town Aid Roads	\$537,097
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,226,831
Manufacturing Transition Grant	\$2,076,795
Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$2,336,203
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$3,074,960
Adult Education	\$2,427,504
School Transportation	\$1,548,661
Educational Cost Sharing	\$118,012,691
Total State Funds to Waterbury and the 73rd District	\$141,797,623

"If I hadn't worked to secure this state funding for Waterbury, the current mill rate of 41.818 could have been as high as 68.77 mills!"

To receive more information on any of the following issues, please contact me.

- 2012 Major Acts
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Health Care
- Environment
- Jobs
- Seniors
- Energy
- Children
- Education

800.842.8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Berger
jeffrey.berger@cga.ct.gov