



3rd grade students from the Frank T. Wheeler School meet with Rep. Boukus in the House Chambers

Strengthening Connecticut Schools

The difference in the achievement levels among Connecticut schools is one of the highest in the nation. We took steps to help turn around low-achieving schools, increase our chances for federal education dollars, improve our vocational high schools and help students with autism.

The legislation:

- » Strengthens the state's application for federal Race to the Top education funds
- » Improves vocational schools by adding manufacturing and vocational education experience to the state Board of Education criteria
- » Protects our children with better maintenance of buses
- » Makes sure students with autism get quality services through their special education individualized education plans (IEP)
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- » Requires public hearings before school closures and increases parent involvement

– Public Act 10-111

Congratulations to:

Plainville High School

Valedictorian: **Alyssa Martino**
Salutatorian: **Alexander Salazar**

Bristol Eastern High School

Valedictorian: **Justin Dubroski**
Salutatorian: **Eric Burkholder**

New Britain High School

Valedictorian: **Ian Martin**
Salutatorian: **Dylan Yott**

Saint Paul Catholic High School

Valedictorian: **Jordan Rambola**
Salutatorian: **Linda Cheng**

Bristol Central High School

Valedictorian: **Michelle Paradise**
Salutatorian: **Jamie Levigne**



State Representative | Deputy Majority Whip

Betty Boukus

Proudly Serving Plainville, Bristol and New Britain | 22nd District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Capitol Update

The 2010 legislative session has been one of both challenge and compromise as we worked to address the state budget deficiency. In the end, we saw real results as legislative leadership and the Governor worked together to craft a sound, responsible and fair state budget. I am proud that we were able to work together, across party lines, to create a compromise and close the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years' budget.

As we look ahead to the future, fiscal challenges remain. While I am optimistic about Connecticut's economic recovery, I remain realistic about the absolute necessity to prevent wasteful spending, limit borrowing and keep taxes in check. I will continue to work towards those goals as your voice in the State Capitol.

If you need additional information or assistance, please contact my legislative aide, Adam, at 860-240-8466.

State Representative | Deputy Majority Whip

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Creating Jobs

Number One Priority

One of the best ways to pull Connecticut out of the recession is through job creation.

Working with the Governor, we passed a significant new jobs bill that will help put Connecticut on the road to economic recovery.

The new job growth law creates jobs in Connecticut with:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and non-profits
- » Student loan reimbursement and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- » Personal income tax credits for investments made in new and emerging technologies

- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies, and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month per new employee
- » A Community-Technical College advisory board to assess the training needs of unemployed residents
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Reformed environmental rules that speed up the business permitting process and maintain environmental protections
- » Changes to the state's film tax credit program that will create more film production jobs in Connecticut

— Public Act 10-75

Good News for Seniors

- » Reduced seniors' cost-share for the state-funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6% – saving up to \$240 per month
- » Protected seniors' assets when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid
- » Re-opened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family caregivers
- » Made it easier for seniors to qualify for automobile insurance discounts by completing a shorter, 4-hour, driver-safety course

— Special Act 10-7



Rep. Boukus speaks at a MORE press conference.

M.O.R.E. COMMISSION

This session I served as Vice Chairwoman of the Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE).

The MORE Commission was comprised of legislators and municipal, regional, education, business, union, and non-profit representatives.

MORE introduced several pieces of legislation designed to make state and local government in Connecticut more economically competitive in the short and long terms.

Saluting Our Veterans Driver's License Renewals Extended

The driver's license of a service member on active duty outside Connecticut will remain valid beyond the expiration date. After returning to Connecticut or an honorable discharge, the service member now will have an additional 30-day period for renewal.

This new law applies if:

- » The license has not been suspended, cancelled or revoked
- » The service member was out-of-state on active duty service
- » The service member has the license and discharge or separation papers

— Public Act 10-16

Credit for Military Training

Armed Forces members are now eligible for credits or exemptions from state agencies or boards that issue licenses or certificates requiring professional training or schooling. Agencies will be prohibited from requiring those members who received applicable training, schooling or experience while serving in the Armed Forces to repeat any similar training or schooling required for licensure or certification.

The bill defines the "Armed Forces" as the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard and State Militia.

— Public Act 10-105

Vietnam War Veterans Welcome Home Day

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day will be held March 30 of each year to commemorate the return home of the last members of the Armed Forces who served in Vietnam. Each year we can now officially recognize and thank all Vietnam Veterans for their important sacrifice and service to our country, which remains a vital part of our history.

— Public Act 10-16



Rep. Boukus joins Marilyn Sevigny of Plainville as she donates handmade afghans to the Ronald McDonald House.

Health Care

This session, the legislature took steps to lower costs and enhance transparency and accountability in our health care system.

The new legislation:

- » Requires insurance companies to disclose denial rates so consumers can compare the quality of different plans
- » Extends state COBRA coverage from 18 to 30 months so laid off employees can keep their health insurance as they look for new jobs
- » Requires insurance companies to refer consumers to the state Office of the Health Care Advocate for assistance with denials of coverage
- » Improves coverage for chemotherapy patients

Important phone numbers

To reach many state services, call InfoLine	211
ConnPACE	800.423.5026
Medicare Hotline	800.633.4227
Long-Term Care	800.547.3443
Commission on Aging	860.240.5200
Medicare Advocacy	800.262.4414
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Veteran's Affairs	860.616.3600
CT Elder Services	866.218.6631
Health Care Advocate	866.466.4446

Cut along dotted line. ✂

State Representative
ELIZABETH "BETTY" BOUKUS

To receive more information on any of the following issues, e-mail, call or mail me the completed form. Make sure to give your name, address and email, and indicate which issues you're interested in.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2010 Major Acts | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN & ZIP _____

YOUR E-MAIL _____

SAVE A STAMP

Reply at my website or call my office:

www.housedems.ct.gov/Boukus
860.240.8500

