



Rep. Boukus speaks to students at the Middle School of Plainville about the National Guard's Substance Abuse Resistance Program

Public Health

Hospital Emergency Care

Nobody wants to end up in the emergency room with a critical issue requiring immediate treatment and not have a physician available who can order it.



This year, the General Assembly addressed this concern by allowing hospitals to provide emergency care without a physician's order, as long as specific guidelines have been followed.

The legislation also allows for necessary care for healthy newborns in a hospital nursery in the case of a physician's absence, and in line with hospital policy.

Respectful Language for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

The terminology used by the state to describe persons with intellectual disabilities has been updated to reflect a more respectful language. Instead of "mental retardation," these agencies will now use the term "intellectual disability" and "autism spectrum disorder" instead of "autism."

Greater Protections for Epilepsy Patients

Patients need as many tools as possible to pursue quality care. Legislation I introduced and the governor signed into law provides more rights to epilepsy patients.

The bill prevents the automatic substitution of brand name epilepsy and anti-seizure medications with generics without first obtaining the consent of the patient's doctor.

Substitutions can, on occasion, cause bad reactions and lead to other complications. Epilepsy patients can rest assured that their doctors medical decisions will be carried through at the pharmacy counter.

22nd Assembly District
Proudly Serving
Plainville,
New Britain
& Bristol

State Representative | Deputy Majority Caucus Chair
Betty Boukus

Legislative Office Building
Room 4017
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Betty.Boukus@cga.ct.gov
Capitol: 860-240-8500
Home: 860-747-3366



State Representative | Deputy Majority Caucus Chair

Betty Boukus

CAPITOL NEWS 2011

Dear Friends,

During a time of slow economic recovery, the 2011 Connecticut General Assembly took action on several bills to move our state forward.

The state budget included the reduction of state agencies to ensure a leaner more efficient government. New laws assist cities and towns. They protect services, create jobs and offer assistance for future business development. They provide funding for the clean up of contaminated and abandoned properties.

I have highlighted a few of the most recent laws taking effect. If you would like to obtain detailed information on legislation passed affecting: Seniors; Municipalities; Children; Education; Environment; Health Care; Veterans; and Insurance, please contact my office.

It has been an honor to represent you in Hartford. A special thank you to all who have shared opinions and concerns to guide my decisions!

Sincerely,

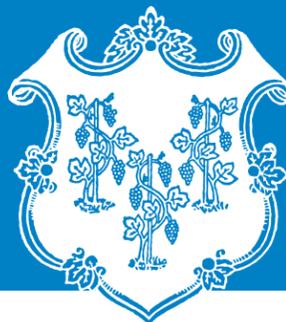
Representative Betty Boukus

sign up for email updates:
housedems.ct.gov/Boukus

find us on facebook:
[facebook.com/CThousedemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/CThousedemocrats)



Proudly Serving Plainville, New Britain & Bristol



State Representative

Betty Boukus

Proudly Serving Plainville, New Britain & Bristol

Creating Jobs - Our Top Priority

If Connecticut is to grow and prosper economically, it must emerge as a leader in the “New Economy”—one that is global, entrepreneurial, technology-focused, and innovation and knowledge-based. Therefore, we must focus on the long-term advancement of state assets, including human capital, through education and training, improvement of physical infrastructure, and by building a state economy around innovation.

This year’s session took important steps in this direction. Additional progress was made during a special session in October that focused exclusively on economic development, workforce development and job creation.

Bioscience Connecticut

This major initiative will build collaborations between public, private, not-for-profit, and academic institutions to cultivate fertile ground for success in the “New Economy” focused on innovation. It includes major investments at the UConn Health Center to make it a world class bioscience research center and the establishment of the UConn Technology Park to cultivate emerging industries and technologies. These projects will create hundreds of temporary construction jobs and many permanent bioscience jobs. This initiative has already attracted a nationally recognized laboratory to invest \$1.1 billion in a new research complex in Connecticut. I am pleased to have advocated for and received the passage of legislation for a bioscience enterprise zone in Plainville.

First Five

This program encourages economic growth by authorizing tax credits, regulatory relief and other financial incentives to the first five businesses that create at least 200 jobs within the next 24 months. Several corporations have already chosen to participate, creating hundreds of jobs.

Small Business

Since small business is the backbone of the Connecticut economy and the source of nearly all recent job creation, the state has heightened its focus on cultivating new and existing small businesses. A new law now gives small businesses access to contracting opportunities that were previously inaccessible. The state also secured a \$550,000 grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration to help increase state exports, as well as the number of small businesses that export their products.

Brownfield Remediation

I am pleased to have supported a bill that could be one of the most important job generators in Connecticut. We funded clean up and re-use of “brownfields”—contaminated and long abandoned properties that can be remediated and turned into productive and safe sites for economic development, open space or other public uses. Our cities, small towns and rural areas are all winners because these remediation projects can be a catalyst for job creation and real estate development.

Veterans

Providing a better life to those who protect us

Veterans, along with their families, have sacrificed much so we can enjoy our freedom and a democratic way of life. We appreciate and honor their service and made veterans’ issues a top priority this year.

Veterans’ bills passed this session:

- » Expand the waiver of property tax interest to include armed forces members serving in Afghanistan, as well as Iraq
- » Waive the \$20 fee for one certified copy of a veteran’s death certificate when requested by family
- » Provide disabled wartime veterans with free parking, admission, and boat access parking to state recreational areas
- » Offer veterans’ license plates to a member of the U. S. armed forces currently serving, or his or her surviving spouse
- » Allow veteran status to be on a driver’s license or identity card
- » Create a one-stop website for services available for veterans:
www.ct.gov/ctva

Public Safety

Preventing Drunk Drivers

Ignition interlock devices will be required for repeat drunk driving offenders that will prevent them from starting the car if their blood alcohol content exceeds .08 percent.

Expanding DNA Collection

DNA samples will now be collected from convicted felons after a subsequent arrest. Since felons are more likely to have committed other crimes, DNA can solve crimes with matches against a national database. Effective January 1, 2012.



State Representative Elizabeth “Betty” Boukus

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585
Home Phone 860.747.3366

www.housedems.ct.gov/Boukus

Seniors

Helping Seniors

The legislature focused on improving the quality of life for senior citizens by:

- » Allowing people to enroll in the ConnPACE plan if they are not eligible for Medicare
- » Expanding the state’s Money Follows the Person program. The program gives financial assistance to eligible individuals to move out of nursing homes, and back to their own homes
- » Requires nursing homes to establish Nursing Home Grievance Committees for residents and their families

In addition, grandparent’s rights will be the subject of a special study aimed at enhancing their ability to seek visitation rights.

Municipalities

Owners Combat Blight

Assisting building owners with low-interest loans to renovate and repair apartment buildings in distressed municipalities and comply with the State Building Code or other state or municipal health codes is a proven method to combat blight. Owner-occupants of buildings with between two and four residential units, including the unit the owner occupies, would be eligible for loan consideration.

Hiring Experienced Police Officers

We made it easier for our cities and towns facing financial and other challenges to hire experienced police officers who could be put to work immediately. The bill:

- » Allows police officers who are certified and are working at a Connecticut police department to take a position in another police department without having to repeat their basic training, as long as those officers meet the standards for entry level certification
- » Streamlines the process for our communities to be able to hire qualified and experienced police officers

www.housedems.ct.gov/Boukus
860.240.8585

