



*To my friends and neighbors:*

With the extreme sadness of the Newtown tragedy weighing on everyone, the 2013 Legislative Session was one of the most trying yet rewarding sessions I’ve ever experienced.

In the spirit of bipartisanship, we passed the strongest gun violence prevention bill in the country, along with several other landmark bills that will protect our children and address critical mental health issues while respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

My Democratic colleagues and I also delivered on other top priorities: Passing a balanced budget that does not raise taxes and helps municipalities hold the line on property taxes while protecting investments in education, job growth and consumer protection.

As the House chairman of the Housing Committee, I continued to lead the fight against foreclosures by expanding legislation that helps homeowners get the assistance they need when financial hardship threatens.

I hope this report is informative, and I’m happy to answer any questions you have about issues facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future.

*Larry B. Butler*



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**CAPITOL UPDATE 2013**

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## INCREASING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) is a quasi-state agency that creates affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families. A new law increases the amount of funds available for CHFA mortgage purchases and loans that are not guaranteed by certain state and federal entities to \$2.25 billion. This allows CHFA to provide more mortgages, create more construction jobs, and boost economic activity in the state.



## AGING IN PLACE

I've helped Connecticut's model of Aging in Place become law. Keeping our seniors in their homes is paramount to their well-being and saves money. The state has established a dedicated Department of Aging and has begun a major initiative making it easier for seniors to age in place – in their communities with families and friends.



## HOMEOWNER PROTECTION

The ability to own a home is part of the American dream, but financial hardship can threaten that dream for families, sending them to the brink of foreclosure. We worked hard this past session to protect homeowners and facilitate a fair and speedy foreclosure mediation process. This more streamlined process helps both banks and homeowners avoid foreclosure, while fulfilling bank or lender obligations. We extended the foreclosure mediation program for an additional two years.

## GRANTS FOR STROKE RESEARCH

Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. and a leading cause of adult disability. Research shows that many strokes are preventable. The Department of Public Health may now award grants for stroke research from the state's Biomedical Research Trust Fund to nonprofit tax-exempt colleges and universities or hospitals in Connecticut that conduct stroke research. Other areas of research receiving grants from the Trust Fund include those investigating heart disease, cancer, tobacco-related diseases, Alzheimer's disease, and diabetes.

## PRICE GOUGING

When catastrophic weather events affect our state, people most in need must have access to the goods and services necessary to restore normality. A new law extends the ban on excessive price increases to goods and services sold during any severe weather emergency, as declared by the governor. During one of these events, no one can sell or offer to sell a good or service for an "unconscionably excessive price."

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## COMBATING CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Childhood obesity is considered one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century. The Department of Public Health has found one-third of Connecticut's children in kindergarten and third grade are overweight or obese. This session, we passed a law to create a childhood obesity task force to study the effects of obesity on children's health. The law also takes steps in combating childhood obesity by requiring schools to provide elementary students with at least 20 minutes of physical exercise in each regular school day.

## MONEY BACK TO WATERBURY

Education Cost Sharing	\$118,012,691
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$6,034,247
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$3,999,715
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$3,043,697
School District Grant	\$2,635,515
Adult Education	\$2,312,692
Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$2,272,967
Manufacturing Transition Grant	\$1,996,831
School Transportation	\$1,506,223
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,243,340
Town Aid Roads	\$543,163
DECD Tax Abatement	\$192,466
<b>Total State Funds to Waterbury</b>	<b>\$143,793,547</b>