

STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE WORKFORCE

Dear Neighbor,

This past legislative session, I supported multiple bills that will help strengthen Connecticut's workforce and improve its business climate. Connecticut needs to keep its future workers in the state after graduation in order to compete regionally as well as across the country.

In order to meet the growing demands of manufacturers, as well as other growing industries in our region, we established the Workforce Training Authority to coordinate and fund training programs that are developed in coordination with employers. Under this model, job seekers will know if they successfully go through certain classes or programs, there will likely be a good job available when they graduate. And employers will know that applicants have learned the necessary skills to be productive employees. The concept was based in part on the work that the Eastern Workforce Investment Board has done with Electric Boat. It is my hope that over the next several years this program will increase the number of local jobs and keep Connecticut competitive with other states.

Sincerely,



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IMPROVING CONNECTICUT'S JOBS & ECONOMY



During this session, we continued our investment in the manufacturing industry by passing key legislation that will create a stronger and more educated workforce for the increasingly competitive high-tech jobs.

- PA 17-42 provides flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college courses taken in middle school, internships, and student-designated independent studies.
- Under PA 17-242, we required the state's colleges and universities develop a plan to offer an online mechatronics course. Mechatronics is a growing field that looks at repairing manufacturing equipment. According to the labor experts, this field is expected to grow good, family supporting jobs. And, with the bill passed, if Connecticut can be a leader in developing a workforce that is prepared for this field, we will be competitive in seeing those jobs come here.

I am proud to have worked on legislation that will grow our economy. I will continue to work to make sure Connecticut remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.