



2013 Review

Dear Neighbors,

Now that the 2013 legislative session is over, I wanted to reflect on some of our accomplishments and gain your feedback. While we were able to make many improvements in our state, we still faced a very difficult budget year where many important programs and services faced funding cuts. I am thankful that Seymour, Derby and Beacon Falls remained whole in the budget.

Blight has been a big issue for towns. I am happy to say that we passed Public Act 13-135 which will create a statewide task force that will develop model municipal blight ordinances and propose legislation to help municipalities to address blight more effectively.

Thank you for all your calls, letters, emails, and for taking the time to meet with me throughout the session.

Best Wishes, *Theresa*

State Representative

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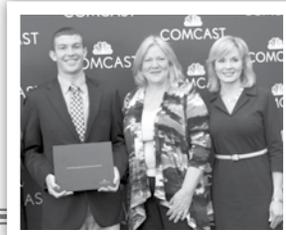


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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

The newest version of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V), which was released in May 2013, eliminates the formal diagnoses of Asperger's disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorders (both considered part of the autism spectrum). This change worries many doctors, therapists, patients and their families because it could create barriers to needed services. This law protects people previously diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders by allowing them to continue to qualify for statutorily required services on their private health insurance plans after the release from DSM-V.

EARLY VOTING

A constitutional amendment was passed this year on the issue of early voting. Now voters get to vote on this amendment on Election Day in November 2014. If passed, the amendment would change our state Constitution to allow registered voters to vote at designated polling places days before the election. The provision for no-excuse absentee balloting also means that the current restrictions on absentee balloting would be partially lifted. This is important to people who may have to work during voting hours on Election Day, or to people who simply cannot get to the polls. Voting rights are so important to our democracy and I am glad that our state is making it easier for people to exercise that constitutional right!

State Representative

Theresa Conroy

INFORMATION FOR THE 105th DISTRICT

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