



Let's Keep In Touch

Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-8585

www.housedems.ct.gov/Demicco

Dear Neighbor,

I am happy to report that despite the numerous challenges facing our state, we worked in a bipartisan manner this year to pass significant legislation benefitting the people of Connecticut.

We passed a balanced budget, without the introduction of any new taxes, without cuts to vital public services, and without cuts to municipal aid allocations. Towns rely on state aid to help keep local property taxes down.

In response to the tragedy in Newtown, we adopted landmark gun safety and school security measures, and provided for increased access to mental health treatment and support.

We expanded the Small Business Express program, renewed our commitment to higher education and research, and raised the minimum wage.

In addition, we passed legislation benefitting military veterans as well as patients with Alzheimer's Disease, provided property tax exemptions for renewable energy sources, and passed the nation's first food labeling law for genetically engineered food products.

Please contact me at any time to share your concerns.

It is my privilege to serve as your representative in the legislature.

Sincerely,

Mike Demicco
State Representative
Farmington and Unionville



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Mike Demicco

PROUDLY SERVING FARMINGTON & UNIONVILLE | 21ST DISTRICT

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DEMICCO

Farmington & Unionville



CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

STATE DOLLARS TO FARMINGTON

I worked to protect Farmington's municipal aid allocation, fulfilling the promise of both the Governor and the legislature that our town would be "held harmless" from any budget cuts. This enables the Town of Farmington to maintain its traditional low mill rate and property taxes with the state's contribution of \$5,493,324 in the 2014 FY.

BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION FUND

I fully support the state's investment in biomedical research, which significantly benefits Farmington. Along with the Governor, we created a \$200 million Bioscience Innovation Fund, which will make investments in bioscience and related firms over the next 10 years. These investments, in the form of grants, loans and loan guarantees, are expected to foster innovation in smaller companies, ultimately creating thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars in new business activity statewide. This fund complements the significant commitment the State has made to UCONN in Storrs, the UCONN Health Center in Farmington, and Jackson Labs.

SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS FUNDING

This legislation creates jobs by helping small businesses in the state through the Small Business Express program implemented in the special session of June 2012. It adds money to the Small Business Express program that provides loans and matching grants to businesses with 100 or fewer employees. Funds were moved from the Manufacturing Assistance Act program into the Small Business Express account so that more funds will be available for this very successful program that has helped many small businesses in the state to create jobs.



Mike Demicco participates in a roundtable discussion.

A PLAN TO REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

Connecticut has enacted a new Comprehensive Energy Strategy, which is our path to cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy. The plan expands access to natural gas, promotes energy efficiency, and should lower energy costs for consumers and businesses.

LOCAL AMBULANCE AND EMS SERVICE

Towns should be able to select the ambulance and EMS services that best meet their needs, both financially and functionally. As a result of legislation I proposed, a task force was created to study the process for designating and changing primary service areas for ambulances, to give towns more control over this critical medical service.

ACCESSIBILITY TO STATE BUILDINGS

All residents of Connecticut should be able to access state buildings in order to conduct business, regardless of physical disabilities. In response to residents concerns, I cosponsored legislation requiring a survey of State buildings for accessibility issues, with the goal of making each one "accessibility compliant" by the year 2021.

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD

We all have a right to know what is in the food we eat. Public Act 13-183 makes Connecticut the first state to pass a genetically modified organisms (GMO) labeling law. It responds to health and safety concerns over food ingredients, and allows consumers to know whether or not their food products contain GMOs. The labeling requirement takes effect once similar laws are enacted in four states, including at least one that borders Connecticut, with an aggregate population of 20 million or more.

MUNICIPAL OPPORTUNITIES & REGIONAL EFFICIENCIES - MORE

I am proud to have been appointed to this important bipartisan group of legislators, municipal officials and concerned citizens. We are working to make recommendations to the legislature regarding ways to streamline, combine and regionalize various functions of municipal government, to save towns money with more efficient delivery of services.

SCHOOL SECURITY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF YOUTHS

This year, we passed new laws to improve school security and established stronger standards for future school construction with a new \$15 million grant program for infrastructure upgrades. In addition, the law improves access to mental health services for children through early identification and training for teachers. We also worked to expand the ban on assault weapons, restrict the sale of large capacity ammunition magazines, and require background checks for potential firearms purchases.



Mike Demicco discussing senior issues at the State Capitol.

KEEPING SENIORS IN THEIR HOMES WITH LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

In most cases, making it easier for seniors to remain in their homes enhances their well-being, saves money and is a win-win. Connecticut's model of "Aging in Place" is now law. The state will establish partnerships with municipal leaders to encourage collaborative efforts for long-term care planning.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

There are over 70,000 Connecticut residents with Alzheimer's or related dementias, and this number is expected to grow. We created the Alzheimer's Task Force, consisting of representatives from state agencies, health care professionals, service providers, and caregivers. This group is expected to create a comprehensive strategic plan for strengthening services and support for patients and their loved ones.

VETERANS CONTACT PERSON

Streamlining access to programs and assistance for our veterans was one of my priorities this session. I am happy to have voted on a new law that requires cities and towns to appoint a town employee to serve as a veterans' service contact who can guide veterans to the appropriate local, state or federal resources.