



## State Government and the Connecticut Economy

After bold steps to put the state budget on generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) while protecting safety net programs, the General Assembly negotiated and approved bipartisan jobs legislation. Our challenge is to make the programs work, maintain accountability and grow jobs in our own community.

## Investing in the Future

I voted for the jobs package because it includes incentives for small business, workforce development and training. We also funded a First Five Brownfields program for clean-up and approved an agreement with Jackson Laboratory to come to Connecticut. The largest single line item targets manufacturing.



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# PATRICIA DILLON

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## Benefits

Manufacturing is a key component of our economy. In past years we reacted to issues raised by individual companies. Instead, the Manufacturing Assistance Act is a reliable, comprehensive response for manufacturers to devote pre-tax profits to be reinvested in their businesses.

In bioscience we already have location and top institutions of higher learning. The bioscience component is based at the University of Connecticut. UConn officials are working with Yale University and Yale Medical School to discuss cooperative ventures.



The shop floor of C. Cowles, a New Haven manufacturer. The largest line item in the jobs bill is for the Manufacturing Assistance Act program.

## Challenges Ahead

### Achievement and Gender Gap

We lag in math and science. There are two clear patterns: racial disparities in overall education outcomes, and a gender gap in math and science. The achievement gap has been well documented; we expect hard work and discussion on ways to improve education outcomes for all Connecticut students.

Preparing young women for the knowledge economy has gotten less attention in Connecticut, but early intervention is critical.

### Access to Higher Education and Training

A competitive workforce requires training. The federal government long provided loan support in medicine and the sciences for eligible students, but drastic changes are coming. This summer, Congress reduced the deficit by cutting support for Stafford Loans for graduate students. We need to plan to ensure that our own students qualify for future jobs in the sciences.

### Main Street and Small Business

Small business benefits from components of the jobs bill, but eligibility for the Main Street program is limited to small towns. I am researching legislation to include Westville Village in future efforts.

Contact my office with any questions or visit my website to sign up for email updates

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