

Senior News

ConnPACE Eligibility: If you are a Connecticut resident age 65 or older, or with a disability age 18 or older, and you are NOT eligible for Medicare, you may qualify for ConnPACE.

Home Care for Elders: Despite an earlier proposal to raise the program cost-sharing from 6 to 15 percent for people in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, the Legislature successfully set a lower rate of 7 percent.

Money Follows the Person: The program is expanded under the state budget, allowing more nursing home residents to transition back home. This program provides Medicaid funds for home care, which benefits families and saves taxpayers money.

Nursing Home: Grievance committees will be established at each facility to ensure residents' concerns are resolved in a timely manner. Two nursing home employees and one elected resident will comprise the committee.

Grandparents Rights: We will be conducting a grandparents study aimed at enhancing their ability to seek visitation rights. A task force will report its recommendations to the legislature by February 1, 2012.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: The Food Stamp program has grown, making it easier for seniors to qualify and better afford their groceries. A household of two can earn up to \$2,248 monthly and still qualify for assistance. More information is available at: 800.742.6906.

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

State Representative



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CAPITOL REPORT 2011

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If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

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CAPITOL REPORT 2011

EDUCATION

Tough on School Bullying

In response to growing concerns over increasing acts of school bullying, we passed legislation that strengthens school anti-bullying laws and requires all school employees to complete annual training programs dealing with the problem.

The bill makes the school principal responsible to investigate and address bullying and electronic cyber-bullying whether it occurs in or out-of-school.

Qualifying Substitute Teachers

The commissioner of education has been given the power to issue waivers to local school districts to employ substitute teachers who do not hold bachelor's degrees, but otherwise are qualified to work as substitute teachers.

Improving Pre-Schools

We have improved Connecticut's early childhood education system by markedly increasing the educational requirements for teachers in state-funded programs.

Expanding Early Childhood Education

An Early Childhood Education Cabinet has been created to develop a coordinated system of early childhood care and education in Connecticut.



CREATING JOBS & Fighting for working people

New Business Opportunities

A new proposal encourages the state to seek out financial service companies and banks to relocate and expand operations in Connecticut. Another would create jobs in financial institutions through a new Connecticut Finance Center. New jobs in the mortgage industry would come from better coordination of our state laws with the federal licensing and registration system for mortgage loan originators and underwriters.

Development Incentives

Governor Malloy has signed the "First Five" legislation that provides incentives for up to five business development projects that commit to creating at least 200 new jobs each. We will continue to work with Governor Malloy to utilize bonding for infrastructure improvement projects that will create jobs.

Jobs Through Health Care Savings

Last year's bill permitting municipalities to purchase prescription drug coverage through the state plan was both successful and cost effective. To provide people access to quality, affordable health care plan coverage, I supported legislation that extends opportunities for savings to cities, towns and non-profits. The state could save tens of millions of dollars, municipalities can potentially relieve pressure on local property taxes, and along with non-profits, use those savings to create jobs.

Saluting Our Veterans

Providing a better life for those who protect us

Veterans, along with their families, have sacrificed so much so we can enjoy our freedom and a democratic way of life. Veterans returning from foreign engagements need to know that we appreciate what they do for us and that means passing legislation that helps them and their families.

Veterans' bills passed this session:

- » Offer veterans' license plates to a member of the U. S. armed forces or his or her surviving spouse.
- » Allow veteran status to be on a driver's license or identity card.
- » Provide disabled wartime veterans with free parking, admission, and boat access parking to state recreational areas.
- » Expand the waiver of property tax interest for certain armed forces members in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- » Waive the \$20 fee for one certified copy of a veteran's death certificate when requested by family.
- » Create a one-stop website for services available for veterans - <http://www.ctveterans.org>

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

State Representative
LOU ESPOSITO

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find us on facebook:
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Return the attached card to me, reply at my website or call my office.

Cut along dotted line.

Please check the boxes below and indicate which important issues you would like more information about.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Reform | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job Creation | |

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