

# FOSTERING JOB CREATION

## MAKING MANUFACTURING ASSISTANCE ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

A new law I co-sponsored and strongly supported creates jobs by helping small businesses in the state through the Small Business Express program. The General Assembly added \$60 million to the program to provide both low-interest loans and matching grants to qualifying businesses with 100 or fewer employees. Moving \$60 million into the Small Business Express account will make more funds available for this very successful program, which has already helped 880 small businesses in the state to create 3,100 new jobs to date. **(PA 13-2)**

## THE COMMISSION ON CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE

As the wars of the past decade wind down, military spending in the state is likely to decrease, so the aerospace and defense sector – which currently employ 6.3% of the state's workforce – will need to diversify to meet the needs of today's economy. This new law I supported restores the 21-member Connecticut Commission on Business, renamed the Commission on Connecticut's Future. Its mission is to devise strategies to help defense-dependent businesses convert to new, nondefense products, with a focus on environmentally sustainable civilian manufacturing – and creating good jobs for Connecticut's families. **(PA 13-19)**

## SCHOOL FUNDING & MUNICIPAL AID

Education Cost Sharing	\$17,376,679
Town Aid Road	690,125
State Property PILOT	236,410
Colleges & Hosp. Pilot	928,309
LOCIP	458,106
Pequot/Mohegan	245,430
MRSA Payments	731,452
Adult Education	145,098
Special Education	770,779
<b>Total for West Hartford</b>	<b>\$21,582,388</b>

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**ANDY FLEISCHMANN**

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2013



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**MOVING EDUCATION FORWARD****REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 2012**

As House Chairman of the Education Committee, I worked hard this year to give school districts greater flexibility in implementing the 2012 Education Reform Act. Specifically, we set up an approach that would allow the new teacher evaluation program for a district to be adopted through mutual agreement between the local board of education and the local teachers – with the fallback that, if they could not come to agreement, the state model would go into place. The Assembly also specified dates for completing evaluation training before educators are evaluated under the new program. We allowed districts to apply for waivers of certain provisions, if they could demonstrate a local approach that reflected the essentials of the state law. We also improved the way in which the State Department of Education reviews and revises teacher evaluation program guidelines. We removed the requirement to have all K-3 reading teachers take a test on reading instruction, and replaced it with a survey to provide professional development for individual teachers. In sum, we made adjustments that will help ensure that school districts like ours can reasonably implement the sweeping reforms of 2012 in the next few years. **(PA 13-245)**

**Let's Keep In Touch**

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[www.housedems.ct.gov/fleischmann](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/fleischmann)**REDUCING CHILDHOOD OBESITY**

Childhood obesity is an issue across the country. The Department of Public Health has found that approximately one-third of Connecticut children in kindergarten-third grade are overweight or obese, and approximately one out of seven children is obese. To address this problem, we passed a law this year creating a childhood obesity task force to study the effects of obesity on children's health. The law also takes steps to combat childhood obesity, requiring that schools provide students with at least 20 minutes of physical exercise in each regular school day. In addition, local school boards must adopt policies that do not take away physical exercise from elementary school students as a form of discipline. **(PA 13-173)**



[Charter Oak International Baccalaureate Academy, which will be replaced with a new school thanks to Diversity School funding](#)

**DIVERSITY SCHOOL FUNDING FOR WEST HARTFORD**

West Hartford is the first town to take advantage of Diversity School Project Grants, provided by the state Department of Education for school districts that have one or more schools with disproportionately high minority student censuses. These grants, which I worked with the state Department of Education to design, reimburse participating districts for 80% of the reasonable capital costs for school renovation and construction projects. The Diversity School receiving the grant must be open to all students living in the district – as Charter Oak Academy is – and the school board must demonstrate a good faith effort to correct the disparity – which our district has done. In building a new Charter Oak International Baccalaureate Academy, West Hartford is helping the rest of the state see the very best way for a town to maintain educational excellence and student diversity across an entire school district – a distinction we can all feel good about. **(PA 12-179)**



[Andy speaking with constituent Lee Tolo at the West Hartford Senior Center](#)

**STANDING UP FOR SENIORS****COORDINATING PEOPLE'S PRESCRIPTION REFILLS**

"Prescription refill synchronization" ensures that all of a patient's prescription refills are coordinated to occur on the same day each month. This new law protects patients' drug coverage by requiring that insurance companies pay for prescriptions filled in a synchronized manner as long as the patient, doctor and pharmacist approve this medication plan. By simplifying the prescription refill process, this legislation helps small pharmacies that traditionally offer home delivery of prescriptions - allowing them to cut down overhead costs by only delivering to a specific home once a month. Most importantly, it helps patients to coordinate the pick-up and use of life-saving medications. **(PA 13-131)**

**SUPPORTING VETERANS****EXPANDING VETERANS' PROTECTIONS**

One way to thank our veterans for all they do is to make life easier for them. To that end, a new, multi-faceted law to protect veterans does many things, among them: Permitting unpaid state military duty for the state's armed forces and its retirees, and giving the state's armed forces and its retirees, when performing state military duty, the same workers' compensation protections as state employees. With this new law, we make it easier for veterans who continue to serve knowing that they're protected in circumstances where they may face risks and injuries while working on behalf of all of us. **(PA 13-25)**