



Creating Jobs

The Legislature made sure Connecticut was open for business by enacting laws that:

- » Encourage businesses to create jobs by providing tax incentives through the “First Five” program
- » Expand our reinvestments in manufacturing
- » Allow employees to earn paid time off when they or a family member is sick
- » Provide student loan reimbursements for green-tech degree holders after 2 years employment in the field
- » Create the Connecticut Airport Authority to run our airports as economic engines for the economy
- » Save our Vo-tech schools that teach the skills that put people to work.

Brownfield Remediation

Creating Jobs & Helping the Environment

I am pleased to have co-sponsored a bill that could be one of the most important job generators in Connecticut. We funded clean up and re-use of “brownfields” – contaminated and long abandoned properties that can be remediated and turned into productive and safe sites for economic development, open space or other public uses. Our cities, small towns and rural areas are all winners because these remediation projects can be a catalyst for job creation and real estate development.

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.

State Representative

Linda M. Gentile

Proudly Serving Ansonia and Derby | 104th District

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

Legislative Office Building
Room 2103
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol Phone 860.240.0553

www.housedems.ct.gov/Gentile

www.housedems.ct.gov/Gentile



LINDA M. GENTILE

State Representative

Proudly Serving Ansonia & Derby
104th House District

Dear Friend,

As we turn the corner from recession toward economic recovery, I see opportunities to build on the successful business and job growth initiatives passed by the legislature this year.

Your input helped shape my votes during the last regular session of the General Assembly. I protected the services you expect and state aid to cities and towns that support local budgets, repairs roads and helps keep your local property taxes down.

This report highlights legislation important to you. First, our highest priority was job creation and retention. Second, we saved taxpayer dollars by encouraging innovative approaches to regionalizing services. Some of our other legislative advances include; electric rate reform, and improved public safety.

I hope this report is informative. I’m happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state this year. Together we can work to create a better future for our friends and families.

Linda M. Gentile

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 104TH DISTRICT

CAPITOL REPORT 2011

Linda M. Gentile

Proudly Serving Ansonia and Derby | 104th District

CAPITOL REPORT 2011

Towns Save Money by Working Together

Saving money for cities and towns to keep local property taxes down is what drove a bill that:

- » Clarifies how municipalities can work together
- » Encourages them to retain or improve services regionally
- » Shortens and simplifies their approval process to enter interlocal agreements

Streamlining Government

To address the state budget crisis we cut costs and streamlined government. Connecticut is being run more efficiently with:

- » A 28 percent reduction and consolidation of State agencies., saving the State \$9 million
- » Upgraded technology
- » Over \$700 million in spending cuts
- » No borrowing
- » Fully funded pension obligations
- » A commitment to staying below the constitutional spending cap

Energy Reform

Like you, I've reduced my electricity use, but it's still too costly. The electric market deregulation enacted years ago hasn't worked, so this year we passed a major act to help alleviate the burden on customers. This legislation would reduce energy costs by:

- » Investing in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies in both homes and businesses
- » Reforming state agencies to provide tighter controls over your energy costs
- » Achieving long-term savings for all electric customers



Saluting Our Veterans

Providing a better life to 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

Helping Seniors

The legislature focused on improving the quality of life for our senior citizens by:

- » Allowing people to enroll in the ConnPACE plan if they are not eligible for Medicare
- » Rejecting the Governor's proposal to significantly raise cost-sharing in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders
- » Expanding the state's Money Follows the Person program
- » Establishing Nursing Home Grievance Committees at each facility

In addition, grandparent's rights will be the subject of a special study aimed at enhancing their ability to seek visitation rights.

I am proud to support these and other services for our senior citizens.



A Safer Connecticut

We strengthened Connecticut's criminal justice system by cracking down on repeat drunk drivers, making it easier to match DNA evidence to help solve crimes, strengthening our domestic violence laws, and making it easier to hire experienced police officers.

Preventing Drunk Driving

Ignition interlock devices (IID) will be required for repeat drunk driving offenders that will prevent them from starting the car if their blood alcohol content (BAC) exceeds .08 percent.

Expanding DNA Collection

DNA samples will now be collected from convicted felons after a subsequent arrest. Since felons are likely to have committed other crimes, DNA can solve crimes with matches against a national database.

Helping Domestic Violence Victims

Domestic Violence laws have been strengthened making it easier for victims to get a restraining order, giving law enforcement more tools to protect our community and improving access for victims to support services.

Hiring Experienced Police Officers

We made it easier for our cities and towns facing financial and other challenges to hire experienced police officers who could be put to work immediately. The bill:

- » Allows police officers who are certified and are working at a Connecticut police department to take a position in another in state police department without having to repeat their basic training, as long as those officers meet the standards for entry level certification
- » Streamlines the process for our communities to be able to hire qualified and experienced police officers

