



Representative Gentile is visited by students from Ansonia's Prendergast School in the house chamber.

Dear Friend,

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of continuing to serve as your State Representative. The 2013 legislative session was a success. This summary gives a brief update about some of the issues we addressed during this session. I hope you enjoy it and find it informative.

This was a tough budget year, but I am pleased that both Ansonia and Derby maintained our state grant funding. I am particularly proud we removed an "Energy Auction" proposal in the budget that could have increased energy prices for seniors.

Additionally, small business owners will be able to take advantage of increased investment in the Small Business Express Program. As the House Environment Committee Chair, I am pleased the State of Connecticut was the first to pass legislation on GMO labeling.

Again, it is my distinct honor to serve you as your State Representative and I do not take it for granted. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Best regards to you and your family.

LINDA M. GENTILE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**LINDA M. GENTILE**  
PROUDLY SERVING ANSONIA & DERBY | 104TH DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
Capitol: 800-842-8267  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Gentile](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Gentile)

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
Permit No. 3937



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Linda M. Gentile**  
PROUDLY SERVING ANSONIA & DERBY | 104TH DISTRICT



# CAPITOL UPDATE 2013

Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
Capitol: 800-842-8267  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Gentile](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Gentile)





## Connecticut's Clean Energy Goals

### PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Electricity costs for Connecticut businesses are among the highest in the nation and encouraging clean energy projects and the use of renewable energy resources through municipal tax exemptions is one way to help reduce those costs. Providing tax abatements for clean energy projects helps businesses remain competitive. Municipalities can also use the tax exemptions to recruit and retain businesses, furthering economic development.

### ELECTRIC SUPPLIER DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

This new law makes sure consumers are aware of electric rate changes by requiring suppliers to notify residential customers of proposed rate changes 30 to 60 days before their fixed rate term expires.

### ENERGY AUCTION

After hearing from so many of you regarding the proposed energy auction, which would have sold off standard offer customers, I became a leader in the fight to remove it from the budget. Connecticut energy costs are already too high, and this one-time revenue gain would have pushed those costs even higher.

## Small Business Express Program



Representative Gentile speaks with a constituent during the Step-Up event.

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.



Representative Gentile participates in the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut (UPFFA of CT) Fire Ops 101 Day (April 15th) at the City of Hartford Fire Department Training Center.

## Access Health Connecticut

Starting October 1, 2013 Access Health CT will be Connecticut's new health insurance marketplace. It offers individuals, families and small employers a range of health care coverage as a part of the new federal health reform law requiring states to have a health insurance exchange by January 1, 2014. Access Health CT will now be where people and small businesses can go to get help with their health insurance costs if they qualify. The first open enrollment period begins October 1, 2013 and ends March 31, 2014. Access Health CT was created to make health care coverage accessible to all Connecticut residents. If you would like more information about this program feel free to visit their website at [www.accesshealthct.com](http://www.accesshealthct.com).

## Improving Quality of Life

### SYNCHRONIZING PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

This legislation helps seniors and small pharmacies by simplifying the prescription refill process. The law:

- Requires insurance providers to allow for refills of multiple prescription medications at the same time.
- Helps small pharmacies cut down on overhead by only delivering to specific houses once a month.

### LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

This legislation encourages local community leaders to address the aging services needs of their area.

Connecticut's model of "Aging in Place" keeps our seniors in their homes, is paramount to their well-being and saves money. The state will establish partnerships with municipal leaders to encourage collaborative efforts for long term care planning.



Governor Malloy joins Representative Gentile and other Elected Officials at an Expanded Recycling Facility April 2013.

## Genetically Modified Food (GMO's)

This law makes Connecticut the first state to pass a genetically modified organisms labeling law. By requiring foods to be labeled under certain circumstances, this legislation would allow consumers to know whether or not their foods contain GMOs then make individual and informed decisions about whether or not to consume them. The requirement becomes effective once similar laws are enacted in four states, including one that borders Connecticut, with an aggregate population totaling 20 million.

## Mattress Recycling

A new law establishes a mattress stewardship program to harvest discarded mattresses and keep them out of landfills. It requires producers to join a nonprofit mattress recycling council, which will develop a management plan that will relieve the existing financial burden of disposal from municipalities, creating green business opportunities.

## HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

<b>INFOLINE</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>CT Veterans Affairs</b>	<b>1-866-928-8387</b>
<b>Dept. of Social Services</b>	<b>1-800-842-1508</b>
<b>Energy Assistance</b>	<b>860-560-5800</b>
<b>Healthcare Advocate</b>	<b>1-866-466-4446</b>
<b>Labor Department</b>	<b>203-579-6271</b>