

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LINDA M. GENTILE

PROUDLY SERVING ANSONIA AND DERBY | 104TH HOUSE DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share this update on the recently concluded legislative session. Each year brings a new set of challenges and the 2014 session was no different. The need to encourage economic growth, help working families, and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state, was clear.

Meeting these priorities while also adopting a balanced budget with no new taxes took hard work, but I am happy that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals. Working in a bipartisan manner, we were able to increase funding for education and enable more children to attend pre-school. We also made additional investments in job creation programs such as STEP-UP, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed.

Recognizing the struggle of many working families, we raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2017. By helping thousands of minimum wage earners, hundreds of millions of dollars will pour into our state economy. Spurring more economic development was also a priority that we met by helping United Technologies Corp. upgrade and expand its aerospace research and manufacturing facilities across the state including Sikorsky Aircraft. This will help their suppliers and related businesses.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful. Feel free to call or email me for any reason — legislative or otherwise. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

Sincerely,

State Representative Linda Gentile

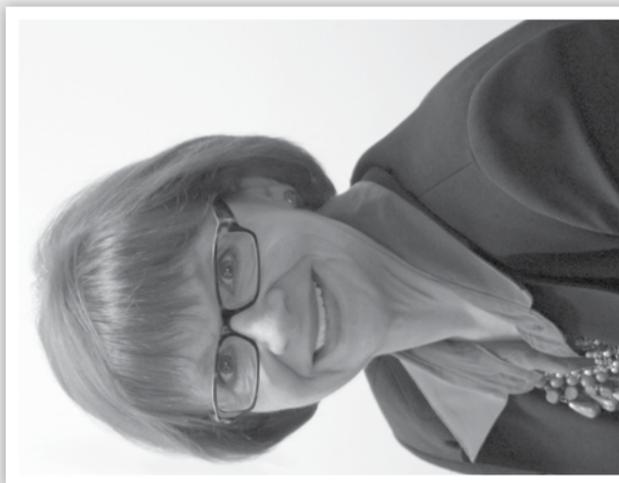
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CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

HIGHER EDUCATION



Rep. Gentile reads to Ms. Amy Matott's 1st grade classroom at Prendergast School in Ansonia.

- Established the reporting of every incidence of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or stalking in a Campus Crime Report. It involves partnering with the community in prevention and awareness of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking by establishing campus resource teams which will respond to incidents
- Created CHET Baby Scholars Program that offers one-time incentives to families who open a CHET 529 savings account by the child's first birthday, or first year after adoption and families that contribute \$150 in the first 4 years will receive a one-time match of \$150
- Encouraged education for adults with the Go Back to Get Ahead program. Students who dropped out of college before earning a bachelor's degree will be eligible to take three free courses at a Connecticut state college or community college
- Extended the hours of operations at various Technical Schools allowing students longer hours of technical studies in the Manufacturing Industry field of work

EDUCATION

- Created the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) as the lead agency and oversight authority for early care and education of young children
- Established opportunities for the creation of new pre-school programs and additional pre-school slots for existing school-readiness programs
- Provided high school and college students with additional training and learning grants for apprenticeships to give students real work environment experiences

WORKING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- Incrementally increased the hourly minimum wage to \$10.10 to give more financial security to working individuals and families and pump more money into our local economy
- Allowed qualified advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to practice independently, creating additional access to health care
- Passed two laws aimed at increasing awareness and prevention of injuries and illnesses among student athletes related to concussions and sudden cardiac arrest

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BUSINESS AND JOBS

- Created the Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund for targeted industries to expand facilities and develop new products
- Allowed large manufacturers to convert unclaimed research and development tax credits into tax refunds or offsets for purchasing machinery and equipment, developing new products and hiring and training new employees
- Created the Manufacturing Reinvestment Account Program to assist small manufacturers fund capital investments and train their workforce

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Protected electricity consumers from electric suppliers' coercive and deceptive sales practices and established a consumers "Bill of Rights"
- Established the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) redeveloping Connecticut's Solid Waste Management System and increasing recycling rates
- Established the Connecticut Water Planning Council to develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan for the supply, distribution, quality, protection, conservation and oversight of our state's water supply

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

- Designated the new and dangerous trend known as the "knock-out" game a Class D Felony
- Established restrictions on the use of electronic defense weapons, such as tasers
- Established standardized procedures for medical professionals and pharmacists to use when dispensing drugs that cannot be substituted with a generic version



SENIORS

- Expanded the Small Nursing Home Pilot Program allowing more seniors to move away from traditional institutional nursing homes into smaller, more personal and welcoming facilities
- Authorized a study of private funding sources for home and community based care for the elderly and those afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease
- Lifted the suspension and re-opened the Renters Rebate Program providing partial rental payment and utility rebates to the elderly and disabled

VETERANS

- Established the Military Occupational Specialty Taskforce to develop guidelines for granting credit for military experience or qualifications allowing veterans better access to employment opportunities
- Created penalties and fines for fraudulent representation of military honors or service
- Granted 10 days of excused absence to any school aged child of military personnel being deployed to combat zones

Useful Numbers

Infoline	211
CT Tax Department	860-297-5962
CT Veterans Affairs	860-616-3600
Telebenefits line (for filing unemployment claims)	203-230-4939
Healthcare Advocate	1-866-466-4446
State Department on Aging	1-866-218-6631
Consumer Protection	1-800-842-2649
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1-800-833-7318

