



Rep. Sanchez, Rep. Lopes, Rep. Tercyak and Bob welcome Tobí Oni-Orisan, Youth Governor of the YMCA Youth & Government Program.

Bringing Your State Tax Dollars Home

Despite the difficulties surrounding the 2012-2013 biennial budget I am proud to have not only maintained, but increased funding for Danbury. While we did cut \$900 million from the biennial budget, I am committed to preserving the safety net our community depends on and keeping property taxes down.

Danbury Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Aid

Educational Cost Sharing	\$22,857,956
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,262,402
Priority School Grant	\$2,259,009
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$1,289,278
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$921,330
School Transportation	\$745,686
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$550,428
Town Aid Roads	\$421,913
Summer School Accountability	\$233,675
Adult Education	\$228,041
Extended School Building Hours	\$201,815
Total State Funds to Danbury	\$31,971,533
Total State Funds to Danbury in 2012	\$31,550,640
Increase Funding From 2012-2013	\$420,893

Let’s Keep In Touch

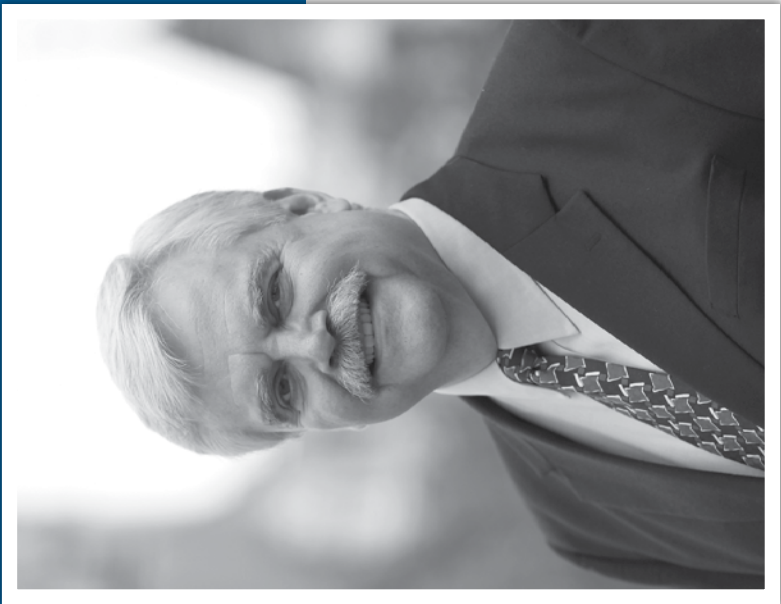
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State Representative

BOB GODFREY

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Dear Neighbor,

From jobs to education to improved response to natural disasters, the legislature helped citizens across our state in many ways in 2012.

It started last October when we passed comprehensive, bipartisan jobs legislation that invested hundreds of millions of dollars in small businesses, gave firms hiring incentives, aligned education programs with jobs-in-demand, encouraged entrepreneurship and innovation, and eliminated red-tape for growing companies.

This spring, we balanced a budget by keeping our funding promise to cities and towns without raising taxes. Historic changes were made to our educational system so our children can succeed. We made it easier for people to exercise voting rights and demanded that utility companies respond better when storms and crises hit.

Along the way, we gave new hope to those suffering from debilitating illnesses by legalizing medical marijuana and helped children with special needs by improving Individualized Education Plans and creating a study on workforce development, training and employment of young adults with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.

I am proud to have supported a budget that includes \$31,584,328 in state funding for Danbury, including funding for education and vital services to help stabilize our property taxes.

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

Sincerely,

Bob

State Representative

BOB GODFREY

Danbury | www.housedems.ct.gov/Godfrey



Bob, Dr. Robert Schreibman and Dr. Michael Perl announced the 5th Annual Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic in Danbury this past March.

Consumer Protection

Storm Response and Power Outages

In the aftermath of the October Nor’easter and Tropical Storm Irene that left much of the state without power, the legislature passed sweeping reforms (Public Act 12-148) to better prepare for future severe storms and avoid wide-spread and lengthy loss of utility service, where:

- Utilities will be held to high performance standards performance standards for emergency preparation and response.
- Noncompliance could result in penalties of up to 2.5 percent of an electric or gas company’s annual distribution revenue, approximately \$25 million in the case of Connecticut Light & Power.

Price Gouging and Pain at the Pump

Skyrocketing gasoline prices are a result of global factors such as growing demand from expanding economies like China, turmoil in the Middle East and oil market speculators. Faced with this dilemma, the legislature acted in a bipartisan manner (Public Act 12-4) to be a part of the solution, by capping the state petroleum gross receipts tax (GRT) on motor fuels and enacting new price gouging laws to protect consumers from oil companies and gasoline dealers that try to exploit abnormal market conditions for profit.



Job Growth

Jobs Are Priority #1

We continued the state’s commitment to job growth and economic recovery with new legislation during special session that expands the Small Business Express Program, allowing an estimated 3,600 additional businesses to have access to state funding. The program allows small businesses to access much-needed funding for capital investments and hiring. In addition, the bill:

- Establishes the Unemployed Armed Forces Member STEP-UP (Subsidized Training and Employment Program) with grants to subsidize a business’s cost of hiring unemployed veterans during their first 180 days (about six months) on the job.
- Creates the “Connecticut Made” and “Connecticut Treasures” programs to promote products made in Connecticut and promote the state’s cultural, educational and historic attractions.
- Develops a plan to allow the state to give preferential incentives and economic development assistance to companies that will relocate jobs from overseas to Connecticut.

Health Care

Hospice Care Improves

With just two licensed hospices in the state, this new law permits more hospices to follow federal standards, giving smaller hospice facilities the opportunity to provide high quality services that allow patients to stay closer to family and friends. Public Act 12-140, which I co-sponsored, will help our state to ensure that residents have access to health care services across the full continuum of care.

Preserving Medicare Eligibility

This legislation ensures thousands of seniors and people with disabilities could continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles. We raised the income limit for the MSP to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1. It would have been a tragic irony if a welcome increase in Social Security made some Connecticut residents ineligible for these Medicare benefits.

I am proud to support these and other initiatives for our seniors. After working throughout their lives and contributing to society, seniors deserve our respect and assistance to help them enjoy their later years.



Bob and Rep. Giegler took part in a groundbreaking for the Pilot Plan Replacement Building at the Boehringer Ingelheim campus.

Education

Education Reform

Our education initiative provides new support to help turn around underperforming schools. The education reform package has long-term implications for our children and for the state’s economic well-being. The better we prepare children for the 21st Century workforce, the stronger we’ll make Connecticut’s economy. Public Act 12-116:

- Includes more funding for school-based health centers and family resource centers.
- Recognizes the critical importance of early childhood education by underwriting 1,000 school readiness slots for preschoolers and funding initiatives to improve early reading success.
- Creates the Commissioner’s Network, to provide the intensive supports and interventions needed to turn around 25 of the most chronically low-performing schools.
- Gives the state commissioner of education the needed authority to develop or modify plans with teachers and parents at “turnaround” schools.



Bob was honored for his dedicated and loyal efforts by the Connecticut Firefighters Association

Reducing Domestic Violence

We made great progress in helping families affected by domestic violence in recent years, but the problem persists in our communities. Building on earlier successes, this year we strengthened the state’s laws (Public Act 12-114) to better protect victims, hold abusers accountable, and give new tools to law enforcement. The 2012 bill provides police officers the tools they need to better identify and respond to domestic violence requires courts to share protective and restraining orders with schools that victims attend; and extends length of restraining orders from six months to one year from the current six months. With increasing numbers of people using texting as their primary way of communicating, the bill also charges the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications with conducting a study to determine the feasibility of developing a 911 texting system.



Bob reviews an amendment at his desk in the House chamber.