

Jobs Priority #1

I am pleased to announce passage of a comprehensive jobs bill that will boost Connecticut’s ability to grow and retain jobs. Incentives for small business, cutting red tape, incentives for innovation, economic development tools and workforce development and training are all addressed in the bill. One of the key components is the Small Business Express Package which will make \$50 million/year available to small businesses through incentives, grants and loans. Another vital component is aligning programs at vo-tech schools, community colleges and universities with high demand job needs of employers, including the state’s manufacturing technology companies.

Other components of the jobs bill include:

- Consolidating and increasing the tax credit for new hires.
- Building innovation centers in key cities and investing in innovative ventures.
- A second “First Five” program investing in companies that are adding jobs.
- Cutting the business entity tax.
- Streamlining the business permitting process.
- Remediating old industrial sites/brownfields.
- Workforce development, education and training.
- Allowing the Airport Authority to designate new Development Zones.
- Investments in roads and bridges.
- Replenishing the Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA).
- Main Street commercial centers improvement initiative.

In addition, the legislature signed off on Jackson Laboratory’s plan to build a \$1.1 billion research facility at the UConn Health Center campus in Farmington. The State of Connecticut will invest \$291 million and Jackson Laboratory will raise the balance of \$860 million for the project. According to the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the project is expected to create over 660 positions in the field of genomic medicine and the biosciences at Jackson Laboratory in Farmington. DECD estimates more than 4,600 bioscience jobs would be generated through spin-off companies, and another 2,000 would be added to local service and area retail stores. The project would yield more than 840 construction jobs as well.

District News

- I’m pleased that \$180,000 in state bond funds have been made available to Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill to enhance the Park’s Discovery Room. The renovations at Dinosaur State Park will benefit the thousands of students and adults alike who visit the park each year.
- A Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant has been awarded to Wethersfield in the amount of \$500,000 for improvements to 111 acre Mill Woods Park . The improvements include a new parking area for the little league field, park road reconstruction and beach drainage improvements.
- A state grant for \$1 million has been awarded to the Town of Newington to help pay for and preserve part of Cedar Mountain as open space.

State Representative

Antonio “Tony” Guerrero

Proudly Serving Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield | 29<sup>th</sup> District

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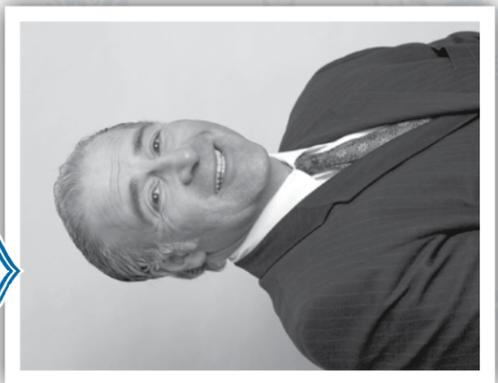
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State Representative | 29<sup>th</sup> District

Dear Neighbor,

The 2012 session of the General Assembly was “a truly historic session,” and brought exciting changes to education, elections, utility storm response and the state’s blue laws. One of the hallmarks of the 2012 session was the passage of a fiscal year 2013 budget adjustment bill that did not raise taxes. A year ago, we dealt with a shortfall in excess of \$3 billion – 15 percent of our total budget.

This year, the House passed a budget adjustment that keeps appropriations under the state’s spending cap and continues our investments in education and job growth. 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 citizens.

Best wishes,

State Aid for Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Aid	
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$1,488,922
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$1,895,383
Town Aid Roads	\$575,424
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$513,153
School Transportation	\$327,176
Adult Education	\$67,618
Educational Grant Funding	\$24,006,264
<b>Total State Funds to Rocky Hill, Wethersfield &amp; Newington</b>	<b>\$28,873,940</b>

# Antonio “Tony” Guerrera

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If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

Capitol Phone **860-240-8585**

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## CAPITOL REPORT 2012

### Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for hundreds of projects at any point in time. As Chairman of the Transportation Committee, I am proud that we enacted legislation to provide tools for the DOT to pursue certain transportation projects faster and more efficiently, saving the taxpayers money.

Design Build is an alternate method of project delivery in which the design and construction phases of a project are combined into one contract, allowing for certain aspects of design and construction to run concurrently, providing for significant time savings. Another tool, Construction Manager at Risk-Guaranteed Maximum Price, provides DOT with the ability to hire a contractor as well as initiate cost controls by setting a maximum bottom line for a project.

### Infrastructure Funding

The legislature increased by \$90 million a bond authorization for improving, rehabilitating, and replacing state bridges. It also authorizes up to \$30 million in bonds for the town-aid road grant program.

### Education

A sweeping education reform package signed into law by Governor Dannel P. Malloy takes a number of much needed steps to turn around Connecticut’s lowest-performing schools, and provides Rocky Hill with new funding for educational programs.

- Rocky Hill will receive \$125,935 more for schools, and is eligible for new school-based health centers and early education slots. This gives our children the support they need and deserve. This historic law will improve schools around the state, while protecting teachers’ rights.
- The law creates 1,000 new pre-K School Readiness seats, focused in high need, low performing communities. It also creates a pilot program to enhance literacy for students in kindergarten through third grade.
- A Commissioner’s Network is also established, which provides the intensive supports and interventions needed to turn around 25 of the most chronically low-performing schools in Connecticut. It grants the state commissioner of education the needed authority to develop or modify plans with teachers and parents at “turnaround” schools, while respecting collective bargaining rights.
- Ten new Family Resource Centers and 20 new or expanded School Based Health Centers will be set up in needy districts. It also increases funding for existing Family Resource Centers.
- The law reforms the teacher tenure system by increasing the frequency of teacher evaluations and linking tenure to evaluations. It also requires the commissioner to administer an evaluation pilot program in 8 to 10 districts for the 2012-2013 school year.
- There are also funding increases for vocational/technical and vocational/agricultural schools, charter and magnet schools.

### Emergency Response

Utility companies were not prepared for a major storm like Hurricane Irene which hit Connecticut hard. We passed legislation to force utility companies appropriately plan for storms and respond to their customers in a suitable timeframe. If the utilities do not restore power in a timely manner, they will be held accountable and financial penalties will be imposed.

The bill requires telecommunications companies to report annually their ability to provide backup power to towers or antennas in the state. The state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection must now develop procedures to make sure roads are cleared for first responders.

The legislation also establishes a \$15 million micro-grid and loan pilot program to support local distributed electricity generation at hospitals, police and fire stations, prisons, water treatment plants and other critical locations.

### Veterans

#### Desecrating Veterans’ Memorials

Veterans’ memorials are a testament to the valor exhibited and the sacrifices made by the men and women that have served our country. I was outraged by recent thefts and vandalism of veterans’ memorials throughout Connecticut. That’s why I supported a new law increasing penalties for desecrating veterans’ memorials beyond the monetary value of what was vandalized.

#### CT Veterans Charity Network

Fraudulent charity groups often misrepresent veterans, trying to take advantage of our good will toward those who serve our country. One way to help stop donations to these fraudulent groups is to create a legitimate charities list on the Department of Veteran’s Affairs website, and I, along with many legitimate veterans organizations, fought for legislation to get that done.

#### Veterans Job Match

Veterans Job Match is a new program offering unemployed veterans with manufacturing experience the opportunity to be matched with manufacturing or trade businesses looking for workers. To learn more and apply, please visit: [www.ctdol.state.ct.us/VetJobMatch.htm](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/VetJobMatch.htm) Questions? Contact Victoria Satagaj at [vsatagaj@ccat.us](mailto:vsatagaj@ccat.us) or 860-282-4908.

#### Disabled Veteran Parks Pass

Lifetime park passes providing free admission to all state parks and forests are available free of charge to Connecticut veterans with a service connected disability. Veterans may apply by sending a photocopy of their current Connecticut driver’s license or other legal proof of residency, and Veterans Administration (VA) Card or VA benefits letter indicating the service connected disability to: DEEP Disabled Veteran Pass, State Parks Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127.

#### Veterans History Project

Would you like to participate in the Veterans History Project by having your oral history recorded and archived? As an archive partner with the Library of Congress, Central CT State University assists in preserving the firsthand accounts of history for future generations from the men and women who witnessed and lived it. For more information please call 860 832-2976 or check out the Project’s website at [www.ccsu.edu/vhp](http://www.ccsu.edu/vhp).

