

Creating An Airport Authority
This law moves administration of Bradley International Airport and the state’s five smaller airports including Windham, from the State Department of Transportation to a public-private authority. By enabling these airports to operate under a leadership structure that is flexible, they will become economic engines for the regions they serve. *PA 11-84*

Connecticut’s Energy Future
We helped lower energy costs and your electric rates by creating the new Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). We now have a single state agency focused on the related issues of energy and the environment. The bill seeks to help create industries, jobs and businesses necessary to support a clean energy economy for the future. *PA 11-80*

Cleaning up Brownfields & Creating Jobs
I am pleased to have sponsored a bill that could be one of the most important job generators in Windham and Connecticut. Now funding is available to clean up brownfields, contaminated and often abandoned properties, transforming them into productive and safe sites for economic development, open space or other public uses. *PA 11-141*



Rep. Johnson, and Rep. Bob Megna host Dr. Pai-Jung Huang and international breast cancer experts at the Capitol.

Breast Cancer Screening
Connecticut has become a leader in requiring coverage of mammogram screenings. This year I introduced legislation to expand insurance coverage of breast cancer screening using three dimensional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Women at risk with dense breast tissue and a family history of breast cancer or with a doctor’s recommendation based on symptoms may now have the MRI procedure covered. *PA 11-67*

State Representative

Susan Johnson

Proudly Serving Windham | 49th District

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CAPITOL REPORT 2011



Dear Neighbor,

The 2011 Legislative session was eventful. Tough economic times made the budget process difficult. We made the hard decisions to create a responsible budget while preserving programs that are important to our families and our community. This fall we convened a special session to focus on jobs, where I worked on legislation to help small businesses and create jobs.

Additionally, I am proud of my work to keep property taxes down by preserving important state aid to Windham.

Windham Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Aid	
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$12,691,319
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$25,078,913
PILOT: Manufacturing, Machinery & Equipment	\$369,559
Town Aid Roads	\$613,175
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,991,022
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$8,767,748
Adult Education	\$2,017,281
School Transportation	\$1,604,389
Educational Grant Funding	\$187,974,890
Special Master Funding	\$1,000,000
Windham Priority School District Amounts FY11	
Priority School District	\$1,170,737
Extended School Hours	\$64,186
School Accountability - Summer School	\$71,412
School Readiness	\$1,136,495
Total State Funds for Windham	\$33,406,153

While much of the legislature’s attention this session was focused on job creation and the budget, we were able to pass many other important laws that will benefit Windham residents. Some are detailed in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Susan Johnson

Proudly Serving Windham | 49th District

State Representative Susan Johnson

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

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Rep. Johnson congratulates Ava Rose Molnar on receiving the Girl Scout's Gold Star Award.

Windham Special Master

I wrote the legislation that allows the State Department of Education to appoint a "special master" to intervene and run the Windham school system to stabilize the district's finances and boost student performances. An additional \$2 million has also been allocated over the next two years for Windham schools. The special master is required to work with the Windham Board of Education and superintendent, and is responsible for overseeing school operations including:

- Managing and allocating the schools' districts' funds
- Implementing a model curriculum, textbooks, materials and supplies
- Assigning and transferring teachers and principals
- Requiring extra training for staff *PA 11-61*

Windham Revaluation Delayed

The Board of Finance and Board of Selectman, can elect to delay Windham's revaluation that is scheduled to occur prior to the 2012 assessment year. *PA 11-239*

Windham RT 203 Railroad Gates

Having railroad gates at the P&W Railroad crossing eliminates a safety hazard and improves transit time for the upgraded freight rail line from less than 10mph to 40mph. This change may be the beginning of new job opportunities and economic growth along this rail line in Windham.

CAPITOL REPORT 2011

Better Health Care Access & Affordability

Health care benefits are one of the largest expenses faced by individuals and employers. When municipalities save money on health care, those savings are passed down to property taxpayers. We enacted an important new law that protects and increases access to quality, affordable health care.

The Connecticut Health Care Partnership offers the state health insurance coverage to municipalities and to non-profit organizations. Taking advantage of the increased bargaining power and reduced administrative costs associated with the state plan will allow municipalities and non-profits to provide quality care with less cost. *PA 11-58*

Improving Insurance Coverage

As Vice-Chair of the Insurance Committee, I fought to require individual and group health insurance plans to:

- Provide coverage for bone marrow testing *PA 11-88*
- Increase yearly coverage of ostomy-related supplies from \$1,000 to \$2,500 *PA 11-204*



Rep. Johnson announces \$8.3 million state investment for Windham Hospital.

Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Working Together

I sponsored legislation making it easier for towns to work together to save money by permitting municipalities to enter into agreements with other towns. Spreading costs among multiple towns saves money and reduces property taxes. *PA 11-99*

Combating Blight

Owner occupants of buildings in distressed municipalities with between two and four residential units are eligible for loan consideration. These low-interest loans will assist building owners with building renovations and repairs to help them comply with the state building code or state and municipal health codes to combat blight. *PA 11-201*

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Rep. Johnson with students and staff of Windham Technical High School.

Education

Even in tough economic times we were able to protect 100% of core funding for our schools. As a member of the education committee I am proud that we found smart and responsible ways to better our educational system to foster an environment that is conducive to learning because of the following:

- Kept critical education funding intact *PA 11-6*
- Protected Vo-Tech schools from harmful cuts that would undermine vocational-technical education *PA 11-48*
- Formed an Achievement Gap Task Force *PA 11-85*
- The Speaker of the House formed an English Language Learners' Task Force

Growing New Businesses & Creating Jobs in CT

The Majority Leader's Job Growth Roundtable legislation contains incentives for entrepreneurship, innovation, infrastructure enhancements, and education, including:

- Student loan reimbursements for green technology degrees
- Expanded tax credits, property tax exemptions and grants for investing in business growth
- A manufacturing reinvestment fund for tax preferred purchase of machinery, equipment, and facilities to enable small manufacturers to grow
- An innovation network that increases corporate-sponsored research and establishes a linkage with our universities to start-up technology companies *PA 11-140*

Saluting Our Veterans

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.

Veteran bills passed this session to help veterans and their families:

- Created a one-stop website for services available for veterans *PA 11-3*
- Expanded the waiver of property tax interest for certain armed forces members in Iraq and Afghanistan *PA 11-62*
- Provided disabled wartime veterans with free parking, admission, and boat access parking to state recreational areas *PA 11-68*
- Offered veteran license plates to members of the U.S. armed forces or his or her surviving spouse and allow veteran status to be on a driver's license or identity card *PA 11-56*

