



Legislative Update for Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Rockfall

This year we developed legislation to help save and create jobs for people in Connecticut, while focusing on the importance of energy reform and new technology industries. In addition, we were successful in passing major reforms to address domestic violence.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on these programs or any other issue.

-Matt Lesser



YOUR REPRESENTATIVE *in the* CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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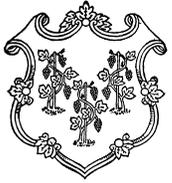
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CREATING JOBS

Since the beginning of the recession in 2008, Connecticut has lost more than 101,000 jobs – 6 percent of the state’s total workforce. Action was needed, and we took it. Working with Republicans and the Governor, we passed a significant new jobs bill that will help put Connecticut on the road to economic recovery. The bipartisan jobs bill provides:

- Tax credits of up to \$200 per month for new employees in small businesses
- Up to \$500,000 loans for small business and nonprofits
- Student loan reimbursement for careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- Personal income tax credits of 25 percent for investments in new technology industries and up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing to businesses developing innovative concepts
- Sales tax exemption for supplies and fuel in renewable energy industries

LOWER ELECTRIC RATES AND CLEAN ENERGY

The Governor vetoed landmark energy legislation which would have led to lower electricity rates, more competition and a cleaner, greener energy future for Connecticut. I will advocate for these reforms again next session. This legislation included:

- 15% reduction in electricity rates
- Investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and green jobs
- Consumer protections from unscrupulous marketing practices targeting seniors



On May 12, Governor Rell signed the new jobs bill at Pegasus Manufacturing in Middletown.

RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sadly, it seems hardly a week goes by that we don’t hear of a tragic incident of family violence in our state. The legislature responded with the most sweeping reforms to our domestic violence laws in the past 25 years. I was proud to support legislation that:

- Trains educators to recognize and respond to warning signs of domestic violence
- Provides relief to victims who terminate their housing rental agreements to protect their safety
- Increases staffing at domestic violence shelters
- Creates a pilot GPS program to monitor offenders
- Improves enforcement of protective orders
- Expands dedicated domestic violence court dockets
- Improves employment protections for victims
- Permits prosecutors to consider older and out of state crimes for persistent family violence offenders

