

# LOOKING OUT FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

## Statewide Education Reform

Working with parents and educators, we made sure that this year's historic education reform provide new support to help turn around underperforming schools and prepare our children for the 21st Century by:

- Expanding pre-school programs—1,000 new seats for children
- Strengthening of early reading assessments and programs
- Improving teacher evaluation procedures
- Creating a "Commissioner's Network" to turn around 25 of Connecticut's lowest performing schools
- Increasing funding for school-based health centers and family resource centers

## Children with Special Needs

We strengthened the state's special education law by establishing a Deaf Child Bill of Rights to help address the individual needs of students, including developing language and communication plans for students who are deaf or hearing impaired. Other changes to the state's special education law include enhancing communication between schools and parents, and expanding training for teachers.

## All Children Reading

Understanding that reading is the foundation of learning and key to academic success, we created a pilot program to enhance literacy for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. It includes an intensive intervention strategy for students reading below proficiency.



Rep. Stallworth, Lt. Gov. Wyman and Rep. Miller at the Governor's Residence.

## Infant Heart Screening

Newborns will now be screened for congenital heart defects since failure to detect heart disease early can result in developmental delays. All health care institutions must perform the simple, inexpensive and non-invasive procedure starting in 2013.



Dear Neighbor,

From jobs to education to improving the response to natural disasters, we helped citizens in many ways this year.

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

This spring, we balanced a budget that invests in jobs and education while maintaining full state funding for municipalities.

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 hit. We repealed a death penalty law that wasn't working, and further protected victims of domestic violence.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. Together we can create a better future for our families.

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**Creating Jobs**

Growing jobs is key. That’s why I supported Summer Jobs for Youth, the CT Made Program to promote products from hometown employers and the Small Business Express program which offers loans and grants to local companies, like the Stamford Insurance Group, Inc. (SIG). SIG was awarded a grant to help expand.

**Putting People Back To Work**

We are providing tax credits to firms that hire new workers. We expanded job creation tax credits to \$500—and credits for hiring the unemployed disabled or veterans are \$900.

**Workforce Development**

To help ensure Connecticut’s workforce matches the high-demand job needs of manufacturing and IT employers, we enhanced manufacturing technology programs at Connecticut’s vo-tech, community colleges and universities.

**First Five**

NBC Sports took advantage of the state’s tax credit program and will consolidate its Northeast operations in Stamford—creating 450 jobs.

**Safer Highways**

This year we expanded the state’s “move over” law that requires drivers move-over one lane if an emergency vehicle or maintenance vehicle with flashing lights is parked on the shoulder of any state highway. The expanded law requires drivers to move over on two lane highways as well as for road maintenance vehicles and tow trucks.

**Price Gouging at the Pump**

Faced with skyrocketing gas prices, the legislature capped the state petroleum gross receipts tax (GRT) on motor fuels and enacted new price gouging laws to protect consumers from oil companies and gasoline dealers that try to exploit abnormal market conditions for profit.

**Combating Housing Discrimination**

It will now be illegal for large landlords (those with 5 or more units) to evict tenants who have mental disabilities or families who have a member that is mentally disabled. Current law already prohibited large landlords from evicting tenants who are elderly or have a physical disability.

**Expanding Voting Rights**

At a time when so many states are limiting voting rights, I’m proud that we in Connecticut are strengthening the rights of our voters. Residents are now allowed to register to vote and cast a ballot on Election Day. We also took the first steps to amending the State Constitution to allow “no-excuse” absentee ballots and early voting.



Gov. Malloy, Martin Luther King, III & Rep. Miller at the State Capitol to support legislation strengthening voting rights.

**Curbing Racial Profiling**

We strengthened the state’s Racial Profiling Prohibition Act, which requires police departments to forward data on traffic stops to assess for evidence of racial profiling. The new law sets standards for reporting the information and shifts responsibility for its analysis to the governor’s budget office, which has the staff and resources to effectively analyze the data. Communities that do not comply can have their public safety-related funds held back.

**Repealing the Death Penalty**

Connecticut became the 17th state in the nation to outlaw the death penalty. We replaced the death penalty with a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole for capital offenses. Besides the moral cost, which is beyond measure—it actually costs state taxpayers more money to execute people than to incarcerate the guilty with absolutely no chance of parole. The new law does not apply to those currently on death row.

**Elderly Rental Rebate Program**

We extended from four to six months the period for submitting applications under the rental rebate program for the elderly and totally disabled. Renters can now apply from April 1st through October 1st.

**Grandparent Rights**

Grandparents can seek visitation rights by providing specific and good-faith allegations that (1) a parent-like relationship with the minor exists and (2) the minor will suffer real and substantial harm if the visitation is denied. In the end, it is important that decisions are made in a child’s best interests.

**Long-Term Care**

A new law requires nursing homes to notify prospective and current residents if it is placed in receivership or files for bankruptcy. It also requires an assisted living facility to provide such notice if it files for bankruptcy.

**Hospice Care**

As a result of the closing of the Richard L. Rosenthal Hospice Care Facility, the Stamford delegation fought hard to change state regulations to expand the number of licensed hospices in Connecticut from just two. Patients and their families will now have more hospice care facilities closer to home.



Rep. Miller cuts the ribbon at new mixed income housing in Stamford.