



State Representative

BRUCE V. MORRIS

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2013 Legislative Preview

I want to thank you for your support and allowing me the opportunity to serve as your representative in the Connecticut General Assembly. I consider it an honor and privilege to hold such a responsibility.

We all face difficult times as Connecticut continues its economic recovery. I am committed to working for a leaner, more efficient government, while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens and properly funded essential services.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School is in the hearts and minds of all legislators as we begin the 2013 Legislative Session. I am proud to have been appointed to positions on the Energy & Technology, Human Services and the Judiciary Committees where many important debates on related issues will occur.

Please keep in touch and contact me should you have any issues or concerns. I am convinced that with your input and support, we can address the most pressing needs of our community.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2013!

Rep. Bruce V. Morris

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Job Growth Is #1

To keep Connecticut economically competitive with neighboring states, we must strengthen business growth and job creation. Attracting businesses, training workers and providing incentives for them to remain in the state translates into a healthier local economy and better job opportunities. Consolidating and increasing tax credits for new hires, investing in emerging technologies and providing more employment for our veterans have shown great success but more needs to be done. Building a better educated, skilled workforce and a more business-friendly climate will ensure a thriving economy in Connecticut's future.

Education

Connecticut has a storied history of excellence in education but we still must strive to make our schools a top priority in 2013 as they face new challenges. In 2012, the legislature passed historic educational reforms, and now we must continue the work of implementing those important changes. Educating today's students for 21st Century

jobs means closely aligning vocational-technical schools and community colleges with the needs of Connecticut industries. There are significant challenges, but they must be overcome to ensure not only the success of our children, but also Connecticut's prosperity.

Supporting Our Seniors

Our seniors face a variety of challenges such as maintaining their health and keeping up with the bills on a fixed income. The legislature supports seniors in a number of ways including sending state funds to towns that help stabilize local property taxes, passing tough consumer protection laws and increasing grandparents' visitation rights. Looking ahead, expect to see proposals to help seniors keep their independence as their healthcare needs increase. A special task force on "aging in place" is recommending ways to help older adults safely, independently and comfortably remain in their homes.

Helping Our Veterans

Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman unveiled a new state website created to give military veterans one-stop access to the wide range of veterans' services and benefits offered by the state and federal government agencies.

Also announced was the creation of the 14-member Governor's Veterans Cabinet. Composed of relevant agency commissioners and other executive branch representatives, the cabinet will meet periodically to report progress and create strategies to improve delivery of services to veterans and their families. The cabinet also will seek input from veterans and private military-support organizations.

The website – www.veterans.ct.gov – links veterans and their families to other state and federal agencies offering services in areas such as employment and job training, health care and education.
