

## RETIREMENT FOR ALL

This year we will study the feasibility of forming the Connecticut Security Trust Fund, which will be directly administered by the Connecticut Retirement Trust Fund Board through the Office of the State Treasurer for the purpose of offering Roth Individual Retirement Accounts if your employer does not offer a pre-tax savings plan.



Rep. Orange addresses a tour in the House chamber.

## JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Our small manufacturers are a vital source of jobs. We expanded a reinvestment program that funds capital investments and trains workers.

Keeping our youth living and working in Connecticut is another important goal. This year we established a new apprenticeship grant program so that small businesses and manufacturers can afford to hire high school and college students.

## RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM

We will re-open the Renters Rebate program to eligible seniors and individuals with permanent disabilities to receive partial reimbursements for rental payments.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRE-K

The legislature created the Office of Early Childhood and funded more than a thousand new Pre-K slots. Pre-K helps prepare children for grade school, academically and socially, and is a great long-term investment for taxpayers and students alike.

## MORE eBooks IN OUR STATE LIBRARIES

This year we acted to create a statewide platform that the State Library Board will use to distribute eBooks to public libraries. This will make eBooks more available to library patrons without significant costs to our communities.

## HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

This session we continued our support for veterans. Connecticut vets can now apply their military training toward occupational licenses and college credits can be awarded for specialty training. In addition, children of service members will now be allowed additional excused absences from school when a parent is on active duty, on leave, or has immediately return home from a combat zone or support posting.

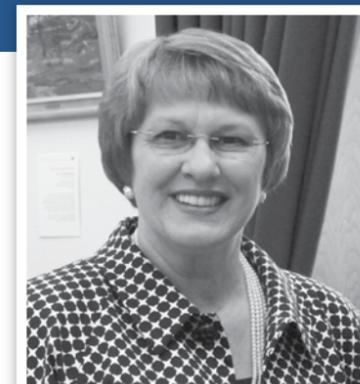
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**LINDA ORANGE**

PROUDLY SERVING COLCHESTER, LEBANON, MANSFIELD & WINDHAM



## STATE REPRESENTATIVE **LINDA ORANGE** DEPUTY SPEAKER, 48TH DISTRICT



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Dear Neighbor:

I remain committed to working toward a leaner and more efficient government, while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens and keeping essential services properly funded.

This year we crafted a balanced budget that protects community services and fosters sustainable, long-term economic growth.

I was happy to support key legislation that addressed affordable education, job creation, economic development, lower energy costs, and improved chronic disease care coordination. I personally worked on the areas of health and public safety – protecting patients by reducing the use of Step Therapy and working to reopen our local police barracks seven days a week.

Your input is important. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with your thoughts, ideas or suggestions.

Sincerely,



## A BIG STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

I was very pleased when the new public safety commissioner re-opened the State Police barracks **24/7**. Now we need to make sure they understand the importance of having sworn officers on the line when you call dispatch services. Under the consolidation, your emergency call went into an electronic queue, then to a dispatcher, and finally to an actual trooper. This is a recipe for delays and mistakes and we cannot afford to gamble with the public's safety.

# CAPITOL UPDATE 2014

## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Laws we passed last year will result in less trash burning, more recycling, and more energy-efficient buildings. In addition, to address one of the hottest topics in energy production and the environment - the potential danger posed by byproducts of hydraulic fracturing, a relatively new process of extracting natural gas - we decided to put a three-year moratorium on the storage of fracking waste in the state. I supported the following legislation that I think you will find important to our district:

**Water Plan for Connecticut** - This year we took a major step towards a comprehensive statewide plan for one of the state's most vital resources - our water. The Water Planning Council will prepare a state water plan (with public input) by January 2018. By considering various planning activities already underway and through the adoption of a model water use restriction ordinance, Connecticut will strike a better balance between our public water supply, economic, recreation, and ecological needs.

**Preserving Savin Farm** - This state-owned land in Lebanon is valuable for its productive soils, support of local small farmers through leasing programs, and the protection of our natural resources. Its woods and waterways are used by hunters and fishermen and provide natural flood protection for the surrounding area. We accomplished permanent protection by requiring the Department of Agriculture to protect Savin Farm from further development.

**Running Bamboo** - This invasive plant has increasingly been a problem because of its rapid and unmanageable growth. This law prohibits people from growing the plant within 40 feet of an abutting property.

**Preserving Agricultural Structures** Connecticut's long celebrated agricultural history is reflected in the scenic stone walls and historic barns that dot the landscape. Towns may now offer tax incentives to property owners in order to maintain these structures.



Serving as Deputy Speaker alongside my friend Dr. Henry Lee

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# LINDA ORANGE

PROUDLY SERVING COLCHESTER, LEBANON, MANSFIELD & WINDHAM



Rep. Sear and I with my "shadow" Katarina Moroc from Three Rivers Community College

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Sexual Assault on College Campuses** - It is a sad reflection on our society that one in five women on college campuses experience sexual assault, and much of this violence goes unreported. The courageous young women that have come forward to tell their stories inspired legislation that overhauls how colleges and universities respond to, and work to prevent campus sexual assault. There must be a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual violence on campus. Both students and parents should expect a safe learning environment at college.

**Safe Handling of Medications** - This session we passed four important protections for consumers: Compounding pharmacies must now be licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection to prevent contamination, doctors must label prescriptions as "no substitution" when they deem appropriate, and DCP will crack down on counterfeit drugs and devices being sold. We also will require DCP, with input from the Connecticut Pharmacists Association and the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, to develop and implement a program that will allow members of the public to dispose of unwanted medication in a secure lockbox 24/7.

**Protecting our Children** - This session we strengthened the resources available to our state agencies to combat child trafficking and expanded our mandated reporter list. We also updated our laws on child pornography to include new digital technologies while making sure that our neighborhoods will be notified when a sex offender is released into the community. To ensure safer schools, we authorized \$22 million for another round of school security grants for additional security improvements. We also allowed our tech, private, and charter schools to access these funds.



## PROTECTING PATIENTS

Insurance companies shouldn't be practicing medicine. Step Therapy is the insurance company practice of making you try (and fail) on other drugs before getting the one your doctor first prescribed. This issue was brought to me by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, whose members were needlessly suffering while waiting for their correct medication. With their help, I championed SB 394 that places limits on the use of Step Therapy by allowing doctors to override insurers when they see fit - getting people on the appropriate medication quicker and cutting down on trips to the doctor and out-of-pocket expenses.

**Better Access to Mental Health Services** - Services are now more convenient by allowing individuals to receive services through additional providers - encouraging people to get the help they need.

**Police and the Mentally Ill** - Police training will now include instruction on handling incidents involving people with a serious mental illness.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

A number of bills were aimed at protecting consumers, including a law curbing misleading marketing and surprise prices by alternative electricity suppliers. In addition, after utility companies were witnessed cutting down trees without homeowners' permission, a law we passed will give more say to homeowners. Here are a few more consumer protection bills that I thought you might find helpful:

**Strengthening the Do Not Call List** - Some companies continue to make unwanted calls. We increased the penalties by nearly double and added text messages to the registry.

**Buying Gas with Debit Cards** - Many gas stations offer discounts to cash-paying customers. However, they often treat debit cards the same as credit. Gas stations are now required to provide clear notice at the pump.

**Identity Theft Protection** - This year we added enhanced protections against identity theft by requiring mortgage brokers and lenders to undergo screening as a term of employment in an effort to prevent the misuse of our private information.