

SPRING UPDATE 2014

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.

First and foremost is crafting a responsible, balanced budget that protects community services and creates sustainable, long-term economic growth. We are also looking at key legislation including affordable education, creating jobs, promoting economic development, lowering energy costs, improving chronic disease care coordination, and helping seniors stay in their homes as they age.

I have personally been working on health and public safety – calling for an end to the harmful practice of Step Therapy by insurance companies and working to reopen our local police barracks seven days a week.

Your input helps me to properly represent you. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with your thoughts, ideas or suggestions.

Sincerely, 

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Home: 860-537-3936
Capitol: 800-842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Orange

Follow me on Facebook
[facebook.com/RepresentativeOrange](https://www.facebook.com/RepresentativeOrange)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Linda Orange

DEPUTY SPEAKER | 48TH HOUSE DISTRICT



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Linda Orange

DEPUTY SPEAKER | 48TH HOUSE DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Home: 860-537-3936

Capitol: 800-842-8267

A BIG STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION - I was very pleased when the new public safety commissioner reopened 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 a civilian takes your call and places it in an electronic “drop box” where it awaits action by a trooper. This is a recipe for delays and mistakes. We must not gamble with the public’s safety.

ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS - I co-sponsored legislation to restore funding to the Rental Rebate Program. The bill, **HB 5001**, would allow new qualified renters to enter the program and end the permanent disqualification of qualified recipients who failed to reapply. Once this bill passes, I will be happy to work with our Department of Housing and anyone interested in applying.



CONTACT ME ANYTIME

Email: Linda.Orange@cga.ct.gov

www.housedems.ct.gov/Orange

www.facebook.com/RepresentativeOrange

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. I have been working on legislation, **SB 39**, that will limit the use of Step Therapy by allowing doctors to override insurers when they see fit - to get people on the appropriate medication that their doctor already prescribed. This will cut down on trips to the doctor and out-of-pocket expenses.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - Early childhood education is key to a child’s development, providing a sound foundation for future learning opportunities. The Education Committee will be considering a bill that formally establishes the Office of Early Childhood. This agency will administer programs and funding that affect our children from birth until elementary school. This coordinated system of care will better utilize, better educate, and better care for our most vulnerable and impressionable population in an efficient and cost effective way.



AGING IN PLACE - We are working at the capitol to develop more livable communities for seniors by considering a grant program to promote home and service-based support systems; such as transportation, meals, and maintenance. We’re also considering incentivizing transit-oriented projects for seniors including in-law apartments, home modifications, and home shares that are located near transportation services. Other proposals will provide funds for individuals to retrofit and update their homes to accommodate their change in lifestyle.