

CAPITOL UPDATE 2012

Pesticides and Our Children

Certain dangerous pesticides should not be allowed near school children. I worked hard to ensure that efforts to allow certain types of pesticides, on school grounds did not pass. This would have needlessly put our children in danger and exposed them to potentially dangerous chemicals. It is not appropriate or healthy to apply pesticides near where children learn and play. I will continue to support legislation that protects our children and keeps them out of harm's way.

Student Loans

I had the privilege of testifying before the Higher Education Committee about legislation (HB 5362) which would allow students to receive a tax credit based on the amount of interest they pay on their student loans. My daughter Crystal is one of those students who, in the pursuit of receiving a college education, had to take out an extraordinary amount of loans in order to pay for her degree. Any legislation that seeks to benefit our state's college students and keeps these talented young workers here in Connecticut is legislation that I will support and fight for.

Fire Ops Day

In April I had the amazing opportunity to join two of Milford's Bravest at the Hartford Fire Department training headquarters. I was put through the paces of what it is like to be a firefighter, from extricating a crash victim to entering a burning building for a search and rescue. I can not thank them enough for all of their hard work. What these brave men and women are willing to do each and every day on the job is highly commendable. And I am confident that we are in the hands of some of the most highly trained, caring people in the world!

Rep. Rose at Fire Ops Training.



Rep. Rose with Louis Burch from the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment receiving an Environmental Award.

Dear Neighbor:

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as your voice on historic votes such as, the repeal of the death penalty, education reform and Sunday sales. Not only did we make sweeping changes, the Milford delegation was also successful in temporarily stopping the Recycling Inc. application for expansion at 990 Naugatuck Ave. In addition I have called for the state to withdraw the existing permit.

Many great bills were passed and signed into law. My commitment to grow jobs and protect our environment, our seniors, our families and our children continued this legislative session.

Over the summer, I will hold local office hours so that we can continue to communicate on issues that you care about. I hosted Milford Means Business with the Department of Economic and Community Development, where we discussed what programs the State offers for small business funding through grants and loans.

I look forward to speaking with you - please call me anytime!
Sincerely,

Kim Rose

Let's Keep In Touch In A Green Way

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Find Me On Facebook:
facebook.com/RepRose



State Representative **KIM ROSE**

State Representative
Kim Rose
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
Cell Phone: 203-701-6098
Home Phone: 203-283-7885
www.housedems.ct.gov/Rose



Sunday Liquor Sales

Earlier this year the Governor proposed sweeping changes to our state's liquor laws. I support modernizing our liquor laws to allow for the sale of liquor and beer on Sunday and allowing package stores to stay open. We were finally able to pass a bill that would eliminate our antiquated law but was also sensitive to the needs of "Mom and Pop" store owners.

990 Naugatuck Ave - Recycling Inc.

For those of you who may not be familiar with a situation we've had at 990 Naugatuck Ave., there is a recycling facility operating despite the fact that Milford's Planning and Zoning Board turned the application down. A judge decided that they could circumvent our local regulations and open for business. The increase in truck traffic through that narrow winding neighborhood is a serious safety hazard. This facility is located on the Housatonic River and has a history of contamination. I worked tirelessly to get an emergency certified bill through the General Assembly and quickly signed by the Governor, to force Recycling Inc. to comply with Milford's Planning and Zoning Board. To add to the drama, there is now a lawsuit between two parties disputing the true owner of the property. I have called on state environmental officials requesting that they deny the expansion permit as well as shut the facility down.

Education Reform

Education reform strengthens the prospects for our children's futures by supporting teachers' development and providing students with effective educators. It increases Pre-K slots, and builds a framework for meaningful intervention in our lowest-achieving schools. The commissioner of education has the authority to develop or modify plans at "turnaround" schools, giving students the opportunity to succeed. In addition, the bill reforms the teacher tenure system by increasing the frequency of teacher evaluations and linking tenure to evaluations.

Veterans

We passed legislation this year that will help our veterans. Like preventing a court from entering a final custody order modifying parental rights while they are deployed. The last thing a soldier needs is the added anxiety of someone trying to take custody of their children while they are fighting for our country. In addition, we now require the Department of Veterans' Affairs to publish a list of qualified veterans' charitable organizations to prevent scam-artists from using fraudulent charities to target people who think they are helping veterans. We also increased the penalties for the intentional desecration of war or veteran's memorials.



Rep. Rose at the Veteran's Help A Hero Event at the Capitol.

Seniors

Protecting the quality of life for our senior citizens is an important responsibility. This year we focused on healthcare and grandparents' rights.

GRANDPARENTS' RIGHTS - This new law enhances the rights of grandparents seeking visitation rights by putting extra weight on evidence showing a parent-like relationship exists and that a denial of visitation rights could cause harm to the child.

HOSPICE CARE - With just two licensed hospices in the state, this new law will give smaller hospice facilities the opportunity to provide high quality services and allow patients to stay closer to family and friends.

PRESERVING MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY - This legislation ensured thousands of seniors and people with disabilities could continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles by raising the income limit for MSP.

Death Penalty Repeal

This session each and every legislator was faced with an intense and very real vote on this controversial issue. We were not asked to "fix" the death penalty law, we were asked to vote on whether to keep the law (which was not working) or repeal it. I had always supported the death penalty, not understanding that for many reasons it was not doing what it was intended to do. Not only are we paying for prisoners to remain in jail we pay the legal fees, and we are NOT putting people to death (only 8 people since 1817 have been executed in CT). There are currently 2 inmates on death row who have been there for the past 20 years and one that has been there for 22 years. In some cases, these inmates could outlive family members of their victims. I spoke with many family members of victims who spoke passionately on this issue. I received many emails in support of the repeal, and I also felt that we needed hear the voices of the victims' families. It would be impossible to know how we would feel if faced with the murder of a family member. Under our new law, convicted murderers will be jailed for life without the possibility of parole. They will be confined to a cell except for 2 hours a day.

Tropical Storm Irene

We will not soon forget the damage from Tropical Storm Irene. Milford actually fared better than some communities in the state. I was in contact with the utilities daily and at all times knew exactly what streets were affected as well as where the crews were working. I kept my Facebook page updated with new information about power outages as it was made available. I was recently appointed to be a member of the Shoreline Task Force which was formed in response to Tropical Storm Irene. The task force is charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly for legislation that will: protect shoreline businesses and residents from future storms and their aftermath. We will also hold utility companies accountable for their post-storm recovery efforts.



Rep. Kim Rose joins the Red Cross Disaster Relief team in Walnut Beach, distributing meals to residents without power during Hurricane Irene.