



Rep. Rovero congratulates Kevin Davis of Putnam, a student at Quinebaug Valley Community College and award winner at 2012 College Academic Day at the Capitol. He is joined by David Baty, Dean of Student Services and Dr. Amy Desonia, Dean of Academic Affairs.

Education Reform

Our education initiative provides new support to help turn around underperforming schools. The education reform package has long-term implications for our children and for the State's economic well-being. The better we prepare children for the 21st Century workforce, the stronger we'll make Connecticut's economy.

As a part of these reforms, **Putnam, Killingly and Thompson** receive additional increases in education funding totaling **\$600,000**.

In addition, this bill:

- Includes more funding for school-based health centers and family resource centers.
- Recognizes the importance of early childhood education by underwriting 1,000 school readiness slots for preschool and initiatives to improve early reading success.

Funding for QVCC and Vocation Agriculture

This session, I supported a grant in which Quinebaug Valley Community College will be able to expand their manufacturing program, which trains students for good paying jobs.

In addition, I was able to secure a **\$1.4 million** increase in Vocational Agriscience funding from which **Putnam, Killingly and Thompson** will receive additional money to send local students to these programs.

Protecting Our Children

"Caylee's Law" sets criminal penalties for the failure to report the disappearance of a child. The law is in response to the circumstances surrounding the death of Florida toddler Caylee Anthony, and applies to any parent, guardian or person who has custody or supervision of the child.



State Representative

Danny Rovero

Proudly Serving Putnam, Killingly and Thompson | 51st District

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DANNY ROVERO

State Representative
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51st District

Dear Neighbor,

The 2012 session of the General Assembly was "a truly historic session," and brought forward many initiatives from job creation and education reform, to utility storm response and the end of one of the State's last Blue Laws.

It started last October, when we passed a comprehensive bipartisan jobs bill that invested hundreds of millions of dollars in small businesses, created new hiring incentives, aligned education programs with good paying jobs, and eliminated red-tape for growing companies.

We also received good news that the budget reforms we have made will have a tremendous impact down the road as it is now reported that we have seen a dramatic reduction of \$13.3 billion in the state's future unfunded state employee and retiree health care liabilities. This significant change resulted from several collaborative health care cost control initiatives including changes related to the state employee concessions.

Other highlights from this session are contained within this newsletter, which I hope you find informative. As always, I am happy to address any questions you may have facing our state or your family. I enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Danny Rovero

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAPITOL
REPORT 2012

Danny Rovero



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Public Safety

Safety On Our Roads

This year we expanded the “move-over” law to include two lane highways as well as road maintenance vehicles and tow trucks. Now, the law requires drivers to move-over one lane if an emergency vehicle or maintenance vehicle with flashing lights is parked on the shoulder of any state highway. This new law will protect our law enforcement officials and roadway maintenance crews working on all of our highways.

Storm Response and Power Outages

Keeping The Lights On

In the aftermath of the October Nor’easter and Tropical Storm Irene that left much of the state without power, the legislature passed sweeping reforms to better prepare for future severe storms and avoid wide-spread and lengthy loss of utility service. I participated on the task force as a member of the Public Safety Committee, which developed the following recommendations:

- Utilities will be held to minimum performance standards for emergency preparation and response
- Noncompliance could result in penalties of up to 2.5 percent of an electric or gas company’s annual distribution revenue, approximately \$25 million in the case of Connecticut Light & Power



Rep. Rovero asks a question as a member of the Storm Irene and October Nor’easter Storm Task Force. The question concerned storm response by utility companies.

Consumer Protection

Price Gouging at the Pump

Skyrocketing gasoline prices are a result of global factors such as growing demand from expanding economies like China, turmoil in the Middle East and oil market speculators. Faced with this reality, the legislature acted in a bipartisan manner to be a part of the solution, by capping the state petroleum gross receipts tax (GRT) on motor fuels and enacting new price gouging laws to protect consumers from oil companies and gasoline dealers that try to exploit abnormal market conditions for profit.



Rep. Rovero meets with a representative of the Farmer’s Cow located in Thompson on Agricultural Day at the Capitol which promotes farming jobs in the state.

Job Creation and Economic Development

Made in Connecticut

We strengthened the Small Business Express program to now include small companies of up to 100 people and funded a Connecticut Made initiative to promote products made by local businesses.

Job Creation through Brownfield Cleanup

This new bill allows swifter conversion of contaminated and long-abandoned properties to productive sites for economic development, open space and other public uses.

Generating Jobs in the District

This session, I also supported a STEAP grant providing \$469,000 for improvements to Quinebaug Regional Technology Park. This project is expected to lead to more than 1,200 jobs in the tech park, increase the value of the town’s grand list, and bring in an additional \$500,000 in real estate taxes annually.

Environment and Open Space

Open Space Preservation, Keeping the Quiet Corner Quiet

A new law requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to update the state’s open space plan by the end of the year. The plan must include an estimate of how much state land is preserved as open space potential methods, costs, and benefits of establishing a system to accurately track open space land. DEEP must also identify land that should be conserved and develop a plan to preserve it.

100% Environmental Voting Record

I was also very proud of the 100% rating I received from the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) for my support and advocacy of environmental initiatives on their Environmental Scorecard.

Let’s Keep In Touch

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Seniors

Grandparents Rights

Unfortunately, grandparents can sometimes be separated from their grandchildren’s lives particularly when divorce or disagreements occur, even though they have played a substantial role in the raising of that child. This new law helps grandparents seeking visitation rights if they can show that a parent-like relationship exists and that a denial of visitation would be harmful to the child. Decisions should be made in a child’s best interests and this legislation helps do that.

Hospice Care

With just two licensed hospices in the state, this new law permits more hospices to follow federal standards, giving smaller hospice facilities the opportunity to provide high quality services that allow patients to stay closer to family and friends. This bill helps residents have access to health care services across the full continuum of care.

Veterans

Hiring Unemployed Veterans

Establishes the Unemployed Armed Forces Member STEP-UP (Subsidized Training and Employment Program) with grants to subsidize a business’s cost of hiring unemployed veterans during their first 180 days (about six months) on the job.

Programs for Veterans

So many of our service men and women return home and face a variety of challenges, not the least of which are legal issues and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. A federally funded pilot program for veterans dealing with these issues is helpful but limited, so we expanded the program to more locations throughout the state.



Rep. Rovero attends a press conference with State Firefighters. This year the Eastern Connecticut delegation secured funding for improvements to the local Fire Training School. Also, Thompson was awarded \$150,000 to replace the roof on the West Thompson Fire Department building.