



Danny with Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your continued support. It is my honor to represent you in the General Assembly. There were many intensely debated issues this legislative session during which it was a privilege to represent the people of Killingly, Putnam, and Thompson at the State Capitol.

Our biggest victory was restoring most of the funding to Day Kimball Hospital which was in line for a significant reduction in funding. We stood up for our seniors as well by passing laws to protect them from potential abuse.

Northeast Connecticut benefitted from numerous housing and educational grants from the state, expanding our affordable housing stock and Developmental Services facilities. We also capped the electric distribution companies' residential fixed charge providing ratepayer relief.

The legislature took significant steps this session to lower the cost of higher education. We passed a law which led to the lowest student loan interest rate ever offered by the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA), and became the first state in the country to establish a Student Loan Bill of Rights. We also gave cities and towns more say in their local education budgets.

I hope you find this information helpful and please know that the 51st District's working families remained at the heart of each vote I cast in the House Chamber. As always, please do not hesitate to call my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Rovero

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DANIEL ROVERO

PROUDLY SERVING THE 51ST HOUSE DISTRICT | KILLINGLY, PUTNAM, THOMPSON

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SENIORS

We passed many more laws to protect our seniors from potential abuse. In situations where abuse or neglect is suspected, the Department of Social Services can now petition a probate court to gain access to that person's home to make an assessment.

We have also taken steps to protect our seniors from abuse and being taken advantage of financially, including:

- EMT's are now mandated reporters of elder abuse.
- Financial agents will receive training on elderly fraud.
- Someone convicted of 1st or 2nd degree larceny or 1st degree abuse of an elderly or disabled person is prohibited from inheriting, receiving insurance benefits, or receiving certain property.

On the recommendation of the Alzheimer's Task Force, training will now be provided for hospital staff to identify the symptoms of dementia in order to better treat their patients.



Danny with constituents during his Thompson office hours.



Danny with Senator Bye and visiting students.

STUDENT LOANS

An historic step increasing college affordability, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) announced it will offer a fixed interest rate of 4.95% for new student loans, down from its current rate of 6.75%. Not only is this the lowest rate that CHESLA has ever offered, it is also significantly lower than the new Federal PLUS loan rate of 6.84%.

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HEALTH CARE

Additional state and federal assistance to offset cuts to Day Kimball Hospital's funding were secured earlier this summer. \$3.6 million will boost Day Kimball's operating budget thanks to a collaborative effort of community leaders and the Low Cost Hospital Pool. Preserving 1,200 jobs and access to healthcare in the district was the top success of this past legislative session. Day Kimball is a critical element in northeastern Connecticut.



*Rep. Alberts, Danny, and Senator Flexer at Day Kimball Hospital
Photo courtesy of WINY Radio.*

HOUSING AND ENERGY

A pair of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards means important upgrades and improvements to Killingly and Thompson housing. Killingly will receive \$400,000 to continue its Housing Rehabilitation program and rehabilitate 14 units of low- and moderate-income housing. Thompson gets \$800,000 for renovating the Gladys Green/Pineview Court Elderly Housing Complex, which has 60 units of elderly housing.

Recently awarded state grants mean improvements are coming to the Department of Developmental Services facilities at Camp Quinebaug in Dayville. There will also be new emergency generators installed at the facilities in Putnam and Killingly.

Connecticut became the first state to protect residents from electricity providers who offer a low introductory rate that increases rapidly afterwards. The protections require competitive electric suppliers to give their customers a 60-day notice before the end of their contracts. Suppliers cannot charge these customers a termination or early cancellation fee and must allow customers who want to switch to standard service the ability to do so within 72 hours.

VETERANS

The process of bringing more veterans' services to northeastern Connecticut has started with a discussion of using part of the Dempsey Center as a veterans' center. With full service hospitals in Providence, Newington and West Haven, a veterans' center serving other needs like mental health issues seems to be the direction being pursued for the facility in Putnam.



Danny being honored as a Major by the Civil Air Patrol.

EDUCATION

The requirement that towns spend the same amount (or more) on education than they did the year before was creating a disincentive for towns to deliver education efficiently. This year we offered flexibility to towns with low rates of poverty that are experiencing declining enrollment. These towns can now set an education budget down to 3% below their Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR).

We directed the State Department of Education (SDE) to designate a point person who will help parents and local boards of education identify students with dyslexia and intervene with appropriate help. Up-and-coming teachers will now also be required to undergo 12 hours of preparation in effective literacy instruction using current best practices.

