



Rep. Ryan brings out a bill on the House floor.

Energy

Connecticut's Energy Future

Sweeping energy reform now has Connecticut moving toward cleaner and more efficient energy sources. A new law creates industries, jobs and businesses necessary to support a clean energy economy. Creating a new Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) means a single state agency is now solely devoted to energy issues.

Health Care

Better Health Care Access & Affordability

Quality, affordable health care benefits are one of the largest expenses faced by individuals, municipalities and employers. The new Connecticut Health Care

Partnership offers the state health insurance coverage to municipalities and to non-profit organizations. Taking advantage of the increased bargaining power and reduced administrative costs associated with the state plan will allow municipalities and non-profits to provide quality service at less cost. When municipalities save money on health care, those savings can be passed on to property taxpayers.

In addition, better health care delivery will be attained for individuals and groups through a comprehensive plan that lays out a framework for a state-wide health care delivery system that also uses the state health plan pool to contain costs and promote preventive care.

Environment

Preserving Farms and Agriculture

I supported the Community Investment Act because farmlands in our town and across the state have benefitted from it. Protecting farmlands and expanding farm businesses not only creates jobs, but preserves Connecticut's quality of life.

The Community Investment Act:

- » Establishes a matching grant program for towns to help farmers promote their farms
- » Creates the "Connecticut Farm Link Program," a database that links buyers with farmers wanting to sell their operations or farmland
- » Encourages the sale of Connecticut grown products.

State Representative | Deputy Speaker

Kevin Ryan

Proudly Serving Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon and Montville | 139th District

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State Representative

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Dear Neighbor,

The legislature accomplished a great deal this year. Legislation was passed that will stabilize the state's finances, remake state government and create jobs.

A balanced budget was passed in early May to move our state forward. Our most vulnerable citizens were protected, sacrifice was shared and government was made smaller and more efficient.

This is the beginning of Connecticut's economic recovery. The fundamentals are in place for creating jobs, stimulating growth and putting the unemployed back to work.

Legislators shared Governor Malloy's idea of "shared sacrifice" to balance the state budget, but made sure those sacrifice's were fair. Our budget is a responsible, balanced mix of spending cuts and tax increases to protect the middle-class and keep our state moving forward.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT



CAPITOL REPORT 2011

Job Growth is Job One

I supported legislation during the October Special Session to jump-start job creation and foster long-term economic growth. Incentives for small business, cutting red tape, incentives for innovation, economic development tools and workforce development and training are all addressed in the new laws.

One of the key components is the Small Business Express Package which makes \$50 million/year available to small businesses through incentives, grants and loans. Another vital provision aligns programs at vo-tech schools, community colleges and universities with the high demand job needs of employers, including the state's manufacturing technology companies. Other parts of the new law include:

- » Consolidating and increasing the tax credit for new hires
- » Incentivizing investments in emerging technology (Angel Investors)
- » Building innovation centers in key cities and investing in innovative ventures
- » A second "First Five" program
- » Cutting the business entity tax
- » Streamlining the business permitting process
- » Remediating old industrial sites/brownfields
- » Computer upgrades to foster seamless communication between business and the state
- » Workforce development, education and training
- » Allowing the Airport Authority to designate new Development Zones
- » Investments in roads and bridges
- » Replenishing the Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA)
- » Main Street commercial centers improvement initiative

We created the Connecticut Bioscience Collaboration program to support a new bioscience cluster anchored by a research lab at the UConn Health Center in Farmington. Bringing a world-class bioscience facility to the state will position Connecticut as a national and international leader in a major growth industry, personalized medicine. Jackson Labs at UConn creates a CT Research Triangle (Storrs, Farmington, New Haven), similar to North Carolina's Research Triangle. The project creates both short and long term jobs, 900 construction and almost 7,000 permanent jobs.

Streamlining Government

To address the state budget crisis we cut costs and streamlined government.

Connecticut is being run more efficiently with:

- » State agency consolidations
- » Upgraded technology
- » Over \$700 million in spending cuts
- » No borrowing to balance the budget
- » Fully funded pension obligations this year
- » A commitment to staying below the constitutional spending cap

State Representative

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Public Safety Hiring Experienced Police Officers

We made it easier for our cities and towns facing financial and other challenges to hire experienced police officers who could be put to work immediately. The law:

- » Allows police officers who are certified and are working at a Connecticut police department to take a position in another police department without having to repeat their basic training, as long as those officers meet the standards for entry level certification
- » Streamlines the process for communities to hire qualified and experienced police officers

A Safer Connecticut

We strengthened Connecticut's criminal justice system by making it easier to match DNA evidence to help solve crimes. DNA samples will now be collected from convicted felons after a subsequent arrest. Since felons are likely to have committed other crimes, DNA can solve crimes with matches against a national database.

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me.

State Representative Kevin Ryan

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Reducing Domestic Violence

Considering about 30 percent of the state's criminal court dockets involve domestic violence, finding new ways to reduce its occurrence is an ongoing challenge. We passed legislation to lessen the incidence of domestic violence by:

- » Increasing access to restraining and protective orders
- » Improving information sharing between state agencies
- » Facilitating victims' access to support services
- » Providing police with more tools to protect communities
- » Requiring the judicial branch to recommend long-term solutions

To further protect victims, reforms were made to the bail bond process that eliminate "undercutting," which occurs when bondsmen compete for business by discounting the bond premium by not charging clients the statutorily required amount. As a result, defendants post bond more easily and are quickly released back into the community without any "cooling off" period.

Helping Connecticut Residents

Protecting Programs

Our most vulnerable residents, children, the elderly and those at risk for losing their homes, were protected from excessive cuts to programs and services. This session, we rejected proposals to shred the safety net, such as reducing Medicare funding by half-a-billion dollars. We protected our most vulnerable citizens by:

- » Protecting public school funding
- » Expanding the school breakfast program
- » Instituting an earned income tax credit
- » Protecting workers' health and yours with paid sick days
- » Creating the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership to protect and increase access to quality, affordable health care
- » Created a coordinated system for early childhood education
- » Strengthened school bullying laws.

Seniors

Grandparents rights will be the subject of a study aimed at enhancing their ability to seek visitation rights. A task force will report its recommendations to the legislature by February 1, 2012.

Educating Our Children

This year, we have taken a number of steps to ensure that all children have access to a quality education and opportunities for academic excellence through:

- » New efforts to close the achievement gap
- » Additional tools for underperforming schools
- » Streamlining the process to get qualified teachers in charter schools
- » A New Early Childhood Education Cabinet

We also increased the educational requirements for teachers and early childhood educators in state-funded programs. By 2015, 50 percent of the teaching staff must have a degree in early childhood education, childhood development or a related field, or they must have a teaching certificate with an endorsement in early childhood or special education. By 2020, all teaching staff must have one of these degrees.

Protecting Children Against Bullying

We expanded Connecticut's anti-bullying law to include bullying, harassment and intimidation using the Internet or mobile phones.

Care 4 Kids

The Department of Social Services (DSS) must now post a notice on its website and provide written notice to program participants and providers when it makes any changes to the Care4Kids program (the state's subsidized child care program).

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