

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# PEGGY SAYERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE 60TH DISTRICT • WINDSOR / WINDSOR LOCKS

Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share this update on the recently concluded legislative session. Each year brings a new set of challenges and the 2014 session was no different. The need to encourage economic growth, help working families and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state, was clear.

Meeting these priorities while also adopting a balanced budget with no new taxes took hard work, but I am happy to report that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals.

Working in a bipartisan manner, we were able to increase funding for education and enable more children to attend pre-school. We also made additional investments in job creation programs such as STEP-UP, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed.

Spurring more economic development was also a priority we met by helping United Technologies Corp. upgrade and expand its aerospace research and manufacturing facilities across the state including Pratt and Whitney expanding at Bradley Airport. This also helps their suppliers and related businesses.

I hope the enclosed information is helpful. Feel free to call or email me for any reason-legislative or otherwise. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.



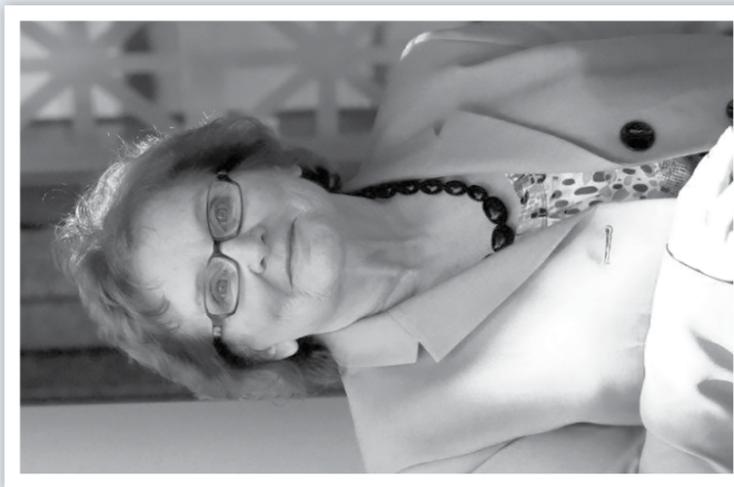
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## BRINGING FUNDS BACK TO THE DISTRICT

City Hall in Windsor will receive \$53,200, while Windsor Locks will receive \$35,400 thanks to a grant to assist municipalities with connecting their town governments to the state's Nutmeg Network and extending its availability to include all municipal services.

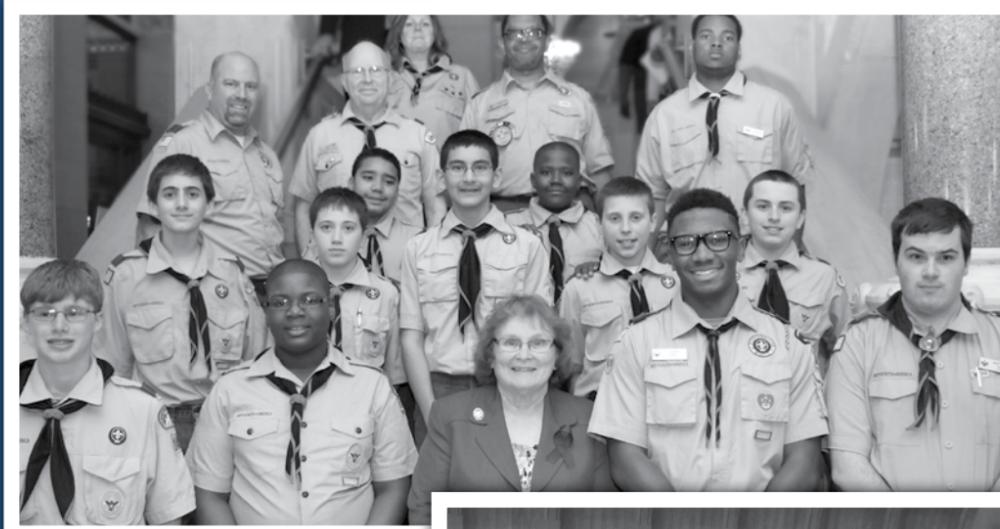
Several Windsor nonprofits received awards as part of the state's Nonprofit Grant Program. The Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut, Easter Seals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut, Inc. and Vinfen Corporation of Connecticut, Inc. received over \$900,000 worth of assistance. The Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut received \$49,000 for Information Technology upgrades, Easter Seals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut, Inc. received \$452,000 for vehicles and Vinfen Corporation of Connecticut, Inc. received \$400,000 for improvements and renovations.

## NO NEW TAXES

We adopted a balanced budget on time without any tax increases for fiscal year 2014-2015 which begins July 1. Increased aid for education in Windsor and Windsor Locks invests in our children, our towns and will help stabilize local property taxes. *(HB 5596)*

## COMMITTING UTC TO CT

Connecticut's largest private employer, United Technologies Corporation, will spend up to \$500 million over the next five years to upgrade and expand its aerospace research & development and manufacturing facilities, as well as up to \$4 billion in research and other capital improvements. That includes an aerospace training facility near Bradley International Airport. UTC's commitment to keeping their home in Connecticut is not only great for our economy, but represents a turning point in our image as a business-friendly state. It will not only maintain UTC jobs, but will positively impact all of the small businesses that serve as direct suppliers to UTC. In addition, science and engineering graduates will be able to find exciting work right here in Connecticut. *(HB 5465)*



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## PREVENTING CONCUSSIONS IN YOUNG ATHLETES

Concussions have been rising at an alarming rate and we are only now beginning to understand the potentially devastating effects they can have on children. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, will develop an education plan for student athletes, coaches and parents. A new consent form will also be distributed to parents and legal guardians that will have to be returned to the school prior to athletic activity. A task force will be formed to focus on best practices in recognition and prevention of concussions, current policies, training of employees, and relevant federal, state and local laws involving concussions.

## JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

A new law focuses on getting the older unemployed back to work. Other laws will encourage tech high schools and community colleges to develop programs that more closely match the needs of Connecticut's employers and manufacturers. Additional investments were made in job creation programs such as Step-Up, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed.



## SENIORS

\$6 million in funding was allocated to provide grants to older adults and persons with disabilities to make home modifications and purchase assistance technology so they can remain in their homes. "Aging in Place" gives seniors better options for their future.

## APRNS

I led passage of a bill on the floor of the House allowing qualified advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to practice independently, creating additional access to health care. As a nurse, I understand the critical role they play in delivering services associated with the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

# CAPITOL UPDATE 2014