

2013 Legislative Preview

Thank you for your continued support as I serve as your voice at the State Capitol.

We are all facing difficult times as Connecticut turns the corner to economic recovery. I remain committed to working for a leaner more efficient government while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens and keeping essential services properly funded.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School is in the hearts and minds of all legislators as we begin the 2013 Legislative Session. For this session, I have been appointed Vice Chairman of the Public Safety and Security Committee. In addition, I have also been appointed to the Judiciary Committee and Transportation Committee. I am convinced that with your input and support, we can address the most pressing needs of our community.

Thank you for the honor of serving you.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2013!



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Public Safety

Of course the tragedy in Newtown has turned our attention to the safety of our children in schools and other public places. We will be taking a close look at how to keep our kids and families safe by looking at all related issues, including school security, gun safety and access to mental health care. A special bipartisan task force announced by legislative leaders and charged with developing recommendations designed to prevent gun violence, enhance school safety and increase access to mental health care has a new website:

www.cga.ct.gov/asafierconnecticut

Transportation Improvements

Connecticut's transportation system is the engine that powers the state's economy. Our investments in high-speed rail along the I-91/95 corridor as well as our commitment to light rail and other mass transit options across the state

will help get vehicles off our crowded roads and keep commerce moving. Our push to modernize our roads and bridges and squeeze the federal government for every transportation dollar available will enhance the state's appeal to business and residents alike.

Job Growth

To keep Connecticut economically competitive with neighboring states, we must further support business growth and job creation. Attracting businesses, training workers and providing incentives for them to remain in the state translates into a healthier local economy and better job opportunities. Consolidating and increasing tax credits for new hires, investing in emerging technologies and providing more employment for our veterans have shown great success, but more needs to be done. Building a more educated workforce and a more business-friendly climate will allow Connecticut to thrive in the future.

Supporting Our Seniors

Helping our seniors in their later years is an important responsibility of government. Seniors face a variety of challenges such as maintaining their health and keeping up with bills on a fixed income. The legislature supports seniors in a number of ways. We send state funds to towns that help stabilize local property taxes, we passed tough consumer protection laws and increased grandparents' visitation rights. Looking ahead, expect to see proposals to help seniors keep their independence as their healthcare needs increase. A special task force on "aging in place" is recommending ways to help older adults safely, independently and comfortably remain in their homes.