



STATE REPRESENTATIVE KARA ROCHELLE

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Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for your service to our country. During this past session, we worked on legislation that will recognize veterans' contributions to our state and expand access to certain benefits. I remain committed to fighting for Connecticut's veterans. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-240-8585 or email me at Kara.Rochelle@cga.ct.gov.

Thank you again for your service to our country.

All my best,

Kara Rochelle

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KARA ROCHELLE

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Representative Rochelle proudly supported all of the following initiatives:

BENEFITS & LEGAL SERVICES

We expanded veterans' pension benefits by exempting income eligibility determinations under HUSKY A & D, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, and CEAP. Additionally, we exempted service-connected disability compensation from income calculations for public defender eligibility - expanding access to legal defense for veterans with mental health conditions. (PA 25-95)

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF*

Building off our 2024 law, we granted towns some new options to expand property tax exemptions for veterans and Gold Star families, including: (HB 7287)

- Gold Star spouses, veterans rated Totally Disabled due to Individual Unemployability (TDIU), and veterans impacted before 2024.
- Up to two acres of land.
- An option to cap the exemption at the municipal median property value as a means of expanding eligibility in a fiscally sustainable way.

*Town must opt-in to changes



INVESTMENT IN VETERANS' SERVICES

We increased staffing in the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Advocacy and Assistance, addressing backlogs, improving assistance with benefits claims, and initiated a study of "benefits claim sharks" to examine the prevalence of contracts that exploit veterans seeking assistance with benefits. (PA 25-95)

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

To improve capital access and job creation within the veteran community, we enabled DECD to prioritize disabled veteran entrepreneurs when allocating Small Business Express loans. (PA 25-95)

SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Veterans Benefits Infoline 866-928-8387

Derby Veteran's
Community Center..... 203-735-4222

Derby Veteran's Office 203-736-8882

New Haven Vet Center..... 203-795-0148

CT Department of
Veterans Affairs www.ct.gov/ctva

US Veterans' Affairs..... 800-827-1000

West Haven VA Hospital..... 203-932-5711

Workforce
Development/Job Search 203-455-2700

CT Military Support Program..... 866-251-2913

Veterans' Crisis Line..... 800-273-8255

Army Reserve Family
Programs..... www.usar.army.mil/ARFP

VA Forms Online www.va.gov/vaforms

American Legion Post 24 - Derby ... 203-735-7288

American Legion
Post 50 - Ansonia 203-308-7845

Catholic War Veterans - Derby 203-734-9748

Homes for the Brave - Bridgeport .. 203-338-0669

☎ 860-240-8585

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