

STATE REPRESENTATIVE KARA ROCHELLE

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FACEBOOK.COM/STATEREPKARAROCHELLE

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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KARA ROCHELLE

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Representative Rochelle proudly supported all of the following initiatives:

BENEFITS & LEGAL SERVICES

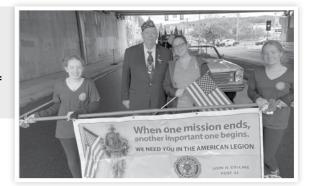
We expanded veterans' pension benefits by exempting income eligibility determinations under HUSKY A & D, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, and CEAP. Additionally, we exempted serviceconnected disability compensation from income calculations for public defender eligibility - expanding access to legal 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

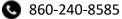
We increased staffing in the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Advocacy and Assistance, addressing backlogs, improving assistance with benefits claims, and initiated a study of "benefits claim sharks" to examine the prevalence of contracts that exploit veterans seeking assistance with benefits. (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 Infoline866-928-8387
Derby Veteran's Community Center203-735-4222
Derby Veteran's Office 203-736-8882
New Haven Vet Center 203-795-0148
CT Department of Veterans Affairswww.ct.gov/ctva
US Veterans' Affairs 800-827-1000
West Haven VA Hospital203-932-5711
Workforce Development/Job Search203-455-2700
CT Military Support Program866-251-2913
Veterans' Crisis Line800-273-8255
Army Reserve Family Programswww.usar.army.mil/ARFP
VA Forms Onlinewww.va.gov/vaforms
American Legion Post 24 - Derby 203-735-7288
American Legion Post 50 - Ansonia 203-308-7845
Catholic War Veterans - Derby203-734-9748
Homes for the Brave - Bridgeport 203-338-0669





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