



State Representative
HILDA E. SANTIAGO

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2013 Legislative Preview

I want to thank you for your support and for allowing me the privilege of representing you in the Connecticut General Assembly. I consider it an honor and will endeavor to work hard to validate the trust that you have placed in me.

We are all facing difficult times as Connecticut turns the corner to economic recovery. I am committed to working towards a leaner more efficient government while ensuring that we maintain essential services.

The 2013 Legislative Session is now underway. For this term, I have been appointed to positions on the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, the Human Services Committee, and the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

Please keep in touch and contact me should you have any issues or concerns. I would appreciate your suggestions on how the state can operate more efficiently and more effectively serve its citizens. I am convinced that with your input and support, we can help make Meriden an even better place to live and work.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2013!

Hilda E. Santiago

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Job Growth Is Number One

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 the bills on a fixed income. The legislature supports seniors in a number of ways

including sending state funds to towns that help stabilize local property taxes, passing tough consumer protection laws and increasing 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.

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.

Education

Connecticut has a storied history of excellence in education but we still must strive to make our schools a top priority in 2013 as they face new challenges. In 2012, the legislature passed historic educational reforms, and now we must continue the work of implementing those important changes. Educating today's students for 21st century jobs means closely aligning vocational-technical schools and community colleges with the needs of Connecticut industries. There are significant challenges, but they must be overcome to ensure not only the success of our children, but also Connecticut's prosperity.

