

Fighting Connecticut's Opioid Crisis



Heroin and prescription drug overdoses are claiming more lives in Connecticut every year. On a bipartisan basis, the state legislature passed a bill that requires first responders to carry overdose-reversing drugs like Narcan, limits first-time prescriptions for opioid drugs to

just seven days, and strengthens the electronic prescription drug monitoring program. As Senate Chairwoman of the Committee on Children, I pushed especially hard for provisions in the bill that require a doctor—when writing an opioid prescription for a minor—to discuss with the child and his or her parents the risks associated with opioid addiction and overdose; the dangers of taking opioid drugs with alcohol and other central nervous system depressants; and exactly why the prescription is necessary.

Breaking Ground on the New Cheshire Community Food Pantry

Thanks to a \$465,300 state grant that I secured in collaboration with Representative Mary Fritz, we broke ground on the new Cheshire Community Food Pantry, which is being built on two acres of donated state land. Volunteers have been struggling each week in the current facility to serve 325 residents from 154 households in the area. I truly believe in the work this food pantry does, and I was happy to assist in getting this project off the ground. If you would like to volunteer, please visit www.cheshirefoodpantry.org.



Enhancing Detection & Intervention for Dyslexic Students

I sponsored a bill that ensures teachers seeking an endorsement as a remedial reading, remedial language arts, or reading specialist be equipped to identify, engage and educate students with dyslexia. Educators will receive instruction on the diagnosis and remediation of dyslexia, aligned with strategies proven to help students become better readers.

YOUR STATE SENATOR

DANTÉ BARTOLOMEO

FOCUSED ON OUR FAMILIES

Representing Cheshire,
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Focused on Our Families

BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

Every child deserves strong family support and a permanent home. As Senate Chairwoman of the Committee on Children, I worked this session to ensure passage of two bills that will implement recommendations from foster children and parents and empower those in the foster care system. One bill requires the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide foster and adoptive parents with a document that highlights the various types of support they can receive from the Department. The second bill requires DCF to provide “family profiles” to children age 12 and older before they are placed with their new foster family. These profiles can help ease the transition, providing the children with information about their new foster parents and siblings, pets, favorite foods, traditions, and so on. This bill also requires residential programs that house 10 or more children to establish youth advisory councils that will give children the opportunity to develop skills like peer advocacy, public speaking and conflict resolution.



Creating Jobs for the New Innovation Economy

This year we passed legislation that focuses on the new innovation economy and will help create jobs for the next generation in Connecticut. From the Industrial Revolution to the modern jet engine and the financial industry, our state has been at the forefront of the nation's economy. But as the business world changes we must once again reinvent our economy to continue to lead. This new law utilizes our economic strengths—a highly educated and productive workforce, top-tier universities and existing businesses—to capture future job growth at startups and expansion-ready companies.

- ▶ Encourages entrepreneurs to create new startups and jobs, and helps grow successful startups into larger firms
- ▶ Establishes "Innovation Places"—dense, local networks of innovators and entrepreneurs—where new businesses can grow faster together
- ▶ Connects colleges and universities with the private sector to bolster the conversion of research into new businesses
- ▶ Attracts more private funding to support growing companies



Protecting Core Services



Despite a budget deficit, we worked hard to consolidate state government yet protect core services. I advocated vigorously to protect funding for seniors and people with disabilities, continue a strong level of local and higher education funding and maintain the necessary level of investment in our hospitals. At the same time, I was able to support the towns in my district by ensuring that each receive a higher level of state aid in 2017 than they received this year.

Placement & Training for Today's Job Openings

Too many people in Connecticut are still unemployed or underemployed. I championed legislation and initiatives that are connecting people with training and employers with new workers. Connecticut is:



- ▶ Providing apprenticeship programs to train more software developers, programmers and others for in-demand tech jobs
- ▶ Investing in courses at vo-tech schools for adults looking to change careers or learn new job skills in areas like plumbing, electrical, tech support, and other skilled trades
- ▶ Coordinating community colleges and local employers to match direct job needs in manufacturing with interested students

These initiatives will help match Connecticut residents with good-paying middle-class jobs in today's economy.



Honoring Our Veterans

I presented nearly one hundred Connecticut veterans, whose tours of duty ranged from World War II to the post-9/11 conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, with the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal. The ceremony was the second such event that I have held, and I was honored to co-host this year's with Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Sean Connolly. Our veterans have served and sacrificed on behalf of this nation, and I am committed to not only improving the critical services they receive, but also to ensuring that veterans are properly recognized.

Tax Relief & Business Support for Veterans

We have doubled the maximum property tax exemption that a municipality may provide to wartime veterans or their surviving spouses to \$20,000. In addition, disabled veterans may be eligible for a supplemental property tax exemption of \$3,000.

I feel strongly that we, as policymakers, should support our veterans by passing laws that help them acclimate to civilian life, honor their commitment to our country, and recognize their talents and training.

Under a new law that I sponsored this year, veteran-owned small businesses will now receive additional preferences that will make it easier for veterans to start and grow businesses. This new policy is a continuation of my multi-year focus on recognizing the unique needs of our veterans and advocating on their behalf.

