

## WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### Aid For Our Towns

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That's why I fought hard to protect funding for **Hartford, Bloomfield** and **Windsor**. This table shows the state grants and reimbursements for our district in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.

|   | Fiscal Year 10-11    |
|---|----------------------|
| Total Education Grants                              | \$211,925,930        |
| Town Aid Road Fund Grant                            | \$987,711            |
| Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant            | \$9,054,757          |
| Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)           | \$2,597,362          |
| Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)                    | \$38,192,648         |
| <b>Total State Funds to the 2nd Senate District</b> | <b>\$262,758,408</b> |



### Remaking the UConn Health Center

John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington is about to get a major renovation—one that will create more than 15,000 jobs and ensure that UConn maintains its excellent medical program. We worked with Governor Rell to approve a new patient-care tower in Farmington and establish bio-science 'enterprise zones' around other area hospitals. The plan includes a new conference center at Hartford Hospital; an Institute for Primary Care at Saint Francis Hospital; a cancer center in the Hartford region; and programs at The Hospital of Central Connecticut and Bristol Hospital.

### Lowering Unnecessary Requirements for Aspiring Barbers

Aspiring barbers in search of steady work now face several excessive training requirements. Current law requires barbers in training to learn many skills unnecessary in their trade, such as applying makeup and performing manicures. I fought for legislation this year to correct this oversight, removing unnecessary training requirements for barbers and reducing from 1,500 to 1,000 the total hours of study necessary to obtain a barber's license.



### A Transparent Judicial Selection Process

Connecticut's judges should represent the state's diverse population, both in terms of ethnicity and socioeconomic background. As part of an ongoing commitment to this goal, we passed legislation that sheds light on the process by which we select our judges. More detailed information about candidates for judgeships will be made available to the public. By adding transparency to the process, we can help ensure that people of all backgrounds are represented.



Presenting a citation on the floor of the state Senate to retiring Hartford Fire Department Chief Charles Teal in recognition of his 28 years of service to the department. Joining me are Chief Teal's wife, Helaine, their daughter Kathleen Smith DeAlvarez and several of the chief's fellow firefighters.

Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget. I got the message.

This session we worked with Governor Rell to pass a historic bipartisan jobs bill. The legislation helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.

We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we balanced the budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending, maximized federal aid and reduced borrowing.

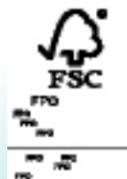
As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Coleman  
State Senator



What's happening at the State Capitol and around the state? Follow the Senate Democrats on Facebook and find out. Once again, it's paperless, informative and immediate: [www.facebook.com/CTSenateDemocrats](http://www.facebook.com/CTSenateDemocrats)



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State Senator  
**Eric D. Coleman**

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SUMMER 2010

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## NEW LAWS

### Helping Connecticut Schools Race to the Top

The Obama administration's Race to the Top program made \$4.3 billion available to states that reform public education. To meet that challenge, we

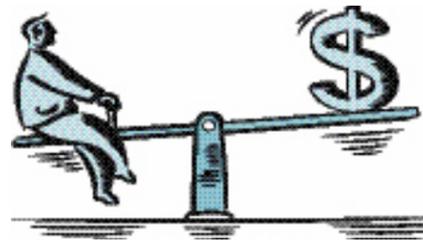


approved a landmark education bill that uses technology to track students' academic growth, creates new teacher accountability standards and provides options to fix failing schools. With these reforms Connecticut will have a better shot at

securing Race to the Top funds, closing the achievement gap and ensuring that our graduates can compete in the global economy.

### Working Together to Balance the Budget

The 2010 legislative session began with the state facing a projected deficit of more than \$1.2 billion for the current two-year budget. Despite the daunting task of closing the deficit, we were able to work together in a bipartisan fashion with the governor to balance the budget. We did it without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we cut state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars, while still protecting the state's most needy.



### Protecting the State's Credit in Tough Times

The global recession caused state revenues to plummet and even jeopardized Connecticut's credit rating. Bond-rating agencies warned that unless the state acted decisively, our ability to borrow for important projects at an affordable rate could be affected. We took aggressive action to de-authorize or reduce \$422 million in previously approved projects this year—bringing us safely under the bonding cap while preserving credit and helping to control future debt.



## GROWING JOBS

### Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Some economists call our landmark bipartisan jobs bill the most important jobs initiative that the General Assembly has ever considered. Provisions of the new law include:



- ▶ Loans and lines of credit for small businesses to help fund expansions, additional hires or new equipment
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- ▶ Pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green technology businesses

This law is an example of what can happen when business leaders, academics and small-business owners from across the state come together with one common goal: help Connecticut grow jobs.

### Helping Small Businesses in Tough Times



Small business is the engine that drives Connecticut's economy. With that in mind, we retroactively extended tax exemptions to business owners in targeted investment communities and enterprise zones that have purchased machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, biotechnology or recycling. I'm happy to announce that businesses located in Hartford and Windsor qualify for this tax exemption.

### Microbusinesses = Big Impact

Microbusinesses—defined as those with gross annual revenues of \$3 million or less—may be small, but they have the potential to play a large role in Connecticut's economic recovery. A new bill requires the state Department of Public Works to consider microbusinesses when pre-qualifying consultants for work on state projects, to set aside contracts or portions of contracts for microenterprises, and to open state revolving loan funds to these very small businesses.



## ELECTRIC BILL SAVINGS & TAX EXEMPTIONS

- ▶ **Choose Your Electric Supplier**  
The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by ten percent. 1-888-922-3782 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)
- ▶ **State Sales Tax Exemptions**  
Connecticut provides sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products including: insulation, caulking doors, fluorescent light bulbs, furnaces, geothermal heat pumps, programmable thermostats, water heaters and windows.



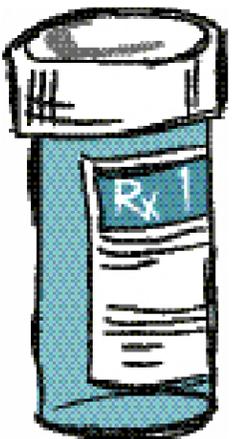
## RESOURCES FOR FORECLOSURE RELIEF

- ▶ **State Foreclosure Mediation Program**  
The Connecticut Judicial Branch provides foreclosure mediation in order to help homeowners and lenders reach a mutually agreeable resolution that aims to avoid home foreclosure. For more information, visit the Judicial Branch's Foreclosure Mediation Program Web site. [www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure](http://www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure)

## FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)**  
By joining MSP, eligible seniors could save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums, and the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments. Most individuals in ConnPACE are eligible for Medicare and can enroll in MSP.

As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. Your pharmacy co-pay could be reduced to as low as \$2.50 for generics and \$6.30 for brand-name drugs on Medicare Part D's Drug list. For more information, call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422, speak to a representative at 211, or visit [www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms](http://www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms).



## JOB RESOURCES

- ▶ **Where to Turn When Unemployed**  
The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It contains information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at 1-800-842-1420 to receive this helpful publication or visit our Jobs Web page (see above) to download a copy.

## OTHER RESOURCES AND LINKS

Find more helpful resources for jobseekers, veterans, those facing foreclosure and more at [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov).