



Medicinal Marijuana, Strictly Regulated

For many people suffering from chronic medical conditions, marijuana treatment provides the only available relief. Connecticut will now allow patients to obtain palliative marijuana, but only after receiving a doctor's approval for one of a very specific set of severe medical conditions. To avoid exploitation and black market activity, the state will license a limited number of approved marijuana producers, as well as the pharmacists who will be permitted to dispense the medication.



Ensuring Accurate Eyewitness IDs

Most people who watch police dramas on television will be familiar with the concept of a lineup. Possible suspects of a crime (or their photos) are shown to a witness, who is then asked to identify the perpetrator. Recent research suggests that when a witness is shown individuals or photos sequentially, rather than all at once, their identifications are much more accurate. We passed a law this year to make this standard police procedure.



New Jobs at Street Fleet Mechanics

In April, I visited Street Fleet Mechanics in Bloomfield to announce that the company would be receiving state assistance to hire two new auto repair technicians and provide them with on-the-job training under the state's STEP-Up program. To date, 65 new employees have been hired under the program at 45 different businesses. An additional 135 workers are in the process of being hired.

Repairs at the Artists Collective

The Artists Collective is one of the most important cultural institutions in Hartford, helping bring the arts to at-risk youth and people of all ages, and to promote African culture and art. I was pleased to help secure funding this year for repairs at the Artists Collective, including installation of new windows and doors, a new HVAC unit, flooring repairs, exterior masonry work and energy-efficiency improvements.



Future Home of African American Cultural Center

Also in the Hartford's Upper Albany neighborhood is the historic Northwest District School, the future home of the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center. I am pleased to report that I was able to gain state support for the first phase of repairs for this important renovation project.



Northwest School was constructed in the late 1800s and has been named a National Historic Site.

Upon completion of all renovations, the Rogers Center will feature multiple collections of historic artifacts, artwork, inventions, and writings that focus on the history of African Americans in Hartford and across Connecticut.



Your State Senator
Eric Coleman

Representing the residents of
Bloomfield, Hartford & Windsor

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Getting a close look at the operations of Express Kitchens in Hartford, a recipient of a state matching grant through the Small Business Express Program created with our 2011 bipartisan Jobs Bill.

Your State Senator

Eric Coleman

Resources

In addition to our work this session, last October we passed a historic, bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. Below is a list of programs and contact information that could benefit you or someone you know.

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- ▶ **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: www.decd.org, or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or michelle.lugo@ct.gov
- ▶ **STEP Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or rina.bakalar@ct.gov
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- ▶ **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more, visit: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Education Reforms

Every child deserves a first-class education. That's why we worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass a historic education reform plan. It provides interventions and innovative new strategies for high-need schools and support for children and families. It invests in communities and ensures high-quality teaching in the classroom. The new law provides:

- ▶ Funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots
- ▶ 20 new or expanded school-based health centers
- ▶ Kindergarten through third-grade reading programs
- ▶ Innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners
- ▶ Increased funding for new and existing Family Resource Centers
- ▶ A fair and validated evaluation system that will help teachers improve
- ▶ Additional funding to school districts across the state



Talking with Leo Ranger, a manager at Star Hardware in Hartford. The independently owned store received a matching grant from the state to expand through the Small Business Express Program that was created with our 2011 bipartisan Jobs Bill.

A COMMITMENT TO CREATING JOBS

How do you improve on one of the most successful Connecticut job-creation and economic assistance plans ever devised?

You make it available to even more businesses and employees.

This year Senate Democrats expanded the Jobs Bill that we originally approved last October. That means:

- ▶ Extending incentives to thousands of additional small and medium size businesses which will lead to more state manufacturers hiring, buying, training and expanding;
- ▶ Additional job-training support for post-9/11 combat veterans through the expansion of our new state STEP-Up Program;
- ▶ A "Connecticut Made" marketing campaign that advertises and markets locally made products;
- ▶ And a stronger "First Five" business incentive program that gives preference to companies that move jobs from overseas back to Connecticut.



Cracking Down on Racial Profiling

Racial profiling is an injustice that builds mistrust between police and law-abiding citizens. Only 27 of 92 police departments in Connecticut are in compliance with the state's 1999 racial profiling ban. That is why I am proud to have led the successful fight for new legislation to strengthen it. Police officers must now use a standardized form to document all traffic stops, which will be analyzed by a well-staffed agency for evidence of racial profiling. Police departments that continue to violate the law may face a reduction in state funds.

Repeal of the Death Penalty

After many years of passionate debate, Connecticut has become the 17th state to abolish the death penalty, replacing it going forward with life in prison without the possibility of parole. Execution is an irreversible punishment which studies show has been issued more often to minorities and the poor, and sometimes to the innocent. Our criminal justice system will be fairer without it, while continuing to severely punish the worst criminals.



Relief at the Pump

This session I helped pass a comprehensive plan that caps the gross receipts tax by applying it to only the first \$3 a gallon when gas is sold on the wholesale market. The plan also strengthens protections against price gouging, cracks down on oil profiteering, and requires that savings from the cap get passed along to consumers.

We can't affect the price of oil on the international exchange—but we can give our Dept. of Consumer Protection and Attorney General tools to ensure large oil wholesalers don't take advantage of rising prices to unfairly gouge consumers.

