



From Your State Senator **JOE CRISCO**

Legislative Update
for Beacon Falls



Addressing Mental Health Issues

I was honored to **receive the 2015 Legislative Leadership Award by the Keep the Promise Coalition**, a mental health advocacy group. The award recognizes my successful efforts as Chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to expand insurance coverage of services for persons with mental or nervous conditions. Certain policies now must include: general inpatient and outpatient hospital services; psychiatric inpatient hospitalization and outpatient hospital services; intensive outpatient services; and partial hospitalization.

Tax Cut for Retired Veterans

As part of the state budget, the legislature approved a tax cut for military veterans which **provides a 100 percent exemption from the state income tax for federally taxable military retirement pay**. State law used to provide for only a 50 percent exemption to retired members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard.

Women Veterans' Program

The legislature unanimously approved, and the governor signed into law, the creation of the Connecticut Women Veterans' Program, within the state Department of Veterans' Affairs. The program will reach out to women veterans to **improve their awareness of federal and state veterans' benefits and services**. The legislation also calls for an assessment of women veterans' needs for benefits and services, as well as a review of programs and initiatives currently available to women veterans in our state.



Preventing the Closure of the State Police Troop I Barracks

I am proud to announce that a bipartisan and concerted effort by Democratic and Republican legislators, town and school officials, parents and others has **resulted in keeping the Troop I barracks open**. Troop I serves 19 towns in south-central Connecticut, from East Haven to Naugatuck, Shelton to Meriden and receives 100,000 9-1-1 calls a year. There was a plan to redistribute the 60 troopers to other, regional barracks and to rely on smaller, local police forces, resident state troopers and constables.



From Your State Senator
Joe Crisco

Representing the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck & Woodbridge

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