

Enhancing Detection & Intervention for Dyslexic Students

By ensuring that teachers have the best training, our educators can identify the signs of dyslexia and intervene earlier in a child's education. This year I supported a bill to ensure that teachers seeking endorsement as a remedial reading, remedial language arts, or reading specialist are equipped to engage and educate students with dyslexia. Educators will receive instruction, including supervised training, on the diagnosis and remediation of dyslexia, aligned with evidenced-based, structured literacy interventions that are proven to help students become better readers.

Protecting Families from Fraud & Identity Theft



This year I joined the Farmington Police Department to hold an informational forum that taught attendees how to protect themselves and loved ones from fraud. Scammers will send you an email, call your phone, or even show up at your door to try to steal your personal information or valuables. The most

effective way to avoid a scam or identity theft is to take your time, think things through, and remember that if something sounds suspicious, it probably is.



Retirement for All

As fewer and fewer private employers offer retirement plans, it is imperative to give people an option to save for retirement. I supported legislation that creates a system to give 600,000 Connecticut residents access to a retirement program. Workers without access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or a payroll deduction individual retirement account will be able to start a retirement account managed by the state. This legislation will guarantee people more financial security in their retirement and decrease reliance on public assistance programs.

YOUR STATE SENATOR

Representing Berlin,
Farmington & New Britain

TERRY GERRATANA

HEALTHY FAMILIES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



I recognized and honored Jozef Smyk, a mainstay of New Britain's Polish community, during Polish Day at the State Capitol, where Polish Americans are honored for their contributions to state and country.

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Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

FIGHTING CONNECTICUT'S OPIOID CRISIS



Heroin and prescription drug overdoses are claiming more lives in Connecticut every year. I introduced legislation that will positively impact the state's opioid crisis. The legislation improves access to Naloxone, often known as Narcan, a medication that is used to treat opioid

overdose. Expanding access to Narcan is an important step in this public health crisis. Allowing more first responders to carry Narcan will save lives. The legislation also caps first-time opioid painkiller prescriptions to a seven-day supply, strengthens the prescription monitoring program, and releases health care professionals from liability when they administer an opioid antagonist, such as Narcan, to treat an overdose.



I joined members of the Public Health Committee, which I co-chair, to pass legislation aimed at curbing opioid abuse.

Creating Jobs for the New Innovation Economy

This year I championed a law to focus on the new innovation economy so we are building jobs for the next generation. 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 uses 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.

- ▶ Develops and attracts entrepreneurs who 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 convert research into new businesses
- ▶ Attracts more private funding to support growing companies



Visiting CCSU's Institute of Technology & Business Development (ITBD) that helps support growing Connecticut businesses and organizations.

Protecting Critical Services

Despite a budget deficit, I worked hard to consolidate state government in a smart way in order to protect core services. We protected state funding for seniors and people with disabilities, continued a strong level of local and higher education funding, maintained a commitment of investment in our hospitals, and dedicated state funding to every town in the state to hold down property taxes.



Town	Funding for Local Education	Total State Funding This Year
Berlin	\$6.3 million	\$8.4 million
New Britain	\$86.4 million	\$101.4 million
Farmington	\$1.2 million	\$5.8 million

Placement & Training for Today's Job Openings

Too many families in Connecticut need jobs in today's economy. I championed legislation and other government initiatives that are connecting people with training and employers that need new workers today.



- ▶ Trains more software developers, programmers and other applicants for in-demand tech jobs through apprenticeship programs
- ▶ Invests in night classes at vo-tech schools for high school students and adults looking to change careers or learn new job skills in areas like plumbing, electrical, tech support, and other skilled trades
- ▶ Coordinates community colleges and local employers to match direct job needs in manufacturing

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

Cutting New Britain's Car Taxes



The most frequent concern that families, seniors and small-business owners express to me is about property and car taxes. I am helping lead the charge to provide New Britain and other municipalities with the resources needed to limit these crippling taxes. As we move forward, the state will dedicate a portion of its sales tax revenue to cities and towns to help alleviate pressure on the property tax. Car taxes will also now be capped at 37 mills, which means a savings of 25 percent on your car tax bill given New Britain's current mill rate of 49.

Expanding Access to Telehealth Services

Last year the General Assembly passed legislation expanding coverage for telehealth services to privately insured people. This year I supported a bill that expands telehealth services to Medicaid recipients. This will allow for more access to healthcare, particularly to providers of mental health and substance abuse treatment in the form of e-consulting among other telehealth methods.



Telehealth will greatly improve health outcomes and cut costs by allowing patients to be monitored between physician office visits and reach medical experts when one is not available in their area.