

## Honoring Eastern Connecticut Veterans

On December 3rd, I had the honor of joining state Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Sean Connolly in awarding nearly 100 veterans from eastern Connecticut with the state's Wartime Service Medal.

Our veterans have served and sacrificed on behalf of this nation, and I am committed to not only improving the critical services our veterans receive, but to ensuring that veterans are properly recognized.



## Senior Fair 2015

I hosted the 18th District Senior Fair this fall which featured health screenings and a variety of information for senior citizens, families, caregivers and health professionals. There is much available for our seniors, but many are not aware of the resources that are out there. I hold this Senior Fair annually to put these organizations in one place and help seniors in my district connect with them. Connecticut has a wide variety of senior services: call the state Aging Department at 860-424-5274; the Connecticut AARP at 1-866-295-7279; or the state Consumer Protection Department at 860-713-6100.



## Submarine Century

On October 16th, I joined U.S. Senator Chris Murphy and the mayors of Groton and Ledyard in welcoming the USS California, a Virginia-class attack submarine, back to the Naval Submarine Base in Groton two days before the 100th anniversary of the first submarine to be homeported in Groton in 1915. I took a tugboat out beyond the mouth of the Thames River and boarded the USS California as it arrived in New London Harbor. We then traveled on the sub back to the Subase.



## Your State Senator

# Andrew Maynard

Representing Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington & Voluntown

Legislative Office Building, Room 2300, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: **860-240-0591** or **1-800-842-1420**

[www.SenatorMaynard.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorMaynard.cga.ct.gov)

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Greeting a veteran at my recent Veterans Wartime Service Medal ceremony in Pawcatuck.

## General Assembly Democrats Cut \$350 Million Hospitals, Business Groups Hail Special Session

Fundamental changes in our nation's economy have dramatically impacted the budgets of states throughout the country. Connecticut was one of more than 20 states that grappled with a budget shortfall in 2015.

While there were no easy choices, Democrats led by making difficult cuts, restoring critical funding to our hospitals, and protecting municipal aid. We also worked with the business community to make improvements to our corporate tax structure which will benefit businesses that employ Connecticut workers.

- Cut \$350 million from the state budget in December Special Session bringing total spending cuts to nearly \$1 billion in 2015;
- Restored \$50 million in funding to our state's hospitals, which, with federal matching funds, will amount to \$150 million;
- Delivered major property tax relief by guaranteeing increases to municipal aid;
- Restructured corporate taxes to provide a better business climate;
- Established a bipartisan committee that will recommend how Connecticut can best adopt a defined cap on future state spending; and,
- Passed a resolution creating a constitution lock box—the first step toward ensuring that transportation-specific revenue is spent on improving our transportation infrastructure.

*"Hospitals and business groups Wednesday hailed news that the General Assembly had cut taxes and restored funding in areas critical to their priorities..."*

The Day 12/10/15

*"Democratic lawmakers—with no Republican votes—passed a bill Tuesday that cuts corporate taxes and slices \$350 million in spending..."*

Hartford Courant 12/9/15

*"The legislature is paying attention to the hospitals"*

Tony Sheridan, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT  
The Day 12/10/15

*The legislature "took an important step" toward reducing the effect of statewide budget cuts on hospitals and patient care.*

Jennifer Jackson, CT Hospital Association  
The Day 12/10/15

*"The changes are a necessary step in the right direction."*

Brian Flaherty, CT Business & Industry Association  
The Day 12/10/15

Dear Neighbor:

In July of 2014, I took a serious fall at my home and suffered a traumatic brain injury. Less than six months later, when some may have wanted to write me off, I walked proudly into the Senate Chamber.

I stood, together with my Senate colleagues, and humbly took the oath of office. That day, and each day after, I have worked tirelessly as your state Senator.

This past legislative session, I worked on legislation capping property taxes and creating jobs. I've worked with Democrats and Republicans on making college more affordable, protecting consumers from price gouging, and bringing transparency to electricity bills.

I've sat down with constituents, toured small businesses and met with some of our region's major employers. My office organized ceremonies to honor local veterans, and fairs to provide senior citizens with vital information about services from health and wellness to financial planning.

I may have been down at first, but certainly not out. While I am still working on my speech—my heart, will, and drive have allowed me to accomplish great things this last year, and I eagerly look forward to fighting for the 18th Senatorial District again and again.

I want to thank all of you for your prayers and well wishes; I am grateful to live in such a beautiful and supportive community.

Sincerely,




I joined Representatives Paul Brycki and Christine Rosati-Randall to meet with constituents at office hours in Plainfield. (October 29, 2015)

## Creating Jobs in Eastern Connecticut

### State Jobs Programs

This year, we continued our efforts to help small and mid-size businesses create and retain jobs and put unemployed people back to work. The **STEP-Up** and **Small Business Express** programs have assisted local small businesses to expand and to create or preserve jobs. These initiatives offer job-training support for the unemployed and veterans and low-interest loans and grants for small businesses. To learn more, visit [www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs).

### General Dynamics' Electric Boat Continues Hiring

New federal submarine contracts along with recent state investments continue to spur job growth at Electric Boat. Over the next five years, they will be adding at least 520 jobs annually. For more information, visit [www.gdeb.com/careers/working\\_at\\_eb](http://www.gdeb.com/careers/working_at_eb).



Speaking with representatives of General Dynamics/Electric Boat during Manufacturing & Technology Day at the Capitol. (May 13, 2015)

## Protecting Long Island Sound



Touring the Marine Sciences labs at UConn's Avery Point campus in Groton. (October 29, 2015)

The health of Long Island Sound is critical to Connecticut's environmental and commercial future. That's why we created the Long Island Sound Blue Plan, to ensure that our state has a coordinated strategy

for future use of the Sound. The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, working with experts at UConn's Avery Point, the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation and others, will study and compile an inventory of the Sound's natural and human resources. This plan will play a critical role in protecting Long Island Sound for generations to come.

## Easing the Burden of Testing on High School Students

Until this school year, 11th-graders were overburdened with duplicative tests. In addition to taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test, many high school juniors also took the SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement Exams. Senate Democrats led bipartisan passage



of legislation to eliminate the requirement that 11th-grade students take the SBAC test and require instead that they take a nationally recognized test such as the SAT at no cost to the students and their families.

This not only reduces over-testing, it also provides a free college readiness exam for Connecticut's high school students, making college more accessible to all students.

## Student Loan Borrowers



Students across the country are accruing crippling amounts of student loan debt. Often, students sign contracts without fully understanding language relating to interest, principal, or the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans. We passed legislation

to establish student loan education courses at institutions of higher education. The Department of Banking is required to oversee the implementation of the courses and provide guidance to student loan borrowers. These courses will help students better navigate the funding sources available and ensure they are equipped to become responsible borrowers.

## Helping Children with Dyslexia

Thousands of Connecticut children struggle with dyslexia, a learning disability that impacts reading. Our state statutes did not provide guidance to school systems about how to detect and assist students with dyslexia. Families with children facing this learning challenge had nowhere to turn. Senate Democrats led unanimous passage of important legislation that requires the state Department of Education to help parents and boards of education detect and intervene for students with dyslexia.