

REPRESENTING MILFORD, ORANGE, WEST HAVEN & WOODBRIDGE

# YOUR STATE SENATOR **Gayle Slossberg**



Legislative Office Building, Room 2000, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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## STAY IN TOUCH

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### Honoring Our Heroes

In July, I organized a ceremony to recognize generations of wartime veterans for their service and sacrifice. They were honored at the Milford Senior Center and presented with the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal, awarded to Connecticut residents who have served during times of conflict from World War I to the present. It was truly moving to speak with these veterans and to hear stories from such well-lived lives. We can never thank them enough for their immense sacrifice, but we will continue to recognize their greatness and ensure that their legacies endure.

If you're a veteran in need of assistance, Milford has opened a new regional Veteran's Center at the Parsons Government Center. The phone number for the Center is 203-874-6711.

### Green Jobs for the Future

Preparing students for "green" careers after graduation is an essential part of growing Connecticut's economy. That is one reason why I was so excited to join students at Platt Technical High School in Milford to celebrate the opening of a newly built E-House. Designed and constructed by students, the E-Houses are the nation's first green construction learning laboratories for high school students. They incorporate weatherization and energy-efficiency labs, and will give students the



opportunity to conduct hands-on field work and earn professional certification. The E-House will prepare students to fill the next generation of high-skill, high-paying jobs, and help give students a leg up on their competition.

### Multiple Local School Improvements

Milford, Orange and West Haven are among the towns whose schools will receive grant money from the state to add computers and increase Internet bandwidth. Our students will soon have more access to technology that can enhance their learning. There will be more computers for students to use in classes, and strengthened wireless for school buildings. These technology upgrades are a win for both our educators and our students.

Additionally, as a result of recent legislation, 25 schools in our towns will receive various security improvements, including new interior and exterior doors, windows, locks, communications systems and surveillance equipment. This means a safer and more secure learning environment for all of our children and educators.



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# Update from **SENATOR** **Gayle Slossberg**

## ***Committed to Economic Recovery***

At the beginning of the global economic recession, Connecticut economists predicted a very slow recovery. At the State Capitol, we took action. During the last three legislative sessions and the 2011 October Special Session on Jobs, we passed historic, bipartisan, job-creating bills.

We launched and then expanded programs to help thousands of small and medium-size businesses. For example, the **STEP-Up** and **Small Business Express** programs—which so far have assisted nearly 850 firms to create or preserve almost 12,000 jobs—offer job-training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and state grants for small businesses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 41,000 private-sector jobs have been created in Connecticut since 2011.

## **Resources to Grow Jobs**

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org)
- ▶ **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: [tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress](http://tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress), or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or [Michelle.Peters@ct.gov](mailto:Michelle.Peters@ct.gov).
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: [www.stepct.com](http://www.stepct.com)
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: [www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP)
- ▶ **Job & Career ConnEction** for details on job and training programs: [www.ctjobandcareer.org](http://www.ctjobandcareer.org)

To learn more about job growth in Connecticut, visit: [www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs)



## ***Support for Local Businesses***

Locally, many businesses in the communities I represent are utilizing important programs like STEP-Up and Small Business Express to preserve and create jobs.

- Milford:** Bobette's Takeout Bistro, Archer Signs, Drilling Dynamics, Orange Research, Red Mat Media, Automated Services, W & W Machine Company, Drill Masters Eldorado Tool
- Orange:** Numet Machining Techniques (shown at left), Cobalt Therapeutics, A Stork's Studio, Nature's First, Orange Fence & Supply Co.
- West Haven:** Deitsch Plastic, Thermaxx, Shoreline Wellness Center, Kemper Corporation
- Woodbridge:** The Write Approach, New England Brewing Company

## **Children's Mental Health**

Following the Newtown tragedy, Democrats and Republicans came together to improve Connecticut's mental health care system, with a particular focus on the well-being of children.

The new law implements a strong, comprehensive, integrated system of care. It identifies strategies for reducing the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children. It promotes early identification and intervention, and ensures access to developmentally appropriate services to help treat children earlier. It also created a Children's Mental Health Task Force to study the effects of nutrition, genetics and medication on our youngsters.



## **Being Prepared for Winter Weather**



In light of recent severe hurricanes and historic snowstorms that have battered Connecticut, members of the public have been vulnerable to price gouging by shady service providers for snow removal, flood abatement, roof raking and lodging. That is why we expanded consumer protections by prohibiting price gouging for services that are essential for the health, safety and welfare of consumers in the aftermath of severe storms. This will be a deterrent to exploitative business owners and will protect consumers from predatory practices.

For more information about how to report price gougers, contact the **Department of Consumer Protection** at 860-713-6300 or visit [www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp).