

Encouraging Our Students



The groundwork to success can be laid early in a child's education. Historically, Connecticut has had one of the largest gaps in the nation in high school graduation rates between students from low-income families and their higher-income peers. That is something the state has been aggressively trying to turn around—and it's working, as the graduation rate has been rising among some of our largest school districts, including New Haven.

Encouragement is a big factor, which is why I join members of our community every month to welcome students to their schools and cheer them on in our #BecauseYouMatter tour.

Our kids need to know that we are here, and we care about their future.

Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence



I worked with Representative Robyn Porter and other members of the legislature on a critical new law that will help protect victims from their abusers immediately following the service of a temporary restraining order. Current law is the weakest at the most dangerous moments for domestic violence victims. This change will allow the removal of firearms from the equation during the most critical time in a victim's life—the seven days between the filing of the restraining order and the hearing to make the order permanent.

YOUR STATE SENATOR

GARY WINFIELD

PASSION FOR PROGRESS

Representing
New Haven
West Haven



Legislative Office Building, Room 2400, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: **860-240-0393** or **1-800-842-1420**

Web: www.SenatorWinfield.cga.ct.gov

Facebook Twitter YouTube Flickr

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO. 3937

Passion for Progress

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

Many hardworking people trying to find jobs have been unfairly disqualified due to hiring practices that immediately discount an applicant with a criminal record, whether it would impact the person's ability to do the job in question or not.

I championed passage of a new set of hiring practices for private employers designed to ensure that applicants with criminal records are evaluated on the merits of their qualifications, not on their criminal records.

The law will incorporate 'ban the box' policies, which remove the criminal history question from job applications, postpone the background check until a conditional offer is made by the employer, and require employers to take into account the status of the offense.



I worked with allies like Clifton Graves and Chance Jackson from Project Fresh Start, which works to create a number of resources in New Haven to help returning citizens find jobs, continue their education and re-enter our community in a productive and healthy way.

Creating Jobs for the New Innovation Economy

This year I championed a law to focus on the new innovation economy so that 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 large 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



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 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.

Cutting New Haven's & West Haven'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 Haven, West Haven 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 11 percent on a New Haven resident's car tax bill given New Haven's current mill rate of 41.55. This is also an average savings of 18.7 percent for West Haven residents who have three mill rates: 45.56 in the 1st District (Center), 44.639 in the 2nd District (West Shore) and 46.33 in the 3rd District (Allingtown).

Supporting Veteran-Owned Small Businesses



As policymakers, we must improve the lives of our veterans and ensure they earn a good living and contribute to our economy. Under a new law that I fought for this year, veteran-owned small businesses will now receive additional preferences that will make

it easier for veterans to start and grow businesses. This new policy is a continuation of my multi-year focus on improving the lives of our veterans and supporting them in every way possible.

"The Chamber is grateful to Senate leadership for its support of this initiative, which is vital to our more than 40,000 veteran-owned businesses"

Andrew S. DiSilvestro Jr., Executive VP
CT Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Recruiting Minority Teachers



Forty-one percent of Connecticut high school students are people of color, but only 7 percent of our teachers are, and only two percent of school administrators. This disparity has been a concern of mine and of my constituents for some time—so much so that they helped me lobby for passage of a bill that will increase minority teacher recruitment and advancement efforts in Connecticut. I am happy to say that this bill passed on a unanimous and bipartisan basis this year and is now law.