

Senator Heather Somers, a native and resident of Groton, was elected to serve the 18th Senate district in November 2016. The 18th district includes Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington and Voluntown.

Sen. Somers was appointed Republican Co-Chair of the Public Health Committee. This panel, comprised of both House and Senate members has cognizance of all programs and matters relating to the Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Developmental Services and the Office of Health Care Access. The committee also has jurisdiction on matters relating to emergency medical services, all licensing boards within the Department of Public Health, nursing homes, pure food and drugs, and controlled substances, including the treatment of substance abuse.

Sen. Somers will be a member of the Appropriations Committee, and serve as Republican Vice Chair of the Environment Committee, the Education Committee and the Higher Education Committee. She also serves as Republican Majority Whip.

Sen. Somers served for five terms on the Groton Town Council, and served as Mayor for the Town of Groton from 2012-2014. As Mayor, Heather established an Energy Efficiency Task Force to evaluate energy saving initiatives throughout the town. Heather spearheaded a School Planning Task Force to address the issues of racial imbalance and aging school infrastructure. Heather also worked tirelessly with the town council to deliver the citizens of Groton two tax decreases during her tenure.

A native of Groton, Sen. Somers previously served as the Chairman of the Council's Economic Development Committee and served on the Finance and Public Health committees as well as the Utilities Expansion Steering Committee.

She currently serves on the State Commission for Economic Development working to develop and implement the kind of overdue policies needed to improve the state's business climate.

Sen. Somers was a founding partner of Hydrofera, a medical device manufacturer that still employs nearly 100 people in Windham County. Heather worked as the Vice President of International Sales and Marketing for Hollister Inc. the medical device company which acquired Hydrofera in 2010.

She is the recipient of the Medical Device Excellence Award (2000) and a Silver Award Winner for the Connecticut Women of Innovation Awards (2007). Sen. Somers holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Connecticut and resides in Groton with her husband Mark Somers and three children.