

# JASON C. WELCH



## 2012 Legislative Update



*Sen. Welch speaks to a Plymouth taxpayer during one of his "Senator on Your Sidewalk" events this past fall.*



*Sen. Welch talks with the Bristol Boys & Girls Club's 2011 Youth of the Year Adam Otero (left) and BBGC 2004 Youth of the Year Erica Pearson (right) at a State Capitol reception.*



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# STATE SENATOR Jason C. Welch

Bristol ★ Harwinton ★ Plainville ★ Plymouth

*The Welch family gathered at last year's Memorial Day parade in Harwinton.*



**“Cutting spending and taxes is the key to turning the state’s economy around. Recent tax hikes are handicapping Connecticut businesses in their quest to compete with those in other states.”**

*– State Senator Jason Welch*

*Sen. Welch addresses a taxpayer’s question during a public meeting at Plymouth Town Hall in September. Welch co-hosted the meeting with Rep. Whit Betts (left).*



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*Sen. Welch (at right) and Bristol State Rep. Frank Nicastro (third from left) joined with representatives of the Bristol American Legion Post #2 Color Guard to participate in an April flag unveiling ceremony at the State Capitol to mark the Month of the Military Child and to raise awareness about the important role children play in the Armed Forces community.*

## Supporting Our Vets

**J** was proud to join with Democrats and Republicans in voting for a bill which beefs up state law to discourage vandals and thieves from defacing or stealing veterans' memorials.

Under our new law, a person faces a felony for intentionally defacing, mutilating, destroying or removing any part of a memorial or monument, or for possessing or trying to sell it. The penalty is up to five years in prison, a \$5,000 fine, or both. It sends a strong message to would-be criminals: we will protect our veterans' memorials.

*Sen. Welch speaks at the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" ceremony at the Legislative Office Building. Sen. Welch spoke of his late father's service to the country in Vietnam. Welch serves as ranking member of the legislature's Select Committee on Veterans Affairs. He has served his country in both the United States Coast Guard Reserve and Army National Guard. (From left to right: Sen. Welch, Attorney General George Jepsen, and Rep. Al Adinolfi.)*



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*Sen. Welch greets Plainville High School environmental studies students at the State Capitol.*

## Promoting Manufacturing Jobs

Greater Bristol has a proud manufacturing history. I have joined a new bipartisan group of lawmakers which will work together to produce better policies for Connecticut manufacturers. We all want to grow manufacturing jobs in Connecticut. This coalition will build upon that shared vision while building bonds between legislators.

*Sen. Welch with Mike Gilchrist, Vice President at Britol-based manufacturer Bauer, Inc. Welch is part of a new, bipartisan group to educate lawmakers on the value of manufacturing in the state. Members of the "Manufacturing Caucus" will meet regularly to discuss the consequences that new legislation may have on manufacturing and job creation.*



## Boosting Bioscience Jobs

This year I joined with Bristol legislators to help pass a bill which modifies the designation of Bristol's bioscience zone in order to maximize local job creation. We all want the Bioscience Zone to be a magnet for entrepreneurs and investment. With this fix to our maps, we are improving the city's business climate and laying the groundwork for job growth. Adding new high-tech companies will increase the local tax base and also provide high-paying jobs.

## Helping Local Small Businesses Expand

The bipartisan jobs bill that we passed in October created the state's Small Business Express Program. The program is providing \$100 million to help the state's small businesses hire more employees and fund capital investments.

Elka Precision of Plainville plans to hire eight new employees after receiving a Job Creation Incentive loan of \$250,000. The Small Business Express Program is a great example of how the policies we create in Hartford can keep and grow jobs right here in central Connecticut.

## Cap and Cut the Gas Tax

Families and businesses need relief from the pain at the pumps. This year, we were successful in capping our state's rising gas tax, and we continue to press for significant gas tax cuts.

*Bristol AARP representatives Jessie and Carolyn Brown met with Sen. Welch at the State Capitol. The Browns have been honored for their outstanding volunteer work and public service. To ease the financial burdens on seniors, Sen. Welch is pushing to eliminate the state's tax on social security income.*



*Outside of the Bristol WalMart, Sen. Welch, along with Rep. Whit Betts (left) rang the bell collecting donations for the Salvation Army during the holidays.*

S T A T E S E N A T O R

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Thank you for this opportunity to share information about important issues facing our state. If you have questions about any issue concerning state government, please feel free to contact me directly.


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Sincerely,



Jason C. Welch



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