

## From The House

### Resources to Support Small Businesses

We are working hard to make our state welcoming and supportive to all businesses, small and large.

From help with crafting a business plan and registering a business, financial assistance to get started, resources for minority and women-owned businesses, to finding commercial space, we have been hard at work to make sure Connecticut is open for business.

If you are a small business owner, or are thinking about starting your own business and need help with logistics, these programs are here for you. When you succeed, we all do.

#### ***Financial Assistance for Businesses***

The Entrepreneur Learner's Permit Program allows first time businesses in certain fields to be eligible for up to \$1,500 in reimbursements for startup costs. Also, Connecticut Innovations offers free technical consultations to help you improve your chances of winning a federal grant. Our Small Business Express loans are available to help you expand your business and create jobs.

This past year we expanded our Angel Investor Tax Credit Program. It's a way to pair small businesses and investors who are looking for the next great startup.

These and other finance incentives and loan options are outlined on DECD's website: [www.ct.gov/ecd](http://www.ct.gov/ecd)

#### ***Resources for Minority-Owned & Women-Owned Businesses***

Connecticut recently launched a new Minority Business Initiative with Designated Funding for Minority Business Loans through the Minority Business Revolving Loan Fund. We want all local businesses to have access to capital.

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership funds Women Business Centers in the state with many helpful resources for female entrepreneurs. In addition, the Small Business Development Center provides low cost advising and training for minority and women owned businesses.

It can be tough to navigate the waters when you are starting a business, so we have launched a new small business hotline to help answer any questions you have about registration or resources needed to start or grow your business. Just call 860-392-2122.

As always, I appreciate your support and advice. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at 860-240-8500 or [matthew.ritter@cga.ct.gov](mailto:matthew.ritter@cga.ct.gov).