



# Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro

## *A Jobs Plan for Connecticut's Third District*

### the jobs agenda

1. **Creating Middle Class Jobs, Improving our Future**
  - Fix America's Schools Today (FAST) Act
  - Job Creation and Energy Efficiency Act
2. **Supporting America's Workforce**
  - Layoff Prevention Act
  - Fair Employment Opportunity Act
3. **Rebuilding our Economy's Foundations**
  - National Infrastructure Development Bank Act
  - Manufacturing Reinvestment Account Act
4. **Creating a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workplace**
  - Paycheck Fairness Act
  - Healthy Families Act



*"I am proposing a plan that aims to immediately create jobs that provide dividends well into the future."*

- Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

With over 13 million unemployed across the country and a high unemployment rate in Connecticut, my top priority continues to be putting people back to work. Only by creating good middle class jobs and setting a new direction for our economy can we hope for sustainable economic growth that allows us to compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.

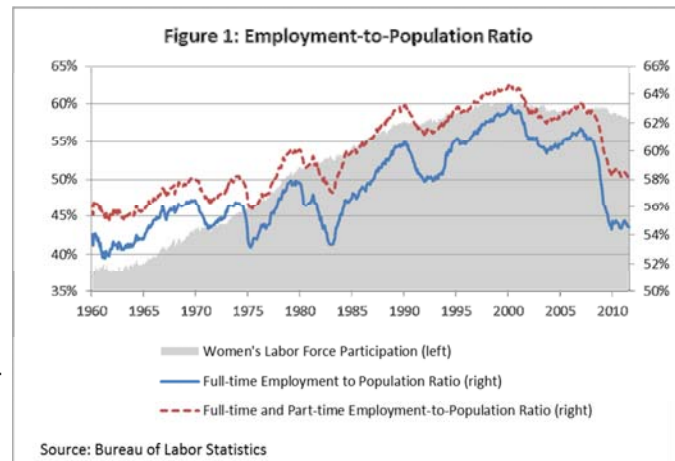
From supporting innovative small businesses and our manufacturing base to investments in education and scientific research, we must address the immediate jobs crisis and lay the foundation to create good, sustainable middle class jobs that cannot be outsourced and will lead to long-term economic growth.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, middle-class and working-class Americans have seen their wages stagnate and median income fall over the past thirty years, even as the top 1% of Americans have seen their income triple to 23% of the total. Meanwhile 1 in 6 Americans are living in poverty.

We are also seeing more and more good jobs shipped overseas. According to the Economic Policy Institute, we have lost over 31,000 jobs in Connecticut, including 6,000 jobs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, over the last decade due

to our trade deficit with China alone. At the same time, our infrastructure, the lifeblood of any economy, is crumbling with the American Society of Civil Engineers noting that, among other things, 35% of Connecticut's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, 47% of our major roads are in poor or mediocre condition, and we need an investment of \$653 million over the next 20 years in our drinking water infrastructure.

This plan aims to create jobs now and well into the future; preserves existing jobs and prevents unjust barriers to employment; builds the foundations for long-term growth by rebuilding our infrastructure and reviving the manufacturing sector; and helps working families to ensure they get the pay and benefits they deserve.



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# Creating Middle Class Jobs, Improving our Future

Support for small businesses, innovative research and education is critical to creating jobs.

## **Small Business**

Federally-backed loans and tax cuts for our small businesses, the overwhelming source of job creation in our state, helps them to thrive. I also worked with local small business to extend the Small Business Innovation Research program, which increases small businesses' access to federally funded research and development grants. Since its beginning, this program has helped to create over 10,000 good jobs in our state.

## **Research and Education**

As the lead Democrat on the committee that funds job training, health and education, I have fought for funding to the National Institutes of Health, which supports nearly half a million jobs in our country, including critical biomedical research jobs, and for investments in education programs like Head Start, Title I and Pell Grants, which support jobs for our teachers and create better opportunities for our children

and young adults.

## **Legislation**

In addition, we need to put in place policies that immediately create good middle class jobs

the **FAST Act**, Connecticut would receive \$265.1 million for K-12 schools and \$57.5 million for community colleges.



Rosa discusses the FAST Act at West Haven High School

“FAST could quickly get to work fixing a vital but dangerously ignored American institution, while putting hundreds of thousands back to work and providing students with better learning environments.” -Jared Bernstein (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities), Mary Filardo (21st Century School Fund) and Ross Eisenbrey (Economic Policy Institute).

*“We all know that creating jobs is the key to jumpstart our nation’s economic recovery and invigorate the commercial real estate sector. That is precisely the purpose of the Job Creation and Energy Efficiency Act. The Act would spur lending, leverage private investment and help unleash capital to support low-risk energy efficiency building retrofit projects – while creating thousands of well-paying jobs that will stay here in the United States.”*

*- Jeffrey D. DeBoer, President and CEO of The Real Estate Roundtable*

that offer longer-term rewards for the economy. I introduced the **Fix America’s Schools Today (FAST) Act** to immediately put people back to work addressing the backlog of deferred maintenance and repair in our K-12 schools and community colleges. Such funding would immediately create jobs in our communities for people working on a range of projects,

from asbestos abatement and removal projects to building new science and computer labs. As importantly, such investments would boost teacher and student morale and performance, better positioning the next generation to get the education they need to secure the good jobs of the future. Under

We should also encourage job growth in the struggling construction and manufacturing sectors by renovating existing buildings to improve their energy efficiency. The **Job Creation and Energy Efficiency Act** would create a low-interest federal loan program to help businesses and local governments finance retrofits-such as efficient lighting, windows, building insulation, and efficient heating and cooling systems-of existing buildings. The **Job Creation and Energy Efficiency Act** will create jobs, including up to 1 million jobs in the construction and manufacturing industries, protect the environment, and reduce energy costs. And, it is all paid for with the energy savings achieved by the retrofit projects.



Rosa discusses the Job Creation and Energy Efficiency Act at the Lightning Quotient

# Supporting America's Workforce

To support Connecticut's workforce, we must give them the tools and opportunities to succeed.

## Job Training and Community College Education

Great job training and job development programs, like those at Connecticut Works Career Centers, are vital to developing our workforce. I support these programs, which receive funding through federal Workforce Innovation Fund and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grants. It is important to forge partnerships between community colleges and businesses to train workers for available high-skilled jobs. Earlier this year, I brought local community colleges and the business community together to discuss ways to better prepare students for available jobs, including by collaborating to customize training programs to match students with jobs. I believe the President's proposed Community College to Career Fund, which would provide funding to states to foster innovative and effective partnerships between community colleges and industry, can further strengthen the collaborative efforts occurring in our state.

## Jobs for Veterans

The brave men and women who serve our nation overseas deserve our grateful thanks, and when they get back opportunities for a well-paying job to support their families. The recently enacted Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act provides businesses with tax credits to encourage them to hire service-members and veterans with ser-

vice-related disabilities while overhauling the military's Transition Assistance Program to provide veterans with baseline training for getting work in the civilian job market and creating a job training program for unemployed older veterans. These efforts honor those who served our country while also helping to strengthen our economy.

## Legislation

Twenty-three states, including Connecticut, have adopted work sharing programs to reduce employee vulnerability while maintaining an experienced workforce for employers. These programs have saved over 265,000 jobs in the last three years. In Connecticut alone, over 500 employers have participated in the Shared Work program to support their businesses and save local jobs.

I introduced the **Layoff Prevention Act** and fought to see it signed into law in February 2012. This new program will provide federal funds for states to develop and implement a work sharing program, improve its administration, and increase enrollment. States with existing programs, like Connecticut, are now eligible for up to three years of federal financing for their programs, and could apply for additional grants for program improvement and expansion.

In work sharing programs, employers save money by reducing hours and saving on rehiring costs while employees make up for lost wages by receiving a portion of Unemployment In-

surance (UI) benefits. Work sharing is a win-win for America's workforce, companies, and our economy. Workers are able to maintain employment in a tough job market, companies prevent business disruption and skill erosion, and there is less of a burden on the UI benefits system.

When workers lose their jobs by no fault of their own, they must be given every chance to swiftly re-enter the workforce. Unfortunately, companies across the country have begun using applicants' current employment status as a consideration for filling available positions, telling unemployed Americans they need not apply.

My **Fair Employment Opportunity Act** prohibits employers and employment agencies from refusing to consider someone who is unemployed, or including language in job advertisements or postings that state unemployed individuals are not qualified. In today's tough economy, this Act would ensure that workers can pursue jobs they are qualified for without having to navigate a catch-22 that requires them to have a job in order to get a job.

## Layoff Prevention

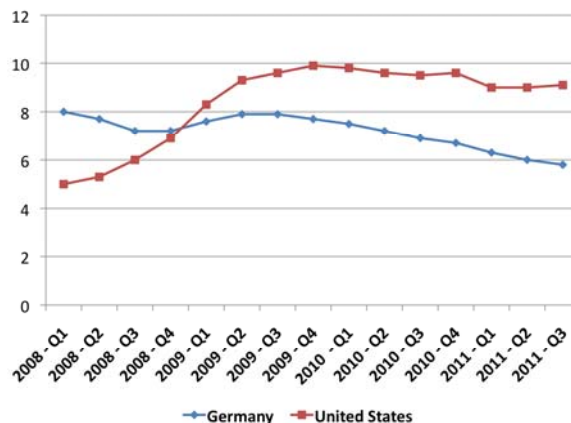
*"This one should be a simple and non-partisan issue... If just 5% of layoffs/dismissals can be prevented through work sharing, this would translate into 1.1 million additional jobs by the end of a year."* – Dean Baker, CEPR

## Fair Employment Opportunity

*"To the degree that such practices go unchecked, we allow the job market to become like a giant game of musical chairs in which only those who are already employed can play. That's no way to fuel an economic recovery and it's no way to be a good corporate citizen."* – Rebecca Dixon, NELP

**Unemployment Rates for Germany and the United States, 2008-2011**

While Germany has been hit equally hard by the global downturn, its aggressive adoption of work-sharing programs has kept German employees at work.



Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

## Infrastructure

*"An infrastructure bank such as the one proposed by Rep. DeLauro could help create and sustain jobs, leverage private investment, and support maintaining, modernizing and expanding the physical platform of the American economy."*

*- Janet Kavinoky, Director, Transportation Infrastructure, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.*

## World Infrastructure Ranking

- Hong Kong
- Germany
- United Arab Emirates
- France
- Singapore
- Switzerland
- Netherlands
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Sweden
- Japan
- Iceland
- Denmark
- Spain
- United States

Source: World Economic Forum, "The Global Competitiveness Report 2010-11," Table 6.

## Manufacturing

*"My family has been involved in manufacturing for three generations and at no time have we faced such serious economic challenges; however a new federal bill called the MRA, Manufacturing Reinvestment Account brings hope."* - Jamison Scott, Air Handling Systems (Woodbridge)



# Rebuilding our Economy's Foundations

In order to create good middle class jobs that cannot be outsourced and lay the foundation for sustainable long-term economic growth so that we can compete with the other economic power centers around the globe, we need to move from a nation that consumes to one that builds again.

## Build it in Connecticut

From the days of Eli Whitney, Connecticut has always been known as a vital center of industrial and manufacturing creativity. To keep that tradition alive, I support Buy America requirements that all steel, iron, and manufactured goods used on federal-aid projects are produced in the United States, tax reform that incentivizes manufacturers to build their facilities here rather than overseas as the President's proposed corporate tax reform would, and efforts to level the global playing field for U.S. manufacturers, such as legislation to counter China's currency manipulation.

## Legislation

A key component to a sustained revival of the manufacturing sector is increased investment in infrastructure, the

lifeblood of any economy.

Along with supporting strong federal investments in Connecticut's highway, transit, rail and water systems, I introduced the **National Infrastructure Development Bank Act**. This bill would establish a government-owned entity that would leverage private dollars to invest in transportation, environmental, energy and telecommunications infrastructure projects of regional or national signifi-

well as building out modern infrastructure systems, such as smart grids and broadband. The concept enjoys broad support from the business and labor communities, as well as a bipartisan group of Mayors, Governors and advocacy groups.

Along with supporting incentives in the tax code such as accelerated depreciation for certain capital assets and research and development expensing and tax credits, I worked

with local small manufacturers to introduce the **Manufacturing Reinvestment Account Act**. This bipartisan bill would allow manufacturing firms to establish a manufacturing reinvestment account (MRA), similar to

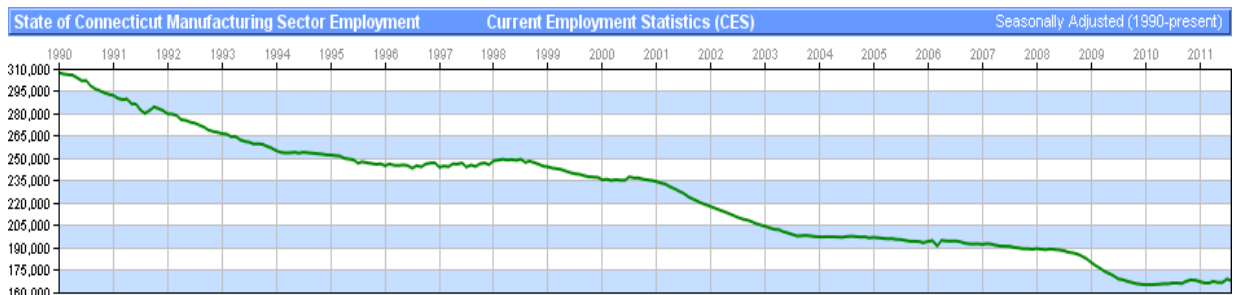
an individual retirement account (IRA), in a community bank and to make annual pre-tax contributions of up to \$500,000 that may be held in the MRA for up to 7 years. Amounts distributed from the MRA are effectively taxed at a low 15% rate and must be used to purchase equipment and facilities or for job training.



Rosa highlights the need to invest in our Nation's infrastructure at the Moses Wheeler Bridge

cance with clear economic, environmental or social benefits.

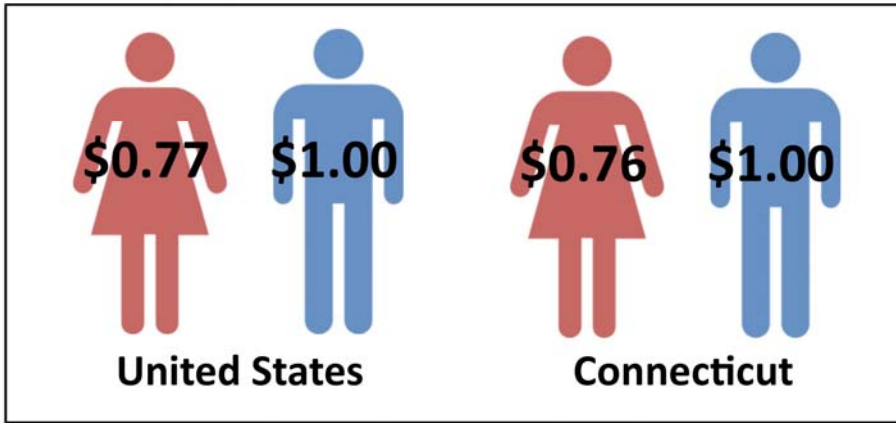
Modeled after similar state-level banks and development banks around the world, the National Infrastructure Bank would match private dollars from institutional investors, such as pension funds, with public monies to invest in meritorious projects rebuilding traditional infrastructure, such as roads and water systems, as



Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

# Creating a 21st Century Workplace

## Gender Wage Gap



In order to see long-term economic growth in Connecticut and in the United States, we must address the needs of today's working families.

### **Progressive Individual Tax Code**

Earlier this year I supported the extension of the payroll tax cut, ensuring that 160 million American middle class workers, including 2 million people in Connecticut, will not lose their payroll tax cut on in 2012. In addition, maintaining and expanding critical tax relief for working families like the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, which kept about 1.3 million children from falling into poverty in 2009, is critical.

### **Legislation**

Despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act 48 years ago, women in the United States still make just 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. In Connecticut, women earn only 76% of what men earn doing the same job. Nearly 170,000 Connecticut households are headed by women, and 63% of working mothers in the state bring in over a quarter of their families'

income.

To address this inequity for working women, I introduced the **Paycheck Fairness Act** in every Congress since 1997. It would close longstanding loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and stiffen penalties for employers who discriminate based on gender. And, to further close the earnings gap between women and men, I support legislation, the Women WIN Jobs Act, to increase women's participation in non-traditional occupations that are in high-demand and earn high wages.

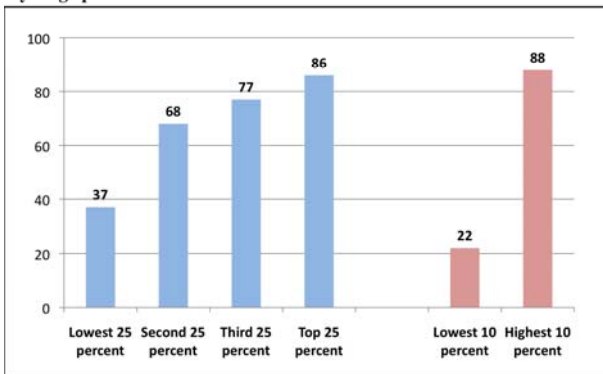
At a time when millions of families are living paycheck to paycheck, higher wages are essential to helping working families stay above water, and so is access to paid sick leave. Currently, forty million Ameri-

can workers do not have one day of paid sick leave to care for themselves or their families, including two-thirds of lower-income private sector workers. Yet, we are starting to see some momentum for change and I am proud that Connecticut is helping to lead the way becoming in 2011 the first state in the nation to adopt a law allowing employees to earn paid sick time to recover from a short-term illness, care for a sick family member or seek routine medical care.

The **Healthy Families Act** would provide all American workers with access to paid sick leave by enabling workers to earn 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked, adding up to 7 days worth of paid leave. Workers can use this time to stay home and get well when they are ill, to care for a sick family member, to obtain preventative or diagnostic treatment, or to seek help if they are victims of domestic violence. The Act would benefit workers, business, and our economy by reducing the spread of disease, decreasing employee turnover, and improving productivity

while ensuring that American workers have the ability to take care of themselves and their families without having to worry about losing their jobs.

Percentage of Workers who Receive Paid Sick Leave, by wage percentile



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009

*"Despite incremental progress over the years, women across all economic strata are still being paid less than their male peers. This gender discrimination simply has to end, especially as women emerge as an even more vital segment of the workforce. Increasingly, women are becoming the primary breadwinners in many families, and so in addition to devaluing women, the wage gap deprives whole families of their economic security."*

*- Teresa C. Younger, Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Connecticut General Assembly*

*"Working without paid sick days, you're always worried about what will happen if you get sick. When my kids caught the swine flu, I missed a week of pay to stay home and take care of them, and I'm still paying off the credit card bills I racked up."* - Desiree Rosado, a school bus driver in Groton, Connecticut