

# **Knotek for the 34<sup>th</sup> Campaign Platform**

## **Education and Children**

- Will support schools' career readiness efforts and state investment in our technical education and career school system (such as Vinal Technical High School), which prepares students for in-demand, well-paying careers.
- Will ensure that students are equipped with the skills to succeed upon graduating high school whether pursuing 4-year college, community college, apprenticeships, or immediately entering the workforce or starting their own business.
- Committed to supporting youth mental health and addressing factors that impact students' mental and emotional wellness.
- Strongly supports public schools and educators. Major proponent of an initiative to "stop the slide" in state funding of public education, known as Educational Cost Share, to bring the state in full partnership with its towns in funding our schools. Will monitor the newly created (July 1, 2024) Education Mandate Review Advisory Council to help ensure its effectiveness in preventing debilitating financial burdens on our towns.
- Supports enhancing state programs and community-based/private efforts to make child care more affordable and accessible to parents.

## **Seniors and Older Residents**

- Committed to ensuring that our older residents can live their golden years with dignity and independently in the communities that they reside in.
- Will support bills that enhance protections against scammers, fraudsters, and other bad actors seeking to exploit older residents.
- Will be a partner to local law enforcement, first responders, and service agencies to ensure that older residents feel safe in their homes and community.

- Supports bills to rein in prescription drug costs and tackle factors that are leading to higher health care costs.
- Will work with senior center, town aging commissions, and other community partners to secure state funds to enhance their services and programming.

### **First Responders and Public Safety**

- Will listen to and partner with local law enforcement and first responders to ensure they have the resources to carry out their duties.
- Support for the state adjusting its Medicaid reimbursement rate for EMS services.
- Will support efforts to reduce substance abuse and prevent loss of lives, connect individuals to treatment and recovery resources, and law enforcement cracking down on drug dealers.

### **Environment**

- Recognizes that climate change is an immediate threat to our environment, as well as our health and economy.
- Will support the continued efforts of the state's Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program to eradicate aquatic invasive species and cyanobacteria blooms and restore affected lakes, rivers, and ponds in Connecticut.
- Committed to protecting our natural resources, which allows our tourism and outdoor recreational businesses to grow and expand.
- Will support efforts to preserve our state parks, along with land conservation efforts by land trusts and local governments.
- Will support bills that help schools, businesses, and homeowners reduce their electricity and energy costs through more efficient facilities and alternative energy solutions.

## **Personal Freedoms**

- Strongly supports human rights and believes that all residents should feel safe, welcome, and valued by their community. Hate, bullying, and other acts of intimidation are unacceptable, period.
- Firm belief that reproductive health care decisions should be between a woman, her doctor, and her trusted confidants – not have decisions made by government officials.
- Supports Connecticut’s laws protecting reproductive rights and will stand up against any attempts in the state legislature to overturn long-established protections for reproductive rights. As important, supports economic and other policies that enable women and their families to realize that choosing life can be viable, doable and the right choice for them.

## **State Funding and Smart Investments**

- As a CPA, has the experience to be a voice for fiscally-sound, meaningful investments in our communities, non-profits, workforce and business development programs, and other quality-of-life concerns.
- Will be a steadfast partner with Senator Needleman, town officials, and other elected officials in the 34<sup>th</sup> District and surrounding towns to secure state funding for community needs.