

## President's Budget Good For The District According To Larson

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President's Budget Good For The District According To Larson WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman John Larson (CT-01) stated that the Fiscal Year 2001 budget released today by President Clinton, “holds many reasons for optimism in the state.”

“The President has put forth an excellent framework for the country. He has addressed issues that will better prepare us for the digital future, while maintaining a commitment to our schools, our neighborhoods, our families, and Connecticut’s defense industry. I am hopeful that Congress can work together to take care of the kitchen-table issues that matter most to Americans,” said Larson.

Having proposed three bills last year that are aimed at high-tech education and helping students succeed in our global economy, Larson was particularly pleased with Clinton’s “digital divide” initiatives to encourage private sector involvement through \$2 billion in tax incentives, the creation of 1,000 Community Technology Centers, and \$50 million to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.

One of the high-tech education bills that Larson introduced last year, H.R. 2933, the Alliance for Technologically Trained Teachers, is reinforced with the President’s proposal for \$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce in the effective use of technology in the classroom. Among its many initiatives, Larson’s bill would provide incentives for businesses to “buddy-up” with teachers and schools to provide technological training for teachers, and would review the effectiveness of colleges and universities in training teachers to become fluent in voice, video, data, and distance learning.

Larson, who is a member of the Armed Services Committee, commented that the defense portion of the budget bodes well for defense contractors in the district. “The important point is that this is a great start toward protecting and maintaining the production and manufacturing centers in Connecticut, and a solid foundation for us to improve upon.”

The budget includes a number of defense projects important to Connecticut, such as the procurement of 12 C-17 airlift aircraft and 10 F-22 fighter aircraft. Larson led the fight in Congress last year to protect the funding for the F-22 program, which is vital to Pratt & Whitney.

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