

The Connecticut General Assembly



House Democrats

Office of House Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz

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Berlin Lawmakers Announce Funding For Good Cause Gifts

House Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz (D – Berlin/Southington), State Representative Cathy Abercrombie (D – Berlin/Meriden) and Senator Terry Gerratana (D – Berlin/New Britain/Farmington) are pleased to announce that the State Bond Commission has approved a \$30,095 grant-in-aid to Good Cause Gifts in Berlin.

“Being able to help out local businesses is one of the best parts of my job as State Representative,” said Rep. Aresimowicz. “Good Cause Gifts is a beloved store in our center of town and this funding will allow them to make necessary repairs to their roof and ceiling so they can continue to do business without being burdened by leaks and worry every time a storm hits.”

The funding will be used to replace the building’s roof, install new gutters in the rear of the building and replace water damaged ceiling tiles inside the store.

“We are so grateful to our Representatives Joe Aresimowicz and Cathy Abercrombie, as well as Senator Gerratana, for helping us to secure this funding to replace our roof that would not have made it through another winter,” said Pam DonAroma, Executive Director of Futures, Inc. “This will allow Good Cause Gifts – the first established nonprofit social enterprise – to continue to employ persons with disabilities from Berlin and surrounding communities.”

“I am very pleased that Good Cause Gifts, which plays an integral role in the community for those living with disabilities, will be receiving this funding from the state. These funds will upgrade the building with much needed improvements and ultimately allow Good Cause Gifts to provide a better quality of care for residents,” said Rep. Abercrombie.

"Good Cause Gifts has been a place of support and growth for so many people with disabilities, and I'm glad we could come to their aid with this funding," said Sen. Gerratana. "The grant approved today will allow for several needed repairs and improvements to the Good Cause Gifts building. With this concern behind them they can focus on continuing their great work."

Good Cause Gifts, a division of Futures Inc., is a retail store featuring fine gifts, accessories, and women's clothing. They are dedicated to creating and sustaining innovative jobs at competitive wages for individuals with disabilities. Through partnerships with nonprofit and for-profit organizations, they contribute to local charities and raise awareness about the value of employing individuals with disabilities.

The items were approved by the Bond Commission on Friday, September 30th.

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Joe Aresimowicz is serving his sixth term representing the 30th Assembly District of Berlin and Southington in the Connecticut General Assembly, where he is House Majority Leader.