

Protecting your Home, & Credit

We took action to aid consumers hurt by recent events and protect you from:

- » The recent sub-prime mortgage crisis
- » Corrupt money managers like Bernie Madoff

PROTECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS CREDIT

PA 09-167 | HB 6483 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Regulates credit card marketing practices on public college campuses
- » Protects young consumers from being unfairly targeted

EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

PA 09-219 | HB 6481 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09/10.01.09

- » Expands eligibility for the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program
- » Assists more families so that their loss of income due to illness or job-loss won't result in a family losing their home

Government Efficiency

Making government functions more efficient is especially important during these difficult economic times. This year we took important steps to reduce the size of government and streamline some important functions.

PROBATE COURT REFORM

PA 09-182 | HB 6385 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

- » Makes the probate court system sustainable for local caseload demand
- » Reduces the total number of probate courts to 54 statewide
- » Changes the basis of compensating probate court judges, from fees the court collects to population and workload

IMPROVING REGIONAL COOPERATION

PA 09-231 | HB 6585 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.11

- » Allows regions to enter into mutual agreements to promote regional economic development and to share property tax revenue from the new developments

Reforming our Health Care System

Over 750,000 Connecticut residents went without health insurance at one point during 2007 or 2008. Healthcare costs everyone more each year and taxpayers pay more to supplement the people who do not have it. This year, Democrats took major steps towards reforming our broken health care system with the passage of two historic healthcare bills (one of which was vetoed, but would have allowed municipalities to join the state employees health plan):

SUSTINET PLAN

PA 09-148 | HB 6600

VETOED BY GOVERNOR-OVERRIDEN BY LEGISLATURE

- » Establishes an eleven-member board of healthcare providers and experts
- » Creates new public health insurance options that will be affordable
- » Allows Connecticut to take full advantage of Obama's federal reforms



CONTACT **DAVE BARAM**
Legislative Office Building
Room 4061
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 860.240.8500
David.Baram@cga.ct.gov
www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

State Representative
David Baram
Proudly Serving Bloomfield, Windsor

Legislative Office Building
Room 4061
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 860.240.8500
David.Baram@cga.ct.gov
www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram



State Representative
David Baram

Proudly Serving Bloomfield & Windsor

CAPITOL NEWS 2009



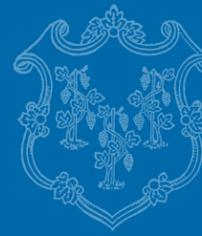
Following the Special Election in March, I was sworn in and began my legislative term. I did my very best, joining the House under difficult circumstances following the tragic death of Representative Faith McMahon.

Although many legislators describe this as the most 'bizarre' session they have ever witnessed, I was able to jump in and acclimate quickly. Knowing many of my legislative colleagues, having familiarity with the issues, and years of government experience, helped me to fully participate in two months of intense legislative and budget debate. Even while the state's fiscal crisis dominated much of our work, the General Assembly fought hard for the people of Connecticut by passing landmark health care legislation and bills protecting children, seniors, military families, the environment, homeowners and students.

Keeping in step with President Obama's initiatives, Connecticut is taking the lead on accessible, quality health care. New laws taking effect this year also include affordable elderly homecare, a Silver Alert system for locating missing seniors, a ban on toxic chemicals in baby bottles and food, safeguards against foreclosures, promotion of safe "green" cleaning products, insurance coverage for autism treatments, among many others.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you, and I appreciate the opportunity to represent your interests in the state legislature.

David Baram
15th Assembly District



State Representative
David Baram

Protecting Our Environment

Connecticut's natural beauty is one of the state's treasures that must be maintained and protected. This year, we took steps to protect our environmental heritage for future generations.

DAIRY FARM ASSISTANCE

PA 09-229 | SB 891 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Dedicates funds to assist and preserve Connecticut dairy farms
- » Preserves the character of farmland in the state
- » Allows CT dairy farms to remain competitive with out of state farms



Keeping us healthy

In addition to the major healthcare reform proposals passed this year, the legislature implemented several public health measures aimed at improving preventive care and access to coverage.

EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER

PA 09-41 | SB 458 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Facilitates the early detection of breast cancer
- » Requires mammography reports to include breast density data so women can identify their risk level for early detection

SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS

PA 09-70 | SB 710 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

- » Permits employees to take up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for injured family members who are military personnel

IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR LYME DISEASE PATIENTS

PA 09-128 | HB 6200 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Gives doctors and patients a new treatment option for chronic Lyme disease
- » Permits the use of long-term antibiotic therapy to treat infection and symptoms

HEALTH CARE FOR STEPCHILDREN

PA 09-124 | HB 5433 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

- » Requires health insurance policies to provide the same benefits to stepchildren as biological children



Looking out for seniors

Safeguarding the independence, health and safety of seniors is one of our top priorities. This year we passed several initiatives to improve the quality of life of seniors in our communities, including:

IMPROVED SERVICES FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

PA 09-75 | SB 989 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Increases the annual income and asset limit for eligibility and adjustments
- » Allows recipients to hire their own personal care assistants

AFFORDABLE ELDERLY HOMECARE

PA 09-64 | SB 814 – EFFECTIVE: 04.01.10

- » Expands access to affordable homecare support services
- » Helps seniors remain independent in their own homes rather than nursing homes
- » Expands personal care assistance services to more of our seniors

LOCATING MISSING SENIORS

PA 09-109 | SB 451 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Creates an emergency Silver Alert notification system similar to the Amber Alert
- » Allows law enforcement agencies to issue public alerts for missing seniors

SENIOR DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

PA 09-53 | HB 5674 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Provides seniors with greater access to senior citizen discount programs
- » Requires businesses to disclose details of programs and eligibility requirements

PATIENTS RIGHTS AT A NURSING HOME

PA 09-168 | SB 455 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Expands the Nursing Home Bill of Rights to prohibit the solicitation of donations or gifts as a condition of admission
- » Extends protections to third parties, such as families and friends

Keeping our kids safe & healthy

Connecticut's children need our protection from the numerous harms that exist. This legislative session I worked hard with my colleagues to pass legislation to do just that.

BANNING TOXIC CHEMICALS

PA 09-103 | HB 6572 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Bans bisphenol-A (BPA), an industrial chemical with toxic properties
- » Baby bottles and food and beverage containers will be safer for kids

PREVENTING CARDIAC ARREST IN SCHOOLS

PA 09-94 | SB 981 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Requires each school to have an automatic external defibrillator (AED)
- » Provides training to school staff for its use and for CPR

REQUIRING CYSTIC FIBROSIS SCREENINGS

PA 09-20 | HB 6263 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Promotes early detection of cystic fibrosis
- » Requires all hospitals to test for cystic fibrosis in infants

PROMPT TREATMENT OF ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS

PA 09-155 | SB 755 – EFFECTIVE: 08.15.09

- » Permits some students with asthma or allergies to carry inhalers and epi-pens in school
- » Allows students to self-administer with proper authorization
- » Adds licensed athletic trainers to the list of school personnel permitted to administer medication

GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS

PA 09-81 | HB 6496 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Promotes use of safe green cleaning products
- » Hazardous cleaning chemicals currently used in most schools will be replaced
- » Requires schools to implement a green cleaning program

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AUTISM TREATMENTS

PA 09-115 | SB 301 – EFFECTIVE: 01.01.10

- » Requires insurance coverage of critical treatments and benefits that will greatly help the lives of people with autism

ELIMINATING CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO MACHINE GUNS

PA 09-62 | SB 358 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Bans selling, giving, and transferring machine guns to people under age 16
- » Increased penalties: fines up to \$1,000 and imprisonment of up to 10 years

NEW SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS

PA 09-199 | SB 533 – EFFECTIVE: 09.01.09

- » Requires the Department of Public Safety to notify the superintendents of schools in communities where sex offenders live or plan to live

