

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for allowing me the pleasure of serving you as your representative in the Connecticut General Assembly. I consider it an honor to hold such responsibility.

The 2009 Legislative Session is now underway. For this session, I have been appointed to positions on the Select Committee on Aging, the Education Committee, and the Human Services Committee. Although I will be directly involved with these committees on a daily basis, it is my goal to serve as an advocate to you and I would be happy to hear any of your concerns or ideas on any issue.

This year will be a difficult year for many state residents. I respect and understand that. The economic downturn being felt across the nation has not spared Connecticut businesses, citizens, or government.

While tough choices will be made this year regarding a variety of state services, there remains a cause for optimism. With your help and input, government will be streamlined to work more efficiently.

I urge you to read through this newsletter to find out more about the major issues facing Connecticut this year. Feel free to contact me toll-free at 800.842.8267. Again, thank you for allowing me to represent you!

Sincerely,



Michelle Cook

State Representative, 65th District



Michelle Cook

State Representative
Representing Torrington
65th House District



CONNECTICUT
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2009 Legislative Preview

Health Care

- Expanding the state's health care plan will allow everyone in the state access to quality, affordable health care coverage and save money for taxpayers and municipalities by bulk purchasing health insurance and prescription drugs. By improving and expanding state health care programs, like HUSKY, we can cover more of Connecticut's uninsured.

Job Creation

- Connecticut has been a national leader in new technologies and 'green' initiatives. We need to put Connecticut people to work in these important industries. Doing so will benefit Connecticut residents as well as our economy. With federal investment in infrastructure projects coming, we need to ensure that our workforce is available and ready to commence shovel ready projects and put us on the right economic track.

Call the 211 Infoline

- Infoline is a toll-free help line that is available 24 hours a day.
- It's the confidential, free and multilingual way to locate services in your area—legal assistance, child care services, elder care, energy assistance, suicide prevention, eligibility requirements for state programs, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc.
- Caseworkers are trained in crisis intervention.
- Infoline is not for emergency police, fire or medical assistance.

Affordable Housing

- Connecticut's competitiveness is tied directly to our ability to provide affordable housing and attract and retain the talented human capital we need. I will support programs that create financial incentives for municipalities to build affordable housing while respecting open space, low-income rental assistance and improving state housing financing.

Energy Assistance and Conservation Programs

- Rising utility costs have affected all of us. Connecticut has energy assistance programs that may help you cover energy costs or weatherization improvements. Please call Infoline at 2-1-1 for programs and guidelines. As your State Representative I will work to ensure that funding is continued for programs that provide assistance to residents.



Representative Cook at the State Capitol, opening day of session, 2009.

for more information or to sign-up for email updates please visit www.housedems.ct.gov/Cook

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