



Dear Neighbor:

Thank you for taking the time to read my annual fall newsletter. It is a privilege for me to represent you in Hartford at the State Capitol.

Inside you will find information on legislation passed in the 2007 legislative session that I thought might be of particular interest to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or if you need assistance.

Sincerely,



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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
PERMIT NO. 3937

FOR MORE INFO  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.CGA.CT.GOV](http://WWW.CGA.CT.GOV)

**State Representative Steve Dargan**  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3603  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
[stephen.dargan@cga.ct.gov](mailto:stephen.dargan@cga.ct.gov)  
(800) 842-8267



**State Representative**

# Steve Dargan

**PROVEN LEADERSHIP FOR  
WEST HAVEN**



# CAPITOL UPDATE 2007

## KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Megan's Law ventured into cyberspace - we now require convicted sex offenders to register any e-mail address, instant message address, and any other Internet identifiers with the Department of Public Safety. This law proved an immediate success with the arrest of a Connecticut sex offender who had a MySpace.com profile.

We also passed Jessica's Law, establishing a new crime of aggravated sexual assault of a child under age 13 that carries a mandatory minimum prison term of 25 years for a first offense and 50 years for a second offense.

## TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

Citing the need to address the growing unfunded liability in the Connecticut Teacher's Retirement Fund, House Democrats authored a comprehensive proposal that strengthens the financial footing of the fund and ultimately saves taxpayers money. This legislation authorizes \$2 billion in pension obligation bonds to help close a \$6.9 billion shortfall in the teachers' pension fund. The law also requires the state to fund the Teachers' Retirement Fund at 100 percent of the actuarially recommended contribution over the life of the bonds, which will also reduce the state's long-term liability.



## CARING FOR SENIORS

All of us would prefer to stay in our own homes as we age, even if we need some help. During the past two years, we raised the number of state funded personal care attendants. This year, we give you the ability to save for these services tax-free.

Insurance can be very pricey for seniors. A new law assures seniors that if they switch Medicare D plans, the pre-paid premium for their old plan will be refunded.

Car insurance is costly. A new law requires insurers to offer discounts to seniors who complete a safe driving course.

Few are eager to move to nursing homes, but if they do, we want the homes to be first class. A 3% rise in state support for these homes will assure residents of top quality care, comfort, and pleasing surroundings.



## Protecting Careers of Those Who Serve

New legislation enables members of the Armed Forces or National Guardsmen called to duty by the Governor to maintain certain professional licenses, certificates, permits and registrations while on duty by providing a one year grace period to renew from the time the member is discharged from active service.

## Storm Shutters

A new law prohibits insurers from refusing to issue or renew homeowner's insurance policies solely because expensive hurricane shutters were not installed. Instead of a mandate, premium discounts will be offered to homeowners who voluntarily install hurricane shutters or impact-resistant glass.

## RETURN POLICY OF RETAIL STORES

To make your gift shopping a little easier, the General Assembly passed legislation that protects consumers from unfair retail return policies. Retailers that use an electronic system to keep track of retail refunds and exchanges have to make sure that their return policies are stated clearly and also notify consumers when their time limit to return goods is about to end. Doing this means that the right to return something before a set time limit is unaffected only if a consumer has a receipt that shows their transaction happened before a notice was received.



Visiting fifth grade students from Mackrille School participating in a mock debate in the House Chamber.



Reps. Dargan and Dyson with the Capitol Police Chief and young visitors from the Capitol Child Development Center.

Questions or concerns? Call Rep. Steve Dargan (800) 842-8267 or e-mail [stephen.dargan@cga.ct.gov](mailto:stephen.dargan@cga.ct.gov)