



State Representative

# LOU ESPOSITO



## The 2009 Session

Connecticut's families gained substantial protections through the passage of numerous important bills during the past legislative session. Even while the state's fiscal crisis dominated much of our work, The General Assembly fought hard for the people of Connecticut. From landmark health care reform legislation to bills protecting children, seniors, military families, homeowners and students, we are providing you with the support you asked of us.

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



Please contact me for your copy of the 2009 Acts Affecting:

- Seniors
- Children
- Veterans
- Municipalities
- Insurance
- Real Estate
- Health Care
- Energy
- Environment



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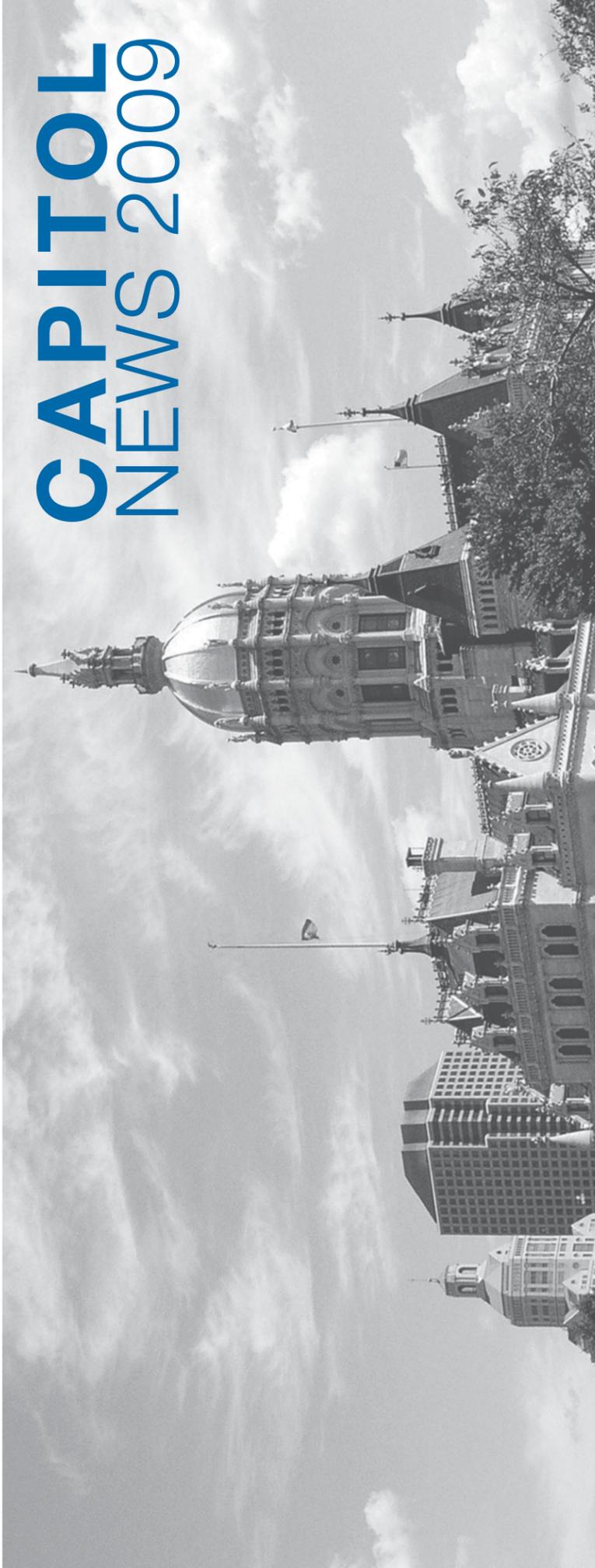
Proudly Serving West Haven's 116th District



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# CAPITOL NEWS 2009



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## Looking Out For Our Seniors

Improving the lives of seniors so they may be healthy, safe, and economically secure is a central role of our state government and of great importance to me. This year we passed several initiatives to improve the quality of life of seniors in our communities, including:

### PATIENT'S RIGHTS AT NURSING HOMES

(PA 09-168 | 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

### IMPROVED SERVICES FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

(PA 09-75 | Effective: 07.01.09)

- Increases the annual income limit for eligibility from \$30,000 to \$41,000
- Increases the asset limit from \$80,000 to \$109,000
- Requires the Dept. of Social Services to annually increase these limits
- Enhances benefits for some recipients
- Allows recipients to hire their own personal care assistants



## FORECLOSURES

The national foreclosure crisis has put many Connecticut families at risk of losing their homes. This year, we created safeguards around mortgage foreclosure, mortgage lending, and neighborhood preservation.

### SAFEGUARDS AGAINST MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

(PA 09-209 | Effective: 07.01.09/10.01.09)

- Implements federal reforms
- Creates many new safeguards against future mortgage foreclosures to better protect homeowners
- Regulates the mortgage lending process
- Expands eligibility for state foreclosure prevention programs

## KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE & HEALTHY

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

### NEW SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS

(PA 09-199 | Effective: 09.01.09)

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

### BANNING TOXIC CHEMICALS

(PA 09-103 | 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 | Effective: 07.01.09)

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

### HEALTH CARE FOR STEPCHILDREN

(PA 09-124 | Effective: upon passage)

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

## 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 | Effective: upon passage)

- Makes the probate court system sustainable for local caseload demands
- Establishes a commission to consolidate courts and create new districts
- Reduces the total number of probate courts to 50 statewide
- Changes the current basis of compensating probate court judges, from fees the court collects to population and workload

## REFORMING THE HEALTHCARE 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 healthcare system with the passage of the Sustinet Plan (PA 09-148). This legislation:

- Provides a framework for expanding high quality coverage to more residents
- Establishes a nine-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

In addition to the major healthcare reform proposal 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 | Effective: 10.01.09)

- Women with dense breast tissue have higher risks of cancer
- Requires mammography reports to include breast density data so women can identify their risk level & detect cancer earlier

### SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS

(PA 09-70 | Effective: upon passage)

- Expands the State Family and Medical Leave Act
- Permits employees to take up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for injured family members who are military personnel



### CONTACT LOU ESPOSITO:

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