



## For our Families, a Safer & Healthier Connecticut

Although the General Assembly at the state capitol is still working on the state budget, the regular 2009 legislative session has ended. So I wanted to share with you some important steps we have taken to make Connecticut a healthier and safer place for our families.

I have outlined a few key bills that my colleagues and I passed this year. As always, I look forward to hearing from you, if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, the budget, or any other matter.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer and fall.

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*the House Democrats of Connecticut*

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# ANDY FLEISCHMANN

**State Representative**

Representing West Hartford  
18<sup>th</sup> House District

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# State Representative **ANDY FLEISCHMANN**

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## For our families, a safer & healthier Connecticut

### PESTICIDES & CHILDREN

Starting later this year, Connecticut parents and guardians must be notified 24 hours before pesticides are used at day care centers. This does not impact a facility's ability to quickly eliminate immediate threats to public health, such as mosquitoes, ticks or stinging insects.

### GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS

Connecticut schools will now be required to use green cleaning products instead of potentially hazardous commercial cleaning chemicals. Not only will this protect our children's health, it will also save money for many Connecticut school districts – since many environmentally friendly products are now cheaper than the items they replace. I was proud to lead the effort to pass this new law.

### BANNING PRODUCTS WITH BPA

Infant formula containers, baby food containers, and all reusable food and beverage containers made with Bisphenol-A (BPA) will be banned in Connecticut beginning in 2010. BPA, a chemical used in plastic products, has been linked to reproductive problems, learning disabilities, and cancer.

### EXPANDING COVERAGE FOR AUTISM

Group health insurance policies regulated by the state must now cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, including behavioral therapy for children through age 14 as well as certain prescription drugs, psychiatric, and psychological services.

### KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM CHILDREN

It is now illegal to give or sell machine guns to anyone under 16 in Connecticut. The law is in response to last year's tragedy in which an 8-year-old accidentally shot himself with a submachine gun. While common sense dictates that small children should never be allowed to handle machine guns, events showed that, unfortunately, we needed to put the force of law behind this idea.

### PROTECTING KIDS IN SCHOOLS

Connecticut schools will now be allowed to accept gifts, donations, and grants for the purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's). These automated, portable devices offer the best immediate treatment to restore heart rhythm during cardiac arrest. This commonsense reform will save lives – at no cost to the taxpayer.

### Useful Numbers

INFOLINE	211
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Tax Department	860.297.5962
Healthcare Advocate	866.466.4446
Unclaimed Property Hotline	800.833.7318
HUSKY Health Care for Kids	877.CT.HUSKY
CT Trust for College Savings	888.799.2438
Temporary Family Assistance	860.424.5540
Head Start Preschool Programs	860.713.6548

*For more information on these or other legislation please contact:*

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