



State Representative

LINDA M. GENTILE

Reforming our Health Care System

Over 750,000 Connecticut residents went without health insurance at one point during 2007 or 2008. Health care 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 health care bills:

CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP

PA 09-147 | HB 6582 – VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

- » opens the state health plan to small businesses, non-profits, and cities/towns
- » provides at least \$70 million in savings to the state, when we need it most
- » reduces taxes with improved bargaining power and lower administrative costs
- » helps small businesses access quality, affordable health care for employees
- » takes an important first step toward streamlining health care state-wide

SUSTINET PLAN

PA 09-148 | HB 6600 GOVERNOR'S VETO OVERTURNED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY– EFFECTIVE: 09.01.09

- » provides a framework for expanding high quality coverage to more residents
- » establishes an eleven member board of health care providers and experts
- » creates new public health insurance options that will be affordable
- » allows Connecticut to take full advantage of Obama's federal reforms

These bills would have made Connecticut “Obama-ready” – for federal reforms that provide affordable, quality care for all.

Governor Rell vetoed these important bills, rejecting an opportunity to provide relief for families and businesses fighting high health care costs. The General Assembly was able to overturn the Governor's veto of the Susinet Plan, moving us closer to ensuring all Connecticut residents have access to quality, affordable health insurance options.



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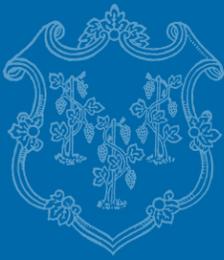


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REQUIRING CYSTIC FIBROSIS SCREENINGS

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
- » early treatment can improve health, longevity, and quality of life

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

Keeping our Children Safe & Healthy

Ansonia and Derby's children need our protection from the numerous harms that exist. This legislative session, as Vice-Chair of the Public Health Committee, 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 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

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

Providing for our Armed Forces Members & their Families

The service and sacrifices of our Armed Forces members must always be valued and honored. This session we passed several new laws to aid them and their families.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

PA 09-10 | HB 6406 – EFFECTIVE: Upon passage

- » ensures that members of the armed forces can receive transitional behavioral health services
- » applies to families and dependents of armed forces members as well

RELIEF FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

PA 09-163 | HB 6394 – EFFECTIVE: Upon passage

- » expands the Military Family Relief Fund
- » allows immediate relatives of members not on active duty to receive benefits
- » provides grants to pay for essential personal or household items when in hardship



Rep. Gentile spent the day with constituents at the Senior Fair

Assisting our Seniors

Improving the lives of seniors so they may be healthy, safe, and economically secure is a central role of our state government. To improve their overall quality of life, we passed several new legislative initiatives.

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 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

Rep. Gentile with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

Protecting your Home, Savings, & Credit

We took action to aid consumers hurt by recent events and protect you from the recent sub-prime mortgage crisis and corrupt money managers like Bernie Madoff.

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

PA 09-209 | SB 948 – 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

PROTECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS CREDIT

PA 09-167 | HB 6483 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » requires the Board of Governors of Higher Education to adopt policies that regulate 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

PREVENTING BLIGHT

PA 09-144 | SB 951 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » remedies blighted properties created by the foreclosure crisis
- » provides maintenance to improve vacant foreclosed properties
- » allows municipalities to enforce the requirement to repair or maintain vacant real estate using current laws



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Rep. Gentile joined with Speaker Donovan, Mayor Tony Staffieri and Democratic colleagues fighting to save Derby Court House from Governor Rell's budget cuts.