



State Representative  
**BOB GODFREY**

**REFORMING OUR STATE  
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

PA 09-148 | HB 6600  
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, we took major steps towards reforming our broken healthcare system with the passage of two historic healthcare bills: the Connecticut Health Partnership and the Sustinet Plan. I am sad to inform you, Governor Rell vetoed the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership bill. This bill would have opened the state health plan to small businesses, non-profits and municipalities. It would have provided at least \$70 million savings to the state when we need it the most and reduced taxes with improved bargaining power and lower administrative costs. Fortunately, the Majority Democrats were able to pass the Sustinet Plan which provides a framework for expanding quality coverage to more residents by establishing a nine-member board of healthcare providers and experts. This board will create new public health insurance options what will be affordable and allow Connecticut to take full advantage of President Obama's federal reforms.

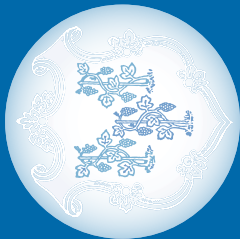


Bob was honored at the 10th Anniversary of the Connecticut Television Network (CTN) which covers major events of state government proceedings. Bob was largely responsible for the creation of the program and gaining support from the legislature.



Bob and Speaker Chris Donovan commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Connecticut-Taiwan Sister State Partnership with Taiwan Ambassador Kenneth Liao.

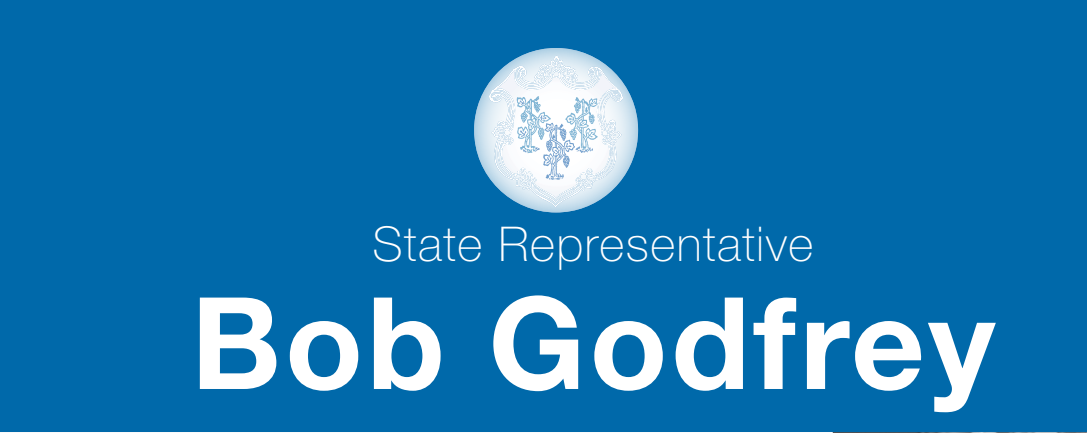
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**CAPITOL  
NEWS 2009**



I am proud that 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 thoughts, 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.

  
Bob Godfrey



### COMBATTING THE RECESSION

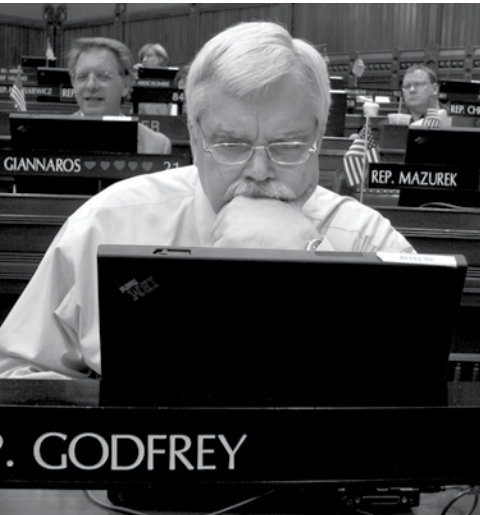
The recession is not our fault, but fighting it is our job. I am proud to report the legislature took action to aid consumers hurt by the recession and protect you from the recent sub-prime mortgage crisis and corrupt money managers like Bernie Madoff. Below are some of the highlights:

#### SAFEGUARDS AGAINST 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

#### 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



Bob reviews an amendment on the floor of the House Chamber.

### SMART GROWTH

As a member of the Planning and Development Committee, I had the opportunity to discuss “Smart Growth” initiatives which encourages regional cooperation among municipalities, maximizing resources, limiting waste, and planning for the future.

#### ENCOURAGING REGIONALISM

- PA 09-231 | HB 6585 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.11
- » Promotes regional economic development
  - » Allows municipalities to form federal economic development districts so they can enter into mutual regional agreements

#### 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

### CONSUMER PROTECTION

Ensuring your privacy and security is a responsibility I do not take lightly. This year, the legislature passed important measures with your best interests in mind.

#### COMBATING IDENTITY THEFT

- PA 09-239 | SB 838 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09
- » Increases criminal penalties for identity theft and dissemination of personal information

#### PROTECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS' CREDIT

- PA 09-167 | HB 6483 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09
- » Regulates credit card marketing practices on public college campuses
  - » Protects young consumers from being unfairly targeted



Bob was recognized as a 2009 “Children’s Champion” with friends from Danbury during Early Childhood Advocacy Day 2009 at the Capitol.

### PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

SA 09-12 | HB 5823 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

Because of its beauty, Candlewood Lake suffers at times from overcrowding and recreational user conflict. Many local residents, elected leaders, and the Candlewood Lake Authority believe that the recreational use at Candlewood Lake jeopardizes public safety on the lake. Tragic boating accidents have happened in the past. To ensure people’s safety, the General Assembly created legislation requiring the Commissioner of Environmental Protection in consultation with the chief elected officials of the towns of Brookfield, New Milford, Sherman and New Fairfield and the city of Danbury, to make recommendations concerning the maximum boat length and maximum motor size permitted on Candlewood Lake by February 1, 2010. The recommendations made should consider the public safety, public access, public pump out facilities, noise pollution, user conflict, and the carrying capacity of the lake.

### KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE AND HEALTHY

Danbury’s children need our protection from the numerous harms that exist. This legislative session 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 and beverage 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



This past March, Bob completed his 14th year sponsoring the YMCA Youth and Government program at the Capitol. Here, Bob swears in the recently elected Youth Governor, Mathue Nowicky from Southington High School.



Rep. Godfrey joins Congressman Chris Murphy and fellow legislators, city officials, and education advocates at Danbury Children’s First ground breaking ceremony. This past spring, Danbury Children’s First received \$1.5 million to expand the facility.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AUTISM TREATMENTS

- PA 09-115 | SB 301 – EFFECTIVE: 01.01.10
- Requires insurance coverage of critical treatments and benefits that will greatly help the lives of people with autism.
- These treatments are:*
- » The diagnosis to determine if an individual has an autism spectrum disorder
  - » Behavioral therapies to children 14 years old or younger including, but not limited to, applied behavior analysis and cognitive behavioral therapy
  - » Prescription drugs
  - » Psychiatric and psychological services
  - » Physical and occupational therapy
  - » Speech and language pathology services
- The results are:*
- » Higher quality of life for the individual
  - » Decrease in lifetime costs of treatment
  - » Connecticut has become the 12<sup>TH</sup> state to require this comprehensive coverage