



Rep. Minnie Gonzalez and Rep. Reed



State Rep. Minnie Gonzalez at the end of Session 2010

A BALANCED BUDGET for CONNECTICUT

– On Time and On Target

By working hard and reaching across party lines to create a compromise, we were able to balance this year’s state budget with:

- » No tax increases
- » No cuts in municipal aid or education funding (ECS)
- » Maintained funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses
- » Funding for dental care and prescriptions for seniors and the disabled
- » Lower co-pays for home care services on average \$100/month (AARP endorsed)
- » A \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
- » Guaranteeing an average 60% reduction to a fee on your electric bill

We erased a \$10 billion deficit, balancing the budget on time and on target.

Hartford Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Aid	
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$12,285,925
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$25,564,804
Town Aid Roads	\$613,175
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$2,282,942
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$8,794,888
Adult Education	\$2,393,485
School Transportation	\$4,379,337
Educational Cost Sharing	\$187,974,890
Total State Funds to Hartford	\$244,386,073

State Representative
MINNIE GONZALEZ

sign up for email updates:
www.housedems.ct.gov/Gonzalez

find us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/CTHouseDemocrats

www.housedems.ct.gov/Gonzalez

State Representative | Majority Whip-At-Large

Minnie Gonzalez

Proudly Serving Hartford | 3rd District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Legislative Office Building
Room 4039
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 860.240.8500
Home: 860.236.9654
www.housedems.ct.gov/Gonzalez



State Representative | Majority Whip-At-Large

Minnie Gonzalez

Proudly Serving Hartford | 3rd District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Capitol Update

The 2010 legislative session has been one of both challenge and compromise as we worked to address the state budget deficiency. In the end, we saw real results as legislative leadership and the Governor worked together to craft a sound, responsible and fair state budget. I am proud that we were able to work together, across party lines, to create a compromise and close the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years with no deficit and a balanced budget that avoided both devastating cuts to services and widespread tax increases.

La sesión legislativa del 2010 ha sido un reto y a la misma vez un compromiso de trabajar juntos para resolver las deficiencias del presupuesto estatal. Me siento muy orgullosa de haber trabajado con ambos partidos para evitar cortes y servicios importantes a nuestra comunidad. Me siento muy optimista de que la economía en Connecticut va mejor y seguiré trabajando para ser tu voz en el capitolio.

Minnie Gonzalez

Proudly Serving Hartford | 3rd District



If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me.

State Representative Minnie Gonzalez

Capitol Phone 860.240.8500
District Phone 860.236.9654
www.housedems.ct.gov/Gonzalez



Important phone numbers

To reach many state services, call InfoLine **211**

ConnPACE	800.423.5026
Medicare Hotline	800.633.4227
Long-Term Care	800.547.3443
Commission on Aging	860.240.5200
Medicare Advocacy	800.262.4414
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Veterans Affairs	860.616.3600
CT Elder Services	866.218.6631
Health Care Advocate	866.466.4446

Reducing Costs for Homecare Services

Seniors using the CT Homecare Program for Elders will soon see a reduction in their monthly costs for critical in-home services, such as meal deliveries and personal care assistance. The budget reduces the percentage seniors pay for these services from 15% to 6% -- saving the average client nearly \$100 each month.

Protecting Homeowners in Tough Times

The state's foreclosure mediation program prohibits banks from continuing to charge homeowners late fees if they do not show up for mediation sessions or arrive unprepared. The mediation program is paid through the state Department of Banking and we are now extending it until 2012.

Taxpayers Off the Hook for Evicted Property

Local taxpayers have been relieved of the cost of storing the belongings of evicted tenants. Tenant's rights will be protected because state marshals will be responsible for removal, delivery and storage of belongings.

Improving the Senior Driver Discount Program

New legislation encourages seniors to keep their driving skills sharp by making it easier to qualify for safe driver discounts. People age 60 and older will now be able to complete a shorter, 4-hour driving program to be eligible for a two-year discount of 5% or more on their automobile insurance.



Rep. Minnie Gonzalez and Speaker of the House Chris Donovan

Protecting Seniors Assets from the Medicaid Spend-Down

New legislation will help seniors protect their assets when their spouse needs to enter a nursing home. Under current law, the spouse remaining at home must spend-down half of his or her assets in order to allow the ill spouse to qualify for Medicaid coverage. This year, we increased the asset cap, so that the couple can keep assets up to \$110,000 and still qualify the ill spouse for Medicaid.

Health Care Reform

The recent passage of the historic federal health care reform law will lead to welcome improvements in the quality, access and affordability of health care for Connecticut residents. This session, the legislature built on those improvements, taking steps to lower costs and enhance transparency and accountability in our health care system.

The new legislation:

- » Saves money for towns by allowing them to join the state in bulk purchasing of prescription drugs
- » Requires insurance companies to disclose denial rates so consumers can compare the quality of different plans
- » Extends state COBRA coverage from 18 to 30 months so laid off employees can keep their health insurance as they look for new jobs
- » Requires insurance companies to refer consumers to the state Office of the Health Care Advocate for assistance with denials of coverage
- » Improves coverage for chemotherapy patients
- » Enhances patient safety by improving hospital reporting of medical errors

Reducción a Los Costos De Servicios Domiciliarios

El programa de atención domiciliaria para nuestros envejecientes pronto verán una reducción en sus costos mensuales para los servicios críticos en el hogar, tales como el servicio de comidas y la asistencia para el cuidado personal. El presupuesto reduce el porcentaje de personas mayores que pagan por estos servicios de un 15% a un 6% - con un promedio de ahorro de casi \$ 100 por mes.

Mas Protección a Propietarios de Vivienda en Tiempos Difíciles

El programa de mediación para las ejecuciones de hipotecas prohíbe que los bancos continúen cobrando a propietarios cargos por pagos atrasados, si no se presentan a las sesiones de mediación o llegan sin preparación. El programa de mediación es pagado a través del Departamento de Banca y el programa se amplía hasta el año 2012.

Derechos a Inquilinos

- » Los contribuyentes locales de impuestos no pagaran por los gastos de desalojos y almacenamiento de las pertenencias de inquilinos desalojados.
- » Los derechos de los inquilinos estarán protegidos porque los mariscales del Estado serán los responsables de remover, entregar y almacenar las pertenencias de los inquilinos desalojados. Tendrás 15 días para pagar y recuperar tus pertenencias.

Descuentos de Seguro Para Envejecientes

Con esta nueva ley, nuestros envejecientes podrán obtener descuentos en sus pólizas de seguro de vehículos con solo completar un entrenamiento de conducir defensivo. Las personas mayores de 60 años podrán completar en 4 horas este programa de conducir defensivo y ser elegibles a un descuento de 5% o más por dos años en su póliza de seguro de automóvil.



Rep. Minnie Gonzalez at a press conference regarding the 2010 Budget

Más Protección Para Medicaid

Nosotros en la legislatura aprobamos una nueva ley que ayudará a nuestros envejecientes a proteger sus ahorros en caso de que su cónyuge/pareja tenga que ser admitido a un asilo de ancianos. Bajo la ley actual, el cónyuge/pareja que se queda en casa tiene que pasar la mitad de sus deducibles (spend-down) a fin de que el cónyuge/pareja enfermo(a) pueda calificar para la cobertura de Medicaid. Este año, el cónyuge/pareja puede mantener su deducible (spend-down) hasta 110,000 dólares y todavía calificar para Medicaid.

Reformas De Salud

En esta sesión nosotros los legisladores aprobamos las reformas de ley federal para la salud que nos dará más acceso, mejor calidad, más economía y transparencia en el sistema de salud.

- » Requiere que las compañías de seguros divulguen tarifas para que los consumidores puedan comparar la calidad de los diferentes planes médicos estatales
- » Extiende la cobertura de COBRA de 18 a 30 meses para empleados despedidos para que puedan mantener su seguro de salud en su búsqueda de nuevos trabajos
- » Requiere que las compañías de seguros puedan referir al cliente a las oficinas del defensor del estado de salud si se le niega plan medico.
- » Mejoras en servicios para los pacientes de quimioterapia
- » Mas seguridad al paciente mediante informes de errores médicos

State Representative

MINNIE GONZALEZ

To receive more information on any of the following issues, e-mail, call or mail me the completed form. Make sure to give your name, address and email, and indicate which issues you're interested in.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ☐ 2010 Major Acts | ☐ Jobs |
| ☐ Business | ☐ Seniors |
| ☐ Criminal Justice | ☐ Energy |
| ☐ Health Care | ☐ Children |
| ☐ Environment | ☐ Education |

NAME

ADDRESS

TOWN & ZIP

YOUR E-MAIL

Save a stamp!

Reply at my website or call my office:

www.housedems.ct.gov/Gonzalez
860.240.8500

