

State Representative

Antonio "Tony" Guerrero

Proudly Serving Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield | 29th District

Municipal and Regional Efficiencies

The MORE (Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies) Blue Ribbon Commission was charged with initiating a new approach to share services and save money at both the state and local level. The Commission concentrated on regional collective bargaining, local education, mandate relief, local revenue streams, state grants to municipalities and health care.

The legislation:

- » Allows multiple towns and boards of education to enter into joint health insurance plans (PA 10-174)
- » Allows a board of education to co-op with at least one other board of education to provide school transportation (PA 10-174)
- » Saves municipalities money by requiring state marshals, rather than town officials, to be responsible for removing an evicted tenant's personal property and storing it in a storage facility designated by the town (PA 10-171)
- » Establishes a depreciation schedule for property tax purposes for machinery and equipment owned by certain utility companies (PA 10-171)
- » Stipulates that the meeting minutes of a municipal agency need not be posted on the internet in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act's requirements (PA 10-171)

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

Town Aid for Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield

Fiscal Year 2010-2011	
Total Education Grants	\$24,071,860
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$575,424
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$506,313
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$2,957,369
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$720,362
School Transportation	\$645,732
Total State Funds	\$29,477,066



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Capitol Update 2010

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.

As we look ahead to the future, fiscal challenges remain. While I am truly optimistic about Connecticut's economic recovery, I remain realistic about the absolute necessity of preventing wasteful spending, limiting borrowing and keeping taxes in check. I will continue to work towards those goals as your voice in the State Capitol.



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Rep. Tony Guerrero stands with the family and friends of Rocky Hill student Vikas Parikh

Seat Belts for School Buses (PA 10-83)

A tragic school bus accident this past January claimed the life of Rocky Hill student, Vikas Parikh. In response to this tragedy and to keep students safe, I authored legislation to create a financial incentive for towns to install seat belts in new school buses. This legislation would reimburse towns for fifty percent of whatever they pay in sales tax for new buses equipped with three-point harness seat belts. The program would be paid for by increasing the registration fees on suspended drivers' licenses. The fees would apply to people seeking to reinstate their licenses after offenses like driving under the influence (DUI) or habitual speeding. The current fee of \$125 would be raised to \$175. The fund would be administered by the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

Transparency in State Government (PA 10-155)

In an effort towards open and transparent state government, we passed legislation that creates a searchable, online database expected to be in place by July 1, 2011 which will show all state expenditures. Taxpayers will be able to access this database to view details of state expenditures, including state contracts and grants. Every state agency will provide the legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) with financial details and OFA will post the information online.

Safety Measures for School Buses (PA 10-110)

As House Chair of the Transportation Committee, I am very pleased to announce the passage of an extensive transportation bill that will get poorly maintained school buses off the road. This legislation will establish rigid fines for school bus companies if they fail to abide by inspection orders issued by the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and impose a penalty of up to \$2,500 on school districts, school bus operators and others that shuttle students and file false statements with the DMV regarding maintenance, repair or use of a school bus. Each false statement would be subject to a separate penalty. We must do everything we can to protect school children. School bus operators must keep buses in safe operating condition.

Student Athletes & Concussions (PA 10-62)

Head injuries in school sports are often hard to diagnose and on occasion have resulted in a student's death. To avoid serious long-term injuries we enacted new protections:

- » Student athletes who sustain head injuries will need medical clearance before re-joining athletic activity
- » Athletic coaches will now be trained to recognize and respond to concussions
- » Anyone with a coach's permit issued by the State Board of Education will need to complete a course by the start of their sports season next school year
- » The state school board can revoke a permit if any requirements are not followed

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Improving Employment Opportunities (PA 10-75)

I am pleased to announce the passage of comprehensive jobs legislation that offers incentives for employers, supports small businesses and emerging industries, provides resources for tuition and training, helps manufacturers find efficiencies and includes accountability measures to safeguard state taxpayer dollars.

Highlights of the bill:

- » Provides up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and nonprofits
- » Provides sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Provides tax credits and a cap of \$200 on insurance premiums for small businesses that create new jobs that employ Connecticut residents
- » Provides loan reimbursement and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- » Establishes a Community-Technical College advisory board to assess training needs of unemployed residents
- » Authorizes up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Provides 25% personal income tax credits for up to \$100,000 in angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green technology businesses
- » Authorizes \$1.3 million in bonds for mortgage crisis job training
- » Establishes a waste reduction task force to study reducing or eliminating duplicative procedures
- » Expands the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Commissioner's duties in technical assistance for exporting, manufacturing and cluster-based initiatives
- » Establishes a DECD Pilot Program helping Connecticut-based small manufacturers implement green technologies

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

State Representative Antonio "Tony" Guerrero
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Good News for Seniors (PA 10-179)

- » Reduced seniors' cost-share for the state-funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6%— saving up to \$240 per month
- » Re-opened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family caregivers
- » Protected seniors' assets when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid

Long-Term Care Insurance (PA 10-127)

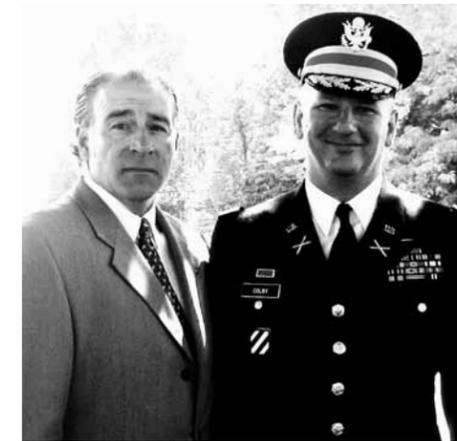
A managed residential community (MRC) will now be required to help a resident prepare and submit claims on a long-term insurance policy. Insurers and other entities that deliver, issue for delivery, renew, continue or amend individual or group long-term care policies in Connecticut are prohibited from refusing to accept claims prepared or submitted by an MRC. It also requires insurers to give the MRC information the resident directs them to provide as well as a copy of any claims decision. (PA 10-127)

COBRA Extension (PA 10-13)

A new law allows certain individuals and their dependents, as well as group policyholders with less than 20 employees, to continue receiving a 65% reduction in COBRA premiums for up to two and a half years regardless of pre-existing conditions. To qualify for the continued coverage, the person must have experienced a specified qualifying event, including a layoff, reduced hours, leave of absence, or employment termination for other than death or gross misconduct. (PA 10-13)

Increasing Recycling (PA 10-87)

- » Allows for more types of paper and plastic to be recycled
- » Requires private trash collectors to offer recycling to customers
- » Requires recycling bins in public areas where regular trash bins are located
- » Prohibits zoning laws from restricting recycling containers



Rep. Tony Guerrero and Major Glen Colby, who served in Iraq, at Memorial Day Services 2010.

Saluting Our Veterans

- » Veterans in nursing homes can now use the US Department of Veterans Affairs as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers (PA 10-39)
- » Retired senior members of the CT National Guard with 30 years or more of service can now apply for "retirement promotions" and move up one grade in rank (PA 10-15)
- » Active duty service members serving out of state will get an extension for 30 days to renew their expired driver's licenses after their return to Connecticut (PA 10-16)
- » March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day (PA 10-40)
- » Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses (PA 10-105)

Sportsmen Fee Credit (PA 10-99)

New legislation requires the environmental protection commissioner to reserve a credit for anyone who bought sportmen's licenses, stamps, permits or tags between October 1, 2009 and April 14, 2010. The credit is the difference between the amount paid and fee charged on or after October 1, 2010 and will be applied against the fee for any such license, permit or tag bought on or after October 1, 2010.