



State Representative
JACK HENNESSY

Dear Neighbor,

It is a pleasure to continue to serve the City of Bridgeport as your State Representative. This was the toughest year I've spent in Connecticut's Legislature. From day one, my colleagues and I were confronted with the worst recession in decades and a crumbling financial system that, together, left our state with an \$8.6 billion hole to fill in the budget.

We had to fill that hole with spending cuts that would not cripple state programs and services and tax changes that would not add to the already crushing burden on taxpayers. I was able to work with my colleagues and increase State funding to Bridgeport by \$6,236,057 for a total of \$194,911,161. Without this funding the City would have raised property taxes even higher and cut more services to schools, roads, seniors, public safety and those with special needs.

No one in the district will see a tax increase with the exception of fee increases. I am pleased to say we preserved the property tax credit.

To help Connecticut create jobs, we saved Workforce Investment, Youth Employment, and the Small Business Incubator program. To continue the state's commitment to quality education, we maintained funding levels for Educational Cost Sharing and support for Priority, Magnet, and Charter Schools, and Head Start. To maintain vital health and human services, we continued budgeting for Dial-A-Ride, community and school-based health centers, home and long-term care, nursing homes, ConnPACE, Medicaid, and HUSKY.

In addition, the General Assembly adopted legislation to control health care costs, attack the mortgage crisis, and protect children, seniors, and veterans. We did the best we could to minimize the recession's impact on municipalities. This newsletter summarizes many of these initiatives.

I appreciate your participation and input in the legislative process. I would also like to thank you and express my gratitude for your continued support. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to hearing from you. I will help if I can. Please contact me at (860) 240-8715.

Sincerely,

John "Jack" Hennessy
State Representative
127th Assembly District

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State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader
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Proudly Serving Bridgeport | 127th District



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ASSISTING OUR SENIORS

Senior Discount Programs

Any business that sells goods and services and offers a senior citizen discount is now required to disclose eligibility requirements by placing a sign at the cash register or store entrance stating the qualifying age and discount percentage or dollar amount. PA 09-53

Affordable Home Care

I am proud to help pass this new law that will help seniors remain independent in their own homes by expanding affordable access to personal care assistance services. PA 09-64



Silver Alert System

This year the legislature established the Silver Alert System, an emergency system modeled after the Amber Alert. It allows law enforcement agencies to issue public alerts for missing seniors. PA 09-109

Patients' Rights At A Nursing Home

The legislature expanded the Nursing Home Bill of Rights to prohibit the solicitation of donations or gifts as a condition of admission. It also extends this protection to third parties, such as families and friends. PA 09-168

PROTECTING CHILDREN

Banning BPA

The legislature has banned bisphenol-A (BPA), an industrial chemical with toxic properties, from baby bottles and food and beverage containers. Banning the use of this chemical in containers of infant formula and baby food will protect children from harmful developmental and reproductive effects. PA 09-103

Treatment for Autism

New legislation requires insurance coverage of critical treatments and benefits that will greatly help the lives of people with autism. The treatments that are now covered are diagnosis of autism, behavioral therapies to children, prescription drugs, physical and occupational therapy, and psychiatric and psychological services. PA 09-115



BUDGET OVERVIEW

Foreclosure Protection

We passed a bill that implements federal reforms, improves how lending professionals are licensed, expands eligibility for state foreclosure programs and makes the state's foreclosure program mandatory. PA 09-209



Emergency Mortgage Assistance

The legislature expanded eligibility for the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program. This bill will assist more families so that a loss in income due to illness or job-loss won't result in a family losing their home. PA 09-219

Consumer Privacy and Identity Theft

This session the General Assembly passed new legislation to greater protect consumers and assist law enforcement officials with the necessary tools to apprehend and prosecute criminals of identity theft. The legislation increases protection of Connecticut residents' personal information and enhances the criminal penalties and enforcement authority provided to the Department of Consumer Protection. Identity theft is especially hard on seniors, therefore we have increased the penalty for anyone caught victimizing a person who is age 60 or older. PA 09-239

Protecting College Students' Credit

College students have been unfairly targeted by the presence of credit card companies on college campuses. This legislation protects young consumers from being targeted by credit card companies on Connecticut public college campuses by requiring the Board of Governors of Higher Education to adopt policies regulating credit card issuer marketing practices. PA 09-167

PROVIDING FOR OUR ARMED FORCES MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES

Behavioral Health Services

Upon passage, members of the armed forces can receive transitional behavioral health services. It also applies to families and dependents of armed forces members, as well. PA 09-10

Relief for Military Families

This legislation expands the Military Family Relief Fund that allows immediate relatives of members not on active duty to receive benefits. It also provides grants to pay for essential personal or household items when in hardship. PA 09-163

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Preventing Blight

Municipalities are now allowed to create and use a registration system to track the owners of uninhabited one-to-four family dwellings obtained by foreclosure. Once ownership is established, municipalities can enforce the local and town ordinance to repair and maintain vacant real estate. PA 09-144

Motor Vehicle Repairs

A new law prohibits an auto insurer, its agents and adjusters, from specifying where a policy holder must have their vehicles repaired. PA 09-237

Mitigating Homeowners and Business Owners Fire Losses

The legislature made many changes to the requisite standard fire insurance policy, including shortening the time for paying claims and increasing the statute of limitations for filing claim-related lawsuits. The legislature also required master insurance policies for condominium associations formed after 1976 to include coverage for terrorism-related losses. PA 09-164

Mid-Term Automobile Insurance Policy Cancellation Fees

A new law prohibits an insurer that renews, amends, or endorses a private passenger automobile insurance policy in Connecticut from charging the insured more than \$100 for canceling the policy before the policy term ends. PA 09-98

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Brownfields Development

The legislature made it easier for parties acquiring a brownfield to recover investigation and remediation costs from those responsible for contaminating the property. This bill establishes a program protecting brownfield developers from liability for contamination that escaped from a brownfield before they acquired it. PA 09-235



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