

2011 Legislative Preview & Updates

Given the ongoing problems with our state and national economy, the slow job growth and budget challenges we face will require the need for difficult decisions that will include additional cuts, consolidations for greater efficiencies and continued wage freezes.

I will, however, continue to work hard to protect and safeguard those programs of great importance to our district such as Dial-a-Ride transportation, ConnPACE and education funding. I am confident that working together we can achieve a leaner, more efficient government without jeopardizing the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and the delivery of vital public services.

I look forward to the challenge and thank you for the opportunity to continue serving our district.



HOUSE DEMOCRATS *of* CONNECTICUT

860.240.0452 | www.housedems.ct.gov/Janowski

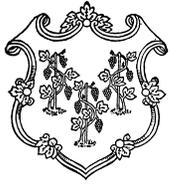
CLAIRE JANOWSKI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Serving Vernon and Rockville | 56th Assembly District

Legislative Office Building, Room 1003
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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State Representative

CLAIRE JANOWSKI

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NEW HOSPITAL OVERSIGHT LEGISLATION

To ensure transparency in the process, I have introduced legislation to require that any hospital termination of service request go through the Certificate of Need process as was the case before the merger of the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) with the Department of Public Health. The merger, negotiated in the last budget package by Governor Rell's office, inadvertently reduced OHCA's oversight authority.

The new bill requires OHCA to hold a public hearing as part of their review process. Prior to the merger, public hearings were not required but held at the discretion of OHCA or through a written request made by three people or a person representing an entity with five or more people. The required public hearings will provide greater public transparency and protections for small community hospitals. This requirement is not expected to have any impact on the state budget.

CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL

Given the far reaching use of credit reports affecting our daily lives, I have introduced legislation that would require credit reporting companies to notify a CT consumer by mail whenever a negative event is reported for inclusion on their credit report. This will allow a consumer to take immediate corrective action in safeguarding potential damage to their credit score.

UNION STREET ROAD WORK

Due to water line work that impacted the expected 2010 completion of the Union Street road project, my office scheduled a meeting with the Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner's office to solidify a completion time and clarify responsibilities of all parties going forward.



The meeting took place August 26, 2010 and included myself, Senator Guglielmo, DOT Commissioner Parker & five DOT staff members, the Water Company, the Vernon Town Engineer, the Vernon WPC Director & Sewer Foreman and the Mayor's Executive Assistant. Agreement was reached as follows:

- The DOT road repavement will be done the summer of 2011.
- DOT will coordinate any needed sewer manhole covers work with the town.
- The DOT work does not include sidewalks, as sidewalks are the responsibility of the town.
- The water company will fix any sidewalk disturbance resulting from excavation specific to their water line work.

