



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GETTING M.O.R.E. FOR YOUR TAX MONEY

Not a day goes by when I don't think about your hard earned tax dollars and how to get more for your money. Our cities and towns have been hurt by the recession. We must think differently about how we are structured and how we perform municipal functions and that is why I am honored to be appointed by House Speaker Sharkey to the Municipal Opportunities & Regional Efficiencies (M.O.R.E) Commission. We studied government operations and made recommendations to reduce costs and save taxpayer dollars. We created new opportunities for cities and towns to connect each municipality and regional Council of Government (COG) planning authority to the state-wide high speed data network. To further help municipalities, the new law also established the Municipal Reimbursement and Revenue Account (MRRA) to help stabilize their finances and budgets.

To find out much more, go to the website: www.housedems.ct.gov/MORE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan", written over a light-colored background.

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CHILDREN’S BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

The new initiatives in early childhood behavioral health services are part of the gun violence prevention and child school safety measures passed earlier this year.

This new law is focused on reducing mental, emotional and behavioral health issues in children through early identification and intervention. Public Act 13-178 promotes better coordination of home visitation programs that offer services to vulnerable families with young children; orders a study of incarcerated youth with mental health issues; creates a public education campaign and a Children’s Mental Health Task Force.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING HELPS MAKE CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS SAFER FROM GUN VIOLENCE

Our communities are safer when we ensure that everyone in Connecticut has access to the behavioral health care that they or a family member may need.

The new law increases intensive care coordination services for students with persistent behavioral issues. It increases case management in probate courts.

Pediatricians will be able to consult with mental health professionals to help pinpoint children in need of behavioral health services at an early age. Schools will be able to offer training to teachers during in-service days to help them identify students who may be struggling with behavioral health issues and get them the help they need.

More information on this new law is available online at:
www.cga.ct.gov/ASaferConnecticut/docs/SSP.pdf

BETTER PUBLIC HEALTH

I am honored to continue working on important health care policy in my new position as House Chair of the Legislature’s Public Health Committee. The committee has oversight of the CT Departments of Public Health (DPH), Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and Developmental Services (DDS).

I am very proud that my new duties include having oversight of two important health care policy councils.

- The Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight ensures people have access and receive the Medicaid benefits they are entitled to.
- The Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council focuses on the ongoing implementation of behavioral programs.

HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE – NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Because I serve as Public Health Co-chair in Hartford, I have been fortunate to be appointed by the Speaker of the House to represent Connecticut and our public health programs at the National Conference of State Legislatures Affordable Healthcare Task Force.

Proper delivery of health care services relies on competent, fully trained providers and skilled support staff being paid a living wage to effectively provide those services in the community.