



State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

Bruce V. Morris

Reforming our Health Care System

Over 750,000 Connecticut residents went without health insurance at one point during 2007 or 2008. Healthcare costs everyone more each year and taxpayers pay more to supplement the people who do not have it.

SUSTINET PLAN

PA 09-148 | HB 6600

- » provides a framework for expanding high quality coverage to more residents
- » establishes a eleven-member board of healthcare providers and experts
- » creates new public health insurance options that will be affordable

This bill allows Connecticut to take full advantage of federal reforms that provide quality, affordable care for all.

Governor Rell vetoed this important bill, rejecting an opportunity to provide relief for families and businesses fighting high healthcare costs. However, we were able to override her veto.

HEALTH CARE FOR STEPCHILDREN

PA 09-124 | HB 5433 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

- » requires health insurance policies to provide the same benefits to stepchildren as biological children



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Assisting our Seniors

Improving the lives of seniors so they may be healthy, safe, and economically secure is a central role of our state government. To improve their overall quality of life, we passed several new legislative initiatives.

AFFORDABLE ELDERLY HOMECARE

PA 09-64 | SB 814 – EFFECTIVE: 04.01.10

- » expands access to affordable homecare support services
- » helps seniors remain independent in their own homes rather than nursing homes
- » expands personal care assistance services to more of our seniors

LOCATING MISSING SENIORS

PA 09-109 | SB 451 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » creates an emergency notification system similar to the Amber Alert
- » allows law enforcement agencies to issue public alerts for missing seniors

SENIOR DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

PA 09-53 | HB 5674 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » provides seniors with greater access to senior citizen discount programs
- » requires businesses to disclose details of programs and eligibility requirements

PATIENTS RIGHTS AT A NURSING HOME

PA 09-168 | SB 455 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » expands the Nursing Home Bill of Rights to prohibit the solicitation of donations or gifts as a condition of admission
- » extends protections to third parties, such as families and friends

Protecting Our Environment

Connecticut's natural beauty is one of the state's treasures that must be maintained and protected. This year, we took steps to protect our environmental heritage for future generations.

PROTECTING LONG ISLAND SOUND

PA 09-151 | SB 1078 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » creates a bi-state commission to review environmental, ecological, & energy issues
- » allows cooperative protection of Long Island Sound and the lower Hudson River Valley

BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PA 09-235 | HB 6097

- » expanded liability protections for municipalities when they take various steps to promote brownfield remediation
- » steps include entering and inspecting property and acquiring and conveying it to other parties
- » makes it easier for parties acquiring a brownfield to recover investigation and remediation costs from those responsible for contaminating the property
- » establishes a program protecting brownfield developers from liability for contamination that escape from a brownfield before they acquired it
- » reduces the regulatory criteria state agencies must meet when developing contaminated mill sites in floodplains
- » requires state agencies and quasi-public agencies to provide for the use of green remediation technologies when soliciting bids, requesting proposals, or negotiating contracts for remediating brownfield



Representative Morris introducing Dr. Bill Cosby at the Fatherhood Conference

Keeping our Children Safe & Healthy

Our children need our protection from the numerous harms that exist. This legislative session I worked hard with my colleagues to pass legislation to do just that.

FATHERHOOD BILL

PA 09-175 | HB 6486- EFFECTIVE 10.01.09

- » requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to report to the Children's Committee on the effectiveness of child support collection efforts, initiatives aimed at reducing teen fatherhood and the number of noncustodial parents living at or below the poverty level
- » requires DSS to seek federal and private grants to promote programs supporting the positive involvement of non-custodial parents with their children
- » requires the chief court administrator to submit reports on the Problem Solving in Family Matters Committees to the Human Services and Children's Committees for review
- » gives family magistrates the authority to order a parent owing child support into an educational, skill-building, work, rehabilitation or similar support program in some support cases

NEW SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS

PA 09-199 | SB 533 – EFFECTIVE: 09.01.09

- » requires the Department of Public Safety to notify the superintendents of schools in communities where sex offenders live or plan to live

ELIMINATING CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO MACHINE GUNS

PA 09-62 | SB 358 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » bans selling, giving, and transferring machine guns to people under age 16
- » increased penalties: fines up to \$1,000 and imprisonment of up to 10 years

BANNING TOXIC CHEMICALS

PA 09-103 | HB 6572 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » bans bisphenol-A (BPA), an industrial chemical with toxic properties
- » baby bottles, food and beverage containers will be safer for kids

GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS

PA 09-81 | HB 6496 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » promotes use of safe green cleaning products
- » hazardous cleaning chemicals currently used in most schools will be replaced
- » requires schools to implement a green cleaning program

Protecting your Home, Savings, & Credit

We took action to aid consumers hurt by recent events and protect you from the recent sub-prime mortgage crisis and corrupt money managers like Bernie Madoff.

EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

PA 09-219 | HB 6481 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09/10.01.09

- » expands eligibility for the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program
- » assists more families so that their loss of income due to illness or job-loss won't result in a family losing their home

PREVENTING BLIGHT

PA 09-144 | SB 951 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » provides remedies for blighted properties created by the foreclosure crisis
- » provides maintenance to improve vacant foreclosed properties
- » allows municipalities to enforce the requirement to repair or maintain vacant real estate using current laws

Foreclosures & Neighborhood Protection

The national foreclosure crisis has put many Connecticut families at risk of losing their homes. This year, we created safeguards around mortgage foreclosure, mortgage lending, and neighborhood preservation.

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

PA 09-209 | SB 948 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09/10.01.09

- » implements federal reforms
- » creates many new safeguards against future mortgage foreclosures to better protect homeowners
- » regulates the mortgage lending process expands eligibility for state foreclosure prevention programs

NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION

PA 09-144 | SB 951 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » creates a registration system to track owners of uninhabited properties
- » allows municipalities to enforce violations on deteriorating properties



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