



State Representative

CHRIS PERONE

The 2009 Session

Connecticut's families gained substantial protections through the passage of numerous, important bills during the past legislative session. Even while the state's fiscal crisis dominated much of our work, The General Assembly fought hard for the people of Connecticut. From landmark health care reform legislation to bills protecting children, seniors, military families, homeowners and students, we are providing you with the support you asked of us.

Keeping in step with President Obama's initiatives at the national level, Connecticut is taking the lead on accessible, affordable, quality health care. New laws taking effect this year also include affordable elderly homecare and a Silver Alert system for locating missing seniors, a ban on toxic chemicals in baby bottles and food, safeguards against mortgage foreclosures, blight prevention, promotion of safe green cleaning products, health insurance coverage for autism treatments, and relief for military families, among many others.

Foreclosures and Neighborhood Protection

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

FORECLOSURE PROTECTION

PA 09-209 | SB 948 – Effective: 07.01.09

- » Implements federal reforms
- » Improves how lending professionals are licensed
- » Expands eligibility for state foreclosure prevention programs
- » Makes the state's foreclosure mediation program mandatory

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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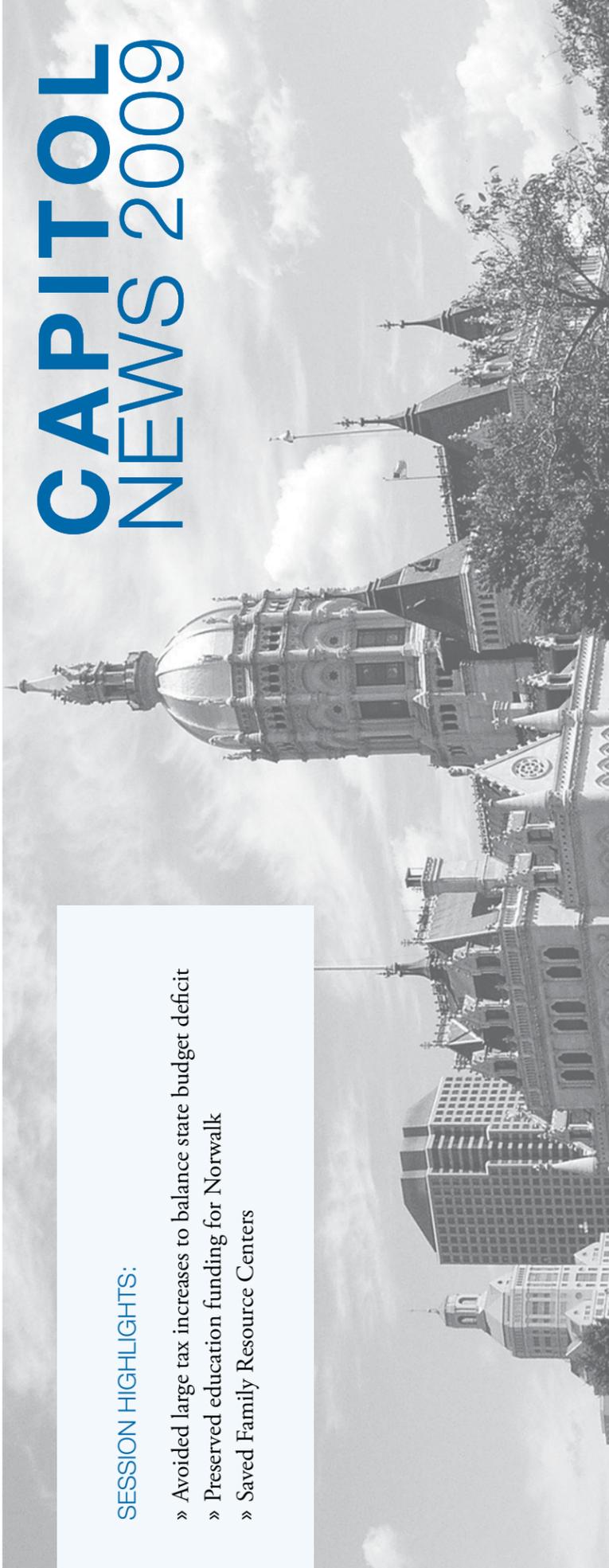
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CAPITOL NEWS 2009

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS:

- » Avoided large tax increases to balance state budget deficit
- » Preserved education funding for Norwalk
- » Saved Family Resource Centers



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FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT ME FOR COPIES
OF 2009 LAWS AFFECTING:

**Municipalities
Children
Energy and Utilities
Health Care
Environment
Real Estate
Insurance
Seniors**

Protecting consumers

When it comes to protecting those we care about, we can never be too careful. The legislature recently took new steps to protect Connecticut consumers.

SAFEGUARDS FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

PA 09-119 | HB 5222 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Provides greater public oversight of donations
- » Requiring permission before placement of a bin outside of a business
- » Requiring bins to include names of charitable organizations and contact information for the Department of Consumer Protection

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR DISCLOSURE

PA 09-18 | HB 5414 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Requires home construction and home improvement contractors to disclose other business interests
- » Prevents potential conflicts before projects begin

THE LONG ISLAND SOUND ACCOUNT AND THE BOATING ACCOUNT

During this budget battle I fought successfully to preserve state funding for our community. The Boating Account at the state Department of Environmental Protection generates over \$125,000 annually for Norwalk. The Long Island Sound account generates revenue from license plate sales and is used for restoration, rehabilitation and conservation of the Sound. When the state moved to sweep both accounts to the General Fund, I made my views loud and clear. Our municipalities are already stretching every available dollar in order to avoid property tax increases. Transferring any municipality's funding to the General Fund to balance the state budget deficit is simply unacceptable.



Keeping us healthy

In addition to the major healthcare reform proposals passed this year, the legislature implemented several public health measures aimed at improving preventive care and access to coverage.

EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER

PA 09-41 | SB 458 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Facilitates the early detection of breast cancer
- » Women with dense breast tissue have higher risks of cancer
- » Requires mammography reports to include breast density data so women can:
 - identify their risk level
 - detect cancer earlier

SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS

PA 09-70 | SB 710 – EFFECTIVE: Upon Passage

- » Expands the state Family and Medical Leave Act
- » Permits employees to take up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for injured family members who are military personnel

IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR LYME DISEASE PATIENTS

PA 09-128 | HB 6200 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Gives doctors and patients a new treatment option for chronic Lyme disease
- » Permits the use of long-term antibiotic therapy to treat infection and symptoms

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

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

Looking out for seniors

In recent years, the legislature has made safeguarding the independence, health and safety of seniors one of our top priorities. This year we passed several initiatives to improve the quality of life of seniors in our communities.

IMPROVED SERVICES FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

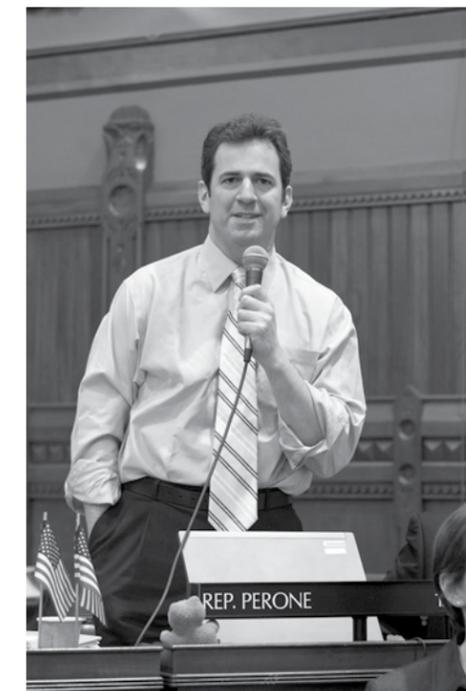
PA 09-75 | SB 989 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Increases the annual income limit for eligibility from \$30,000 to \$41,000
- » Increases the asset limit from \$80,000 to \$109,000
- » Requires the Department of Social Services to annually increase these limits
- » Enhances benefits for some recipients
- » Allows recipients to hire their own personal care assistants

MAKING MEDICATIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE

PA 09-136 | HB 6540 – EFFECTIVE: 01.01.10

- » Eye drops can be difficult to use, so a thirty day supply can easily be depleted before the refill date
- » Requires insurance companies to provide refills if prescription eye drops run out before the refill date



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