

Dear Friends,

The global economic recession has been tough on Connecticut citizens. With our state facing the impact of a global economic crisis and, as a result, the largest state budget deficit in recent history, the legislature faced difficult choices. We had to balance the budget quickly, while also acting to promote the creation of jobs in the state.

There is a growing feeling that the “business as usual” approach to job retention and job creation is just not going to work. Short-term band-aids will not change the long-term deterioration of Connecticut’s economy. It is time for the state to adopt policies that make strategic investments to change the pattern of job losses.

The General Assembly considered several measures aimed at economic development and job creation, including job growth tax credits, investments in “green technologies” and regionalism innovations. In the end, I was glad that we passed legislation that I believe should jump-start job creation opportunities in the state in the short-term, while also laying a foundation for long-term economic growth.

The economic and fiscal challenges before us are great, but I remain optimistic about Connecticut’s future. We have an enormous potential to reinvent ourselves, and with the right leadership in place, I believe we can move forward into recovery and prosperity.

State Representative  
Chris Perone  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 4004  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Place  
Stamp  
Here



State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

# Chris Perone

Proudly Serving Norwalk | 137<sup>th</sup> District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

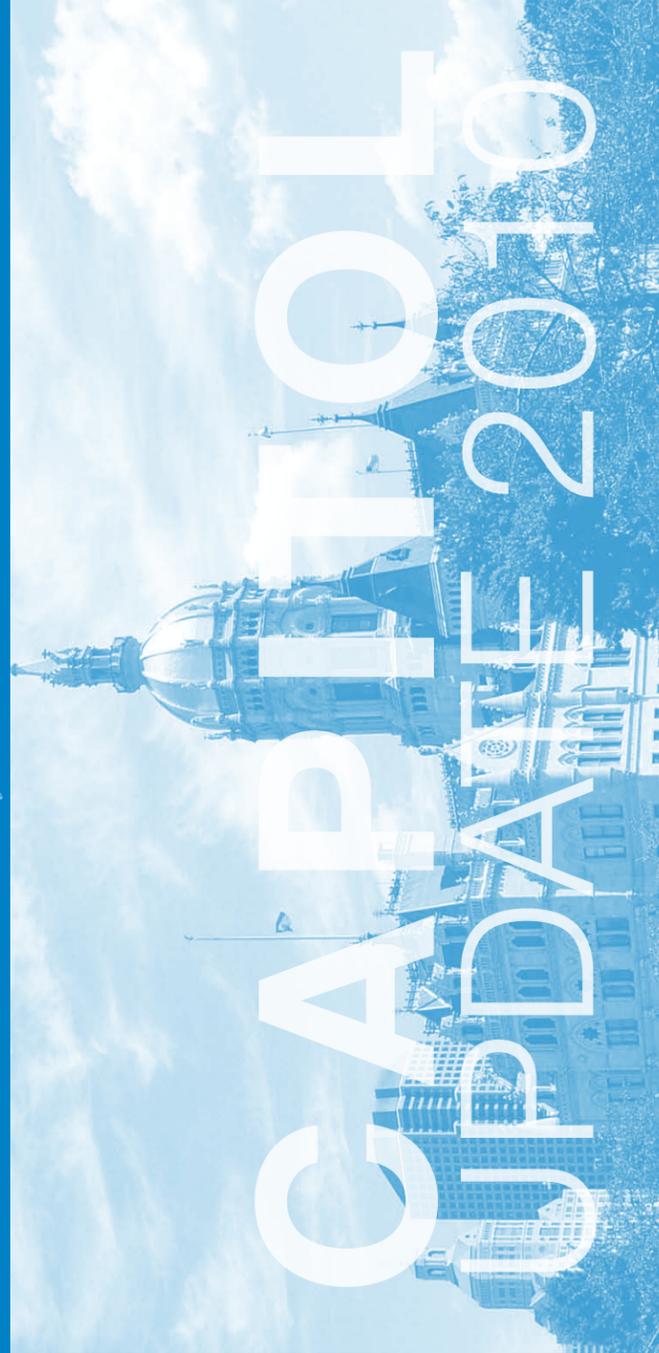
www.housedems.ct.gov/Perone



Legislative Office Building  
Room 4004  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 800.842.1902  
Home: 203.840.1643  
www.housedems.ct.gov/Perone

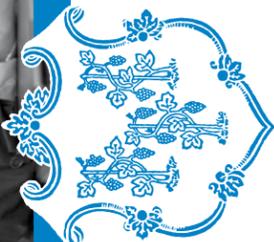
STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

# Chris Perone

Proudly Serving Norwalk | 137<sup>th</sup> District



# CHRIS PERONE

Proudly Serving Norwalk | 137<sup>th</sup> District



Because of Rep. Perone's efforts, the use of cadmium in children's toy jewelry is now banned in Connecticut

## Banning Cadmium in Children's Jewelry

In recent years Connecticut has become a national leader in banning toxic chemicals in children's products. In 2008, for instance, the General Assembly passed An Act Concerning Child Product Safety, which prohibited the manufacture, distribution, and sale of any children's product that has been designated as a banned hazardous substance.

This legislative session I was proud to lead an effort to phase out another harmful substance in children's toys. Cadmium is an extremely toxic, cancer-causing metal that has found its way into children's jewelry and other toys manufactured overseas.

Prolonged exposure has been shown to lead to damage to the central nervous system and according to some studies, was shown to lower IQ even more so than lead. It is completely unacceptable that we allow this metal in our children's toys and I am glad that we were in a position to do something about it.

## PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES

### Responding to domestic violence in our communities

Sadly, it seems hardly a week goes by that we don't hear of a tragic incident of family violence in our state. This session I have worked with my colleagues on what may be one of the most sweeping reforms to our domestic violence laws in the past 25 years. I was proud to support legislation that will:

- » Train educators to recognize and respond to warning signs of domestic violence
- » Provide relief to victims who terminate their housing rental agreements to protect their safety
- » Increase staffing at domestic violence shelters
- » Create a pilot GPS tracking program to monitor offenders
- » Improve enforcement of protective orders
- » Expand the use of dedicated domestic violence court dockets
- » Improve employment protections for domestic violence victims
- » Permit prosecutors to consider older and out of state crimes for persistent family violence offenders

### Good News for Seniors

- » Reduced seniors' cost-share for the state-funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6%— saving up to \$240 per month
- » Re-opened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family caregivers
- » Protected seniors' assets when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid



# The Road Ahead

Putting Connecticut on the Road to Recovery

Plan > Roundtable > Legislation > Jobs Bill

## OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

### Jumpstarting Our Economy and Creating New Jobs

We all know the harsh realities. Connecticut has lost over 100,000 jobs in this economic downturn.

It was clear that as a state, we needed to do a much better job of linking the drivers of our economy to a long-term growth strategy. With that goal in mind, I was glad that we have been able, in a bi-partisan manner, to overwhelmingly approve a sweeping economic development initiative that aims to create more jobs in Connecticut.

*The new job growth law creates jobs in Connecticut with:*

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and nonprofits
- » Student loan reimbursement and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- » Personal income tax credits for investments made in new and emerging technologies
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies, and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month per new employee
- » A Community-Technical College advisory board to assess the training needs of unemployed residents
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Reformed environmental rules that speed up the business permitting process and maintain environmental protections
- » Changes to the state's film tax credit program that will create more film production jobs in Connecticut

I'm hopeful that this jobs package will accelerate our economic recovery, while also laying the foundation for long-term growth.

### A Balanced Budget

By working hard and reaching across party lines to create a compromise, we were able to balance this year's state budget with:

- » No tax increases
- » No cuts in municipal aid or education funding (ECS)
- » Funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses



## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

### Education Reform

We took steps to help turn around low-achieving schools, increase our chances for federal education dollars, improve our vocational high schools and help students with autism. The legislation:

- » Strengthens the state's application for federal Race to the Top education funds
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- » Requires public hearings before school closures while also increasing parent involvement their child's academics
- » Ensures adequate staff and supplies
- » Makes sure students with autism get quality services through their special education with individualized education plans
- » Improves vocational schools by adding individuals with manufacturing and vocational education experience to the state Board of Education.

### Doing M•O•R•E

#### Municipal Opportunities & Regional Efficiencies

Our focus this year was to examine ways in which we could ensure cost efficiency through regional collaboration of state and local governments. Our overall goal was to make our state more economically competitive in the short-term and long-term.

Through our work we were able to pass several pieces of legislation to help municipalities. One requires State Marshals, rather than a town's Chief Executive Officer, to be responsible for removal, delivery and storing of an evicted tenant's possessions and personal property. This relinquishes the local taxpayers of the financial burden and responsibility of storing the evicted tenant's possessions.

State Representative

## Chris Perone

To receive more information on any of the following issues, e-mail, call or mail me the completed form. Make sure to give your name, address and email, and indicate which issues you're interested in.

- 2010 Major Acts
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Health Care
- Environment
- Jobs
- Seniors
- Energy
- Children
- Education

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Save a stamp!

Reply at my website or call my office:

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Perone](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Perone)  
800.842.1902

✂ Cut along dotted line.

