



State Representative

JASON ROJAS

KEEPING OUR FAMILIES HEALTHY AND SAFE

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.

BANNING TOXIC CHEMICALS

PA 09-103 | HB 6572 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

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

NEW SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS

PA 09-199 | SB 533 – EFFECTIVE: 09.01.09

- » Requires the Dept. of Public Safety to notify the superintendents of schools in communities where sex offenders live or plan to live

REQUIRING CYSTIC FIBROSIS SCREENINGS

PA 09-20 | HB 6263 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Promotes early detection of cystic fibrosis
- » Requires all hospitals to test for cystic fibrosis in infants
- » Early treatment can improve health, longevity, and quality of life

PROMPT TREATMENT OF ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS

PA 09-155 | SB 755 – EFFECTIVE: 08.15.09

- » Permits some students with asthma or allergies to carry inhalers and epi-pens in school
- » Allows students to self-administer with proper authorization
- » Adds licensed athletic trainers to the list of school personnel permitted to administer medication

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 STUDENT-ATHLETES

PA 09-94 | SB 981 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Requires each school to have an automatic external defibrillator (AED)
- » Provides training to school staff for AED use and for CPR



Jason, along with Reps. Karen Jarmoc, Sandy Nafis, and Marie Kirkley-Bey received the 2009 Children's Champion Award from the Connecticut Early Education Alliance.

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Proudly Serving East Hartford, Glastonbury, & Manchester | 9th District

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Dear Neighbors,

This past legislative session, my first as your representative, provided a challenging work environment that has made me a better legislator and elected official. As a state we faced the unprecedented challenge of crafting a budget that took into account severely declining revenues and an increasing need for services.

The legislature worked with the Governor to develop a compromise budget that recognized the fiscal realities of our national and state economies. The budget also took into account the responsibilities of state and local governments in providing critical services to our communities. While the media focused mainly on the budget, it is important to note that critical legislation was passed in many other areas necessary to protect the quality of life of our residents.

During this difficult year, we passed legislation that includes landmark health care reforms, important environmental legislation, and initiatives protecting children, senior citizens, military families, students, and homeowners. There is still much work to be done, and I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf.

It has been a privilege to represent you in the House of Representatives. I also want to take this opportunity to make one request of you. Please share your thoughts and opinions on issues as often as possible because it makes me a more effective legislator. Many of you have already contacted me and I appreciate your efforts. Together we can shape the direction of our state, our district and our communities.

Sincerely,



State Representative

Jason Rojas

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Jason at work researching legislation in the Hall of the House.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY THROUGH REGIONALISM

As a member of the Planning and Development Committee, I had the opportunity to discuss “Smart Growth” initiatives which encourages regional cooperation among municipalities, maximizing resources, limiting waste, and planning for the future.

**IMPROVING REGIONAL COOPERATION

PA 09-231 | HB 6585 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.11

- » Allows regions to enter into mutual agreements to promote regional economic development
- » Allows regions to share property tax revenue from the new developments
- » Allows municipalities with approved regional agreements to share part of the sales and use tax

**SMART GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

PA 09-230 | HB 6467 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.10

- » Helps preserve open space through conservation planning
- » Requires the state, regions, and municipalities to prepare periodic plans for balancing the need to develop land

PUBLIC SAFETY

Keeping the public safe and secure in our neighborhoods and on our streets is one of the key functions of government. This session, we made several advancements to protecting the public.

INTERSECTION SAFETY

PA 09-171 | SB 966 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Allows cities and towns to adopt “blocking the box” rules
- » Prohibits cars and trucks from going through certain intersections if doing so blocks other vehicles from being able to cross the intersection

ILLEGAL STREET RACING ENFORCEMENT

PA 09-120 | HB 5262 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Creates new penalties for illegal street racing
- » Requires that the vehicle used for racing be impounded for 30 days
- » Increases fines for anyone racing a vehicle not registered to them
 - up to \$2,000 for the first offense
 - up to \$3,000 for any others

**IMPROVING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

PA 09-154 | SB 735 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Requires path funding to be set-aside by the Department of Transportation
- » Enhances bicycle and pedestrian use in our neighborhoods
- » Increases funding to municipalities for bikeways and sidewalks with curb cuts or ramps
- » Establishes a board to create new policies and procedures that improve the bicycling and walking environment in Connecticut

**Indicates Legislation I Sponsored



Rep. Rojas and Rep. Mae Flexer discuss a proposed amendment on the House floor.

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY, HOME, AND CREDIT

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



Jason with Rep. Tom Kehoe in the House Chamber.

PROTECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS CREDIT

PA 09-167 | HB 6483 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Requires the Board of Governors of Higher Education to adopt policies
- » Regulates credit card marketing practices on public college campuses
- » Protects young consumers from being unfairly targeted

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

- » Remedies 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



Jason was asked by Speaker of the House Chris Donovan to lead the chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

DISCOUNT PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

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

**Indicates Legislation I Sponsored



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