



State Representative
KEVIN RYAN
Proudly Serving Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon, Montville - 139th District

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.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUSTINET PLAN

PA 09-148 | HB 6600

- » provides a framework for expanding high quality coverage to more residents
- » establishes a nine-member board of healthcare providers and experts to develop recommendations on how to provide high quality affordable benefits
- » creates new public health insurance options that will be affordable
- » allows Connecticut to take full advantage of federal reforms

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

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.

DAIRY FARM ASSISTANCE

PA 09-229 | SB 891 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » dedicates funds to assist and preserve Connecticut dairy farms
- » protects farms that have trouble meeting milk production costs
- » preserves the character of farmland in the state
- » allows CT dairy farms to remain competitive with out of state farms



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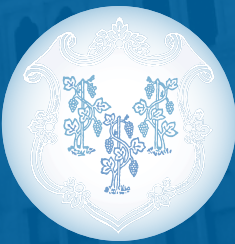
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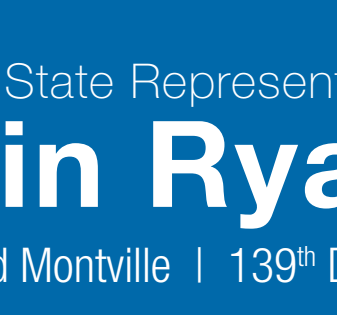
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Mitchell College Students visit the State Capitol



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Providing for our Armed Forces Members and their Families

The service and sacrifices of our Armed Forces members must always be valued and honored. This session we passed several new laws to aid them and their families.

SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS

PA 09-70 | SB 6406 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

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

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.

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 by extending this prohibition to all patients, not just Medicaid patients

Keeping our Children Safe & Healthy

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

PREVENTING CARDIAC ARREST IN SCHOOLS

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 its use and for CPR

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AUTISM TREATMENTS

PA 09-115 | SB 301 – EFFECTIVE: 01.01.10

requires insurance coverage of critical treatments and benefits that will greatly help the lives of people with autism.

These requirements are:

- » the diagnosis to determine if an individual has an autism spectrum disorder
- » behavioral therapies to children 14 years old or younger including, but not limited to, applied behavior analysis and cognitive behavioral therapy
- » prescription drugs
- » psychiatric and psychological services
- » physical and occupational therapy
- » speech and language pathology services

The results are:

- » higher quality of life for the individual
- » decrease in lifetime costs of treatment
- » Connecticut has become the 12TH state to require this comprehensive coverage

Labor

Equal pay for equal work is not simply a women's issue, but a family issue. Wage gaps hurt. This year, we took the following steps for future generations.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CERTAIN PERSONAL FILES STATUTES AND EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

PA 09-101 | 451 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » bans employers from discrimination based on gender in regards to pay
- » permits compensation and punitive damages for violations of whistleblower protections
- » extends the period in which to make a discrimination claim

- » allows an individual to file their own civil claim, if the labor commissioner declines to file a claim

Government Efficiency

Making government functions more efficient is especially important during these difficult economic times. This year we took important steps to reduce the size of government and streamline some important functions.

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

PROBATE COURT REFORM

PA 09-182 | HB 6385 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

- » makes the probate court system sustainable for local caseload demands
- » establishes a commission to consolidate courts and create new districts
- » reduces the total number of probate courts from 117 to 54 statewide
- » changes the current basis of compensating probate court judges, from fees the court collects to population and workload

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.

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

PROTECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS CREDIT

PA 09-167 | HB 6483 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » requires the Board of Governors of Higher Education to adopt policies regulating credit card issuer practices
- » 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

CONSUMER PRIVACY AND IDENTIFY THEFT

PA 09-239 | SB 838 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » increases protection of Connecticut residents' personal information
- » enhances penalties for criminal impersonation
- » expands enforcement authority provided to the Dept. of Consumer Protection
- » increases penalties when the victim is age 60 or older

THE CONSUMER REPORT CARD

PA 09-46 | SB 46 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » requires an annual report from the Insurance Commissioner on insurance companies offering health insurance coverage in Connecticut
- » creates a comparison guide of all HMO's and the 15 largest insurers
- » report will be available online

Representative Ryan speaking in the House Chambers



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the House Democrats of Connecticut