



State Representative

PEGGY SAYERS

Dear Friend:

This has been a difficult year for everyone in Connecticut. All of us have been affected by the increased cost in gas, home heating, groceries, as well as health care and a number of other things. The number of unemployed has increased to a new high for the first time in years. The problems on Wall Street have impacted our retirement funds and all of this has affected the state. Expected income from the income tax and capitol gains was much lower that projected when the budget for 2009 – 2010 was implemented.

I agree with many of you that more cuts could have been made in the budget. But we reached the point that the lack of a budget was having a bigger negative impact on the state then fighting for cuts. What was important to me was that my towns were protected and that state money needed to meet the town budget was not cut. Many of you have a vested interested in certain parts of the budget, whether it's services for seniors, like dial a ride, or services for children, insuring that they have quality education, or supporting business that provide jobs in our community, or quality nursing home care. There was no one good decision that does everything, so while the budget we passed was not the best budget; it was the best under the circumstances.

For the future, I believe we need to grow jobs in Connecticut, and I am working with the majority leader on a task force on ways to do that. Windsor and Windsor Locks will benefit from some of the federal stimulus money that will rebuild the train service between Hartford, Springfield, and New Haven. This can create economic development in our area. I am also working on creating an enterprise zone on industrial land around the airport. This should help bring jobs to the area.

As always, if I can be of any help please contact me.



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Serving Windsor - Windsor Locks | 60th District



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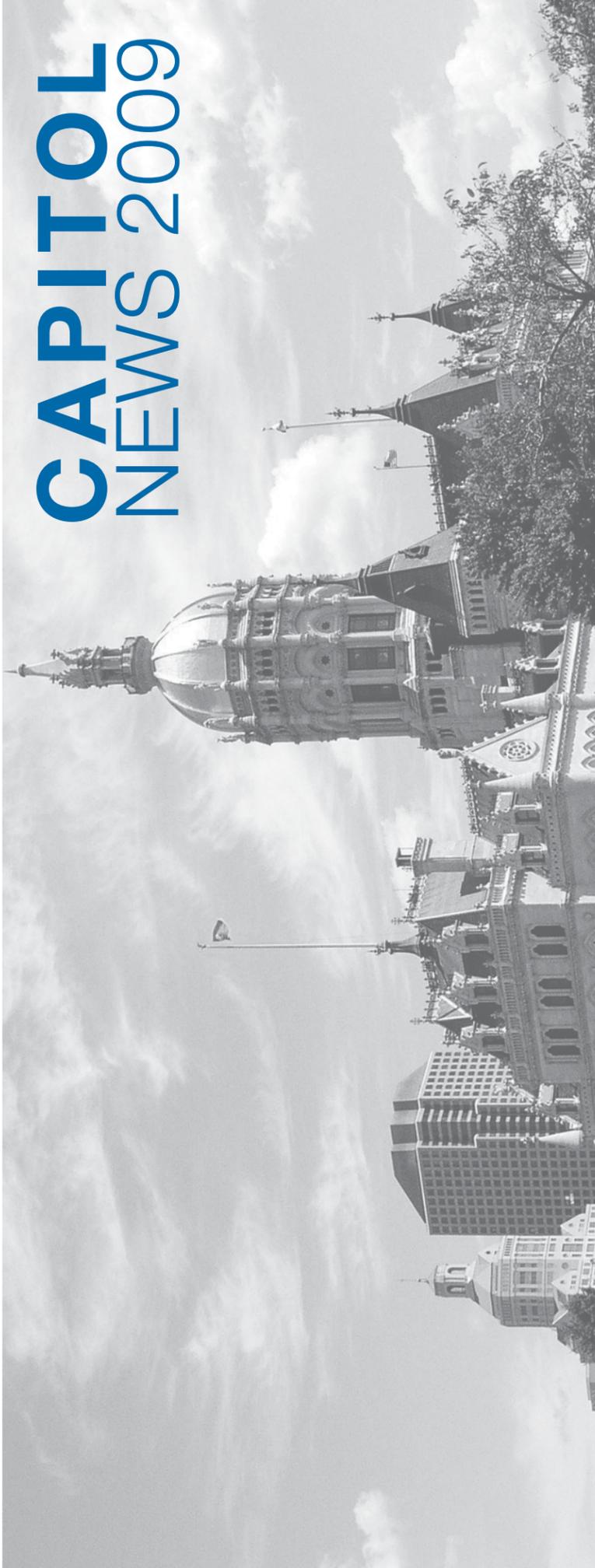
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AFFORDABLE ELDERLY HOME CARE

Many seniors are able to remain in their homes longer, delay their entrance into nursing homes, and continue to enjoy their independence if they can obtain affordable home care support services. This bill expands access to affordable home care support services, helps seniors remain independent in their own homes rather than nursing homes, and expands personal care assistance services to more of our seniors.

LOCATING MISSING SENIORS

Seniors with dementia and Alzheimer's can easily become disorientated and lost even in a familiar area. New legislation creates "Silver Alert" an emergency notification system similar to the Amber Alert for children. This allows law enforcement agencies to issue special alerts for missing seniors so that they can quickly be located and returned home.

Children

CYSTIC FIBROSIS SCREENINGS

Families and health care professionals testified that early diagnosis and treatment can improve health, longevity and quality of life for infants with a diagnosis of cystic fibrosis, so we passed legislation that expanded the screening to all hospitals. A simple blood test diagnoses these infants so we can begin treatment.

CARDIAC ARREST

Requires schools to have an AED and provide training to school staff for its use. This is especially important during sporting events held on school grounds.



IMPROVED BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS

More people are bicycling and walking for health, economic, and environmental reasons. We need to insure their safety. We required the Department of Transportation to increase funding to municipalities for bikeways and sidewalks with curb cuts or ramps. For the future we established a board to create new policies and procedures to improve the bicycling and walking environment in Connecticut.

SUPPORT FOR THE OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS & THEIR FAMILIES

The service and sacrifices of our armed forces members must always be valued and honored. As a member of the Veterans Committee, I am very proud of the bills that were passed out of our committee. Two important bills ensure that members of the armed forces can receive transitional behavioral health services. This also applies to their families. We created grants so that they can pay for essential personal or household items when there is a hardship. Thank you veterans for all that you do.

Public Safety

This year I served on the Public Safety Committee. I am proud of some of the important legislation we were able to pass.

PAINTBALL SAFETY

Allows children to safely participate and enjoy paintball equipment by requiring paintball facilities to instruct minors in the safe use of the equipment as well as preventing eye injuries by requiring they wear protective glasses.

EXPOSURE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES & EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Public safety personnel deserve to be informed when they come into contact with individuals with infectious diseases. This bill requires hospitals to timely notify an emergency service organization (ESO), such as an ambulance company, when a patient the ESO attended, treated, assisted, handled, or transported to the hospital is diagnosed with infectious pulmonary tuberculosis. The bill prohibits the hospital from revealing the patient's identity.

ILLEGAL STREET RACING ENFORCEMENT

Street racing creates risks for our young people as well as innocent bystanders. We all have read or heard of people killed as a result of illegal racing. We passed legislation increasing penalties and fines for anyone racing a vehicle, and greater penalties if the vehicle is not registered to them.

MOVE OVER LAW

We all know that law enforcement is a dangerous job. Other emergency service personnel are also at risk as they do their jobs on our highways. We passed legislation requiring motorists approaching stationary emergency vehicles to slow down and move over one lane when safe and reasonable.

SEX OFFENDERS

We need to do everything in our power to protect our children from harm. The Department of Public Safety will now notify the superintendents of schools in communities where sex offenders live or plan to live.

Transportation AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

This bill makes numerous changes to a wide variety of motor vehicle laws and operations of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). These changes include, but are not limited to, reducing the blood alcohol level of intoxication for a DUI from .08% to .04% for the driver of a commercial motor vehicle, reevaluating the motor vehicle emissions inspection program to ensure it complies with federal law, creating new commemorative license plates, implementing rules governing interlock ignition devices, allowing golf carts to be driven on roads under certain circumstances, making changes to handicapped parking credentials and authorizing certain special driver's permits for higher education purposes.



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Assisting Our Seniors

Helping our seniors has always been important to me. To improve their overall quality of life we passed several new legislative initiatives.

SENIOR DISCOUNTS PROGRAMS

One of the benefits of being a senior is the senior discount. This legislation provides seniors with better information about senior citizen discount programs so that more can enjoy the benefits.