



## Strengthening Connecticut Schools

The difference in the achievement levels among Connecticut schools is one of the highest in the nation. 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
- » Improves vocational schools by adding members with manufacturing and vocational education experience to the state Board of Education
- » Protects our children with better maintenance of buses and better bus drivers
- » Requires public hearings before school closures and increases parent involvement
- » Ensures adequate staff and supplies
- » Makes sure students with autism get quality services through their special education individualized education plans (IEP)

## Credit for Fishing & Hunting Licenses

Sports enthusiasts who bought their licenses early this year and paid a higher price will be eligible for a credit that will be applied to the next license, permit, or tag purchase. The DEP will reserve the credit and apply it to purchases made after October 1, 2010.



State Representative  
**PEGGY SAYERS**

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State Representative | Deputy Majority Leader

# Peggy Sayers

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Capitol Update

The 2010 legislative session has been one of both challenge and compromise as we worked to address the state budget deficiency. In the end, we saw real results as the legislature and the Governor worked together to craft a sound, responsible and fair state budget. I am proud that we were able to work together, across party lines, to create a compromise and close the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years with no deficit and a budget that avoided both devastating cuts to services and tax increases.

As we look ahead to the future, fiscal challenges remain. While I am truly optimistic about Connecticut's economic recovery, I remain realistic about the absolute necessity to prevent wasteful spending, limit borrowing and keep taxes in check. I will continue to work towards those goals as your voice in the State Capitol.



State Representative | Deputy Majority Leader

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If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

State Representative  
**Peggy Sayers**

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## Environment

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We all recognize the importance of recycling to protect our environment. Connecticut residents will now be able to recycle more through changes made to state law that:

- » Allow for more types of paper and plastic to be recycled
- » Require private trash collectors to offer recycling
- » Require recycling bins in public areas where regular trash bins are located

## Saluting Our Veterans

- » Veterans in nursing homes can now use the VA as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers
- » Honorably discharged retired veterans with 30 years or more of service can now apply for "retirement promotions" and move up one grade in rank
- » Active duty service members out of state will get an extension for 30 days to renew their expired driver's licenses after their return to Connecticut
- » March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day
- » Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses

## Protecting Families Responding to domestic violence in our communities

The legislature made the most sweeping reforms to our domestic violence laws in the past 25 years, which will empower educators, service providers, law enforcement officers and survivors with new tools that make:

- » Improvements to educator training and the enforcement of protective orders
- » Employment and housing protections
- » GPS monitoring for high risk offenders
- » Additional domestic violence court dockets
- » Increased staffing at 24 hour emergency shelters



Rep. Sayers and area legislators honor Windsor High School Basketball team at the State capitol

## Health Care

This session, the legislature took steps to lower costs and enhance transparency and accountability in our health care system.

*The new legislation:*

- » Saves money for towns by allowing them to join the state in bulk purchasing of prescription drugs
- » Requires insurance companies to disclose denial rates so consumers can compare the quality of different plans
- » Extends state COBRA coverage from 18 to 30 months so laid off employees can keep their health insurance for a longer time as they look for new jobs
- » Requires insurance companies to refer consumers to the state Office of the Health Care Advocate for assistance with denials of coverage
- » Improves coverage for chemotherapy patients
- » Enhances patient safety by improving hospital reporting of medical errors



Windsor Locks team, ACES High, and Windsor's team, PARAGON compete in Suffield Shakedown.

## Windsor and Windsor Locks Saves by Working Together Saving on School Busing

Every town in Connecticut can now save money on their school transportation costs.

- » A new grant is available for boards of education from multiple towns that work together to provide transportation services
- » This will be new money coming to Windsor and Windsor Locks school system

## Saving on Health Insurance

Cities and towns can now save money on health insurance costs.

- » Two or more towns or boards of education can join together to purchase health care benefits at lower costs
- » A larger group size can achieve lower premiums, better benefits for employees and more bargaining power for towns

## Taxpayers Off the Hook for Evicted Property

- » Local taxpayers have been relieved of the cost of storing the belongings of evicted tenants
- » Tenants' rights will be protected because state marshals will be responsible for removal, delivery and storage of belongings



Rep. Peggy Sayers with Porter and Chester Graduate Jackie Ravosa.

## Creating Jobs Number One Priority — Dig Out of the Recession

Working with the Governor, we passed a significant new jobs bill that will help put Connecticut on the road to economic recovery with:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and nonprofits
- » Student loan reimbursement for careers in new and emerging fields
- » Income tax credits for investments in new technology businesses
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month per new employee
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Better environmental rules to speed up business permitting process

## Supporting Services for Alzheimer's Patients

Last year's budget protected the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, which provides small grants to family members caring for people with Alzheimer's to fund personal care, home health and adult day care services. Governor Rell closed the program in 2009, but working with advocates, the legislature was able to re-open the program in May, allowing Connecticut families to receive these important services.

State Representative  
**PEGGY SAYERS**

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.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2010 Major Acts  | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business         | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy    |
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