



State Representative | Deputy Majority Leader

# PETER TERCYAK

## Reforming our Health Care System

Over 750,000 Connecticut residents went without health insurance at one point during 2007 or 2008. Healthcare costs everyone more each year and taxpayers pay more to supplement the people who do not have it. This year, Democrats took major steps towards reforming our broken healthcare system with the passage of two historic healthcare bills:

### CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP

PA 09-147 | HB 6582

- » Opens the state health plan to small businesses, non-profits, and cities/towns
- » Provides at least \$70 million savings to the state, when we need it most
- » Reduces taxes with improved bargaining power and lower administrative costs
- » Helps small businesses access quality, affordable health care for employees
- » Takes an important first step toward streamlining health care state-wide

### 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
- » Creates new public health insurance options that will be affordable
- » Allows Connecticut to take full advantage of Obama’s federal reforms

These bills would have made Connecticut “Obama-ready” – for federal reforms that provide affordable, quality care for all.

Governor Rell vetoed these important bills, rejecting an opportunity to provide relief for families and businesses fighting high healthcare costs.

We were able to override the Governor’s veto and pass the Sustinet Plan.



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Proudly Serving New Britain | 26<sup>th</sup> District

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### Providing for our Armed Forces Members & 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.

#### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

- PA 09-10 | HB 6406 – EFFECTIVE: Upon passage
- » Ensures that members of the armed forces can receive transitional behavioral health services
  - » Applies to families and dependents of armed forces members as well

#### RELIEF FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

- PA 09-163 | HB 6394 – EFFECTIVE: Upon passage
- » Expands the Military Family Relief Fund
  - » Allows immediate relatives of members not on active duty to receive benefits
  - » Provides grants to pay for essential personal or household items when in hardship

### Assisting our Seniors

Improving the lives of seniors so they may be healthy, safe, and financially 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

#### 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



### Keeping our Children Safe & Healthy

New Britain’s children need our protection from numerous harms. 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

#### 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

New Britain Legislative Delegation Budget Forum held at the New Britain City Hall. Speaker of the House, Christopher Donovan led the discussion

#### 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 treatments 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 12<sup>TH</sup> state to require this comprehensive coverage

### 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
- » Corrupt money managers like Bernie Madoff

#### 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
  - » Regulates credit card marketing practices on public college campuses
  - » Protects young consumers from being unfairly targeted



Rep. Tim O'Brien and Rep. Peter Tercyak at the Dozynki Polish Festival in New Britain

#### 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



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Rep. Peter Tercyak (right) with other representatives discussing proposed legislation