

Dear Neighbor,

As we inch our way out of the Great Recession, I know that hard working families are still struggling to make ends meet. I have continued my work on government accountability job creation and reforming the Department of Children and Families and can report that we are experiencing success in using taxpayer's dollars more effectively and productively.

There is still much to be done and we need to stay the course on job training and infrastructure improvement. The Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board Study found that a direct investment in worker retraining of more than 350 dislocated workers got them jobs and even more important 9 out of 10 remained employed adding \$23 million in economic activity from direct wages and the indirect multiplier effect.

As you may recall, we used Results Based Accountability (RBA) this past session to evaluate job creation under the RBA Sub Committee that I Co-Chair and we put into motion a web based Children's Report Card that uses RBA to establish indicators of child well being and track the results.

If you have any questions or need help on an issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Just Approved

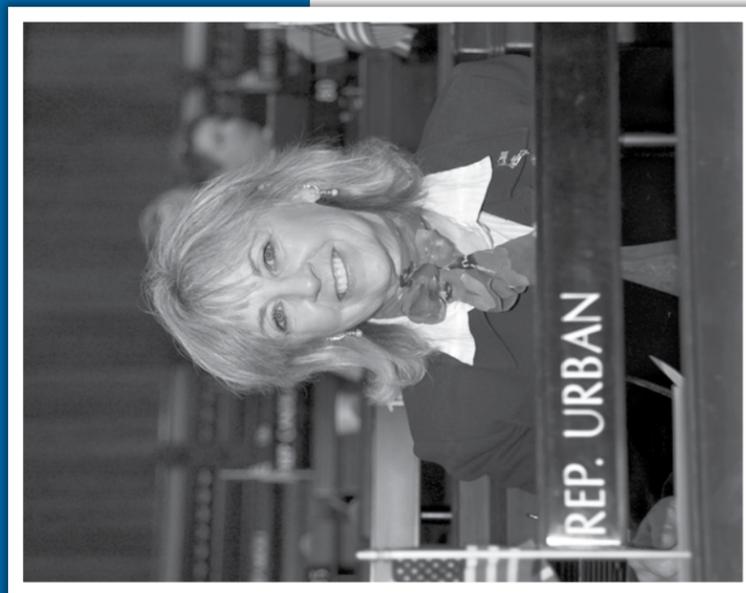
School Based Health Center For Pawcatuck Middle School

Senator Maynard and I were able to secure a grant to cover the entire cost of a School-Based Health Center in Pawcatuck Middle School. We couldn't be more pleased with the investment in our community and our children. These centers have proven to reduce absenteeism and resulted in increased student achievement as health care needs that might have been ignored before are treated in a timely fashion. I am also pleased that we will be gathering data on the results of the health center and that data will be included in our Statewide Children's Report Card which tracks the success of our programs that support children and families.

State Representative

DIANA URBAN

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Preserving Our Environment

Coastal Management

We passed legislation to address the damage caused by rising sea levels in Long Island Sound, increased coastal flooding and severe erosion. The new law creates a framework to encourage long-term coastal management planning efforts while balancing and protecting the interests of municipalities and individual property owners. We also passed sweeping reforms to better prepare for future storms and avoid the wide spread and lengthy loss of utility power.

Open Space

Our open spaces and beautiful vistas add to our quality of life. I fought hard at the end of the session to get a new law that requires the commissioner of DEEP to update the state's open space plan by December 15, 2012 and every 5 years thereafter. The plan must include data on how much open space has been preserved, how to establish a system to accurately track open space land and how to ensure that state owned land is an integral and permanent part of our long term preservation plans.

Hospice Care Improves

Our hospice care system is a treasure to families faced with helping loved ones through life's transitions. I will be forever grateful for the care they gave my own dad. This new law gives smaller hospice facilities the opportunity to provide high quality services that allow patients to stay closer to family and friends. At present, we have only two licensed hospices in the state and through this new law we want to assure that there is hospice care available and accessible to any family who needs it.

Senior citizen ID's

I have had some discussions with seniors who are no longer driving and yet still need a form of photo identification. The state does supply a Non-Driver ID card which you can apply for by mail if you are unable to get to a DVM site. For information go to the DMV website at www.ct.gov/dmv and print off form CS-1. We are working on the possibility of having a locally issued Non-Driver ID card and I would welcome any feedback on the issue.



Rep. Urban joins her colleagues for a press conference on promoting small business.

State Representative

DIANA URBAN

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Protecting Our Children

The Children's Committee is continuing to collaborate with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to make the Department more responsive, efficient and productive. DCF Commissioner Katz has embraced Results Based Accountability and together we have made incredible strides on many fronts. Numbers that seemed to refuse to move for years are now showing a positive trend. We are bringing home children formerly placed in out of state facilities which saves the state money; we are drastically reducing the number of children in institutional care and getting them placed in foster homes, often with relatives and we are focusing on permanency plans that really work for the long term success of the child. We have achieved a significant amount in a short period of time. New laws include:

- Keeping DCF adoptions in the Superior Court to streamline the process and save time and money with a quicker outcome for adoptions
- Addressing the incredibly troublesome issue of "scream rooms" We were all shocked to learn that in 2010 there were over 18,000 cases of "restraint" or "seclusion" in Connecticut schools that were not being reported to the legislature. The new law will require that the data be collected, analyzed and reported so we can see where schools districts are challenged and possible alternatives that work



As much as these reforms were crafted to support and improve the education of our children, they also meet the need to support and improve the methods our teachers use in the classroom.

With a focus on early education, the transformation of low performing schools, a system for teacher evaluation and more precise financial support to our school districts, the reforms contained in this year's legislation will have a substantial positive impact on our students and our communities.

Education Reform

Working with parents, educators, local and state administrators, I made sure that this year's historic education reforms met the needs of the families of school aged children. Many key aspects of the reforms take direct aim at the achievement gap that exists between like aged children of different communities.

Caylee's Law

Sets criminal penalties for the failure to report the disappearance of a child. The law is in response to the circumstances surrounding the death of Florida toddler Caylee Anthony, and applies to any parent, guardian or person who has custody or supervision of the child.

Breastfeeding Moms and Jury Duty

We had several complaints about the lack of accommodation for breastfeeding moms on jury duty. Recognizing the importance of breast feeding, this new law assures that breastfeeding is encouraged and accommodated in our Jury system.

Animal Welfare



Rep. Urban with her rescue dog Indiana Jones.

I was pleased to make significant progress on preventing sick puppies and kittens from breeding mills being sold in pet stores and protecting owners from veterinary expenses incurred when they do purchase a sick animal without requiring that the puppy or kitten be returned. In addition we were finally able to pass a bill to help prevent pet overpopulation and homelessness by instituting training for animal control officers and authorizing ACO's to use spay/neuter vouchers to alter sheltered animals before they are adopted.

By increasing the penalty for a second act of animal cruelty, we continue to emphasize the important link between animal cruelty and future violent behavior. A link that the FBI has recognized since 1971.

Jobs Are Our #1 Priority

We created new job opportunities for young people by funding the Youth Employment Summer Jobs program. We also supported adult evening education programs, as well as the Small Business Express program and a Connecticut Made initiative to promote products from local businesses. Additional, high level job opportunities will result from economic development funding for the Jackson Labs project that builds on our decision to become a world leader in bioscience and biotechnology. Although New London County lags behind the rest of Connecticut we must stay the course promoting programs that train workers in new areas, increase educational opportunities, and promote our local products. There are encouraging signs in the housing market and a small up tic in employment.