



*Dear Neighbor,*

*The Connecticut General Assembly has reconvened for its 2007 legislative session, and I am pleased to be a part of it!*

*There are many important items on the agenda, and I will do my best to be your voice here at the Capitol. Three of the most pressing topics are education, health care, and juvenile justice. Enclosed is an overview of these issues.*

*As your legislator, I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the issues the legislature will address. I look forward to working with you this year.*

*Sincerely,*

*Representative Toni Walker*

**Please Keep in Touch**

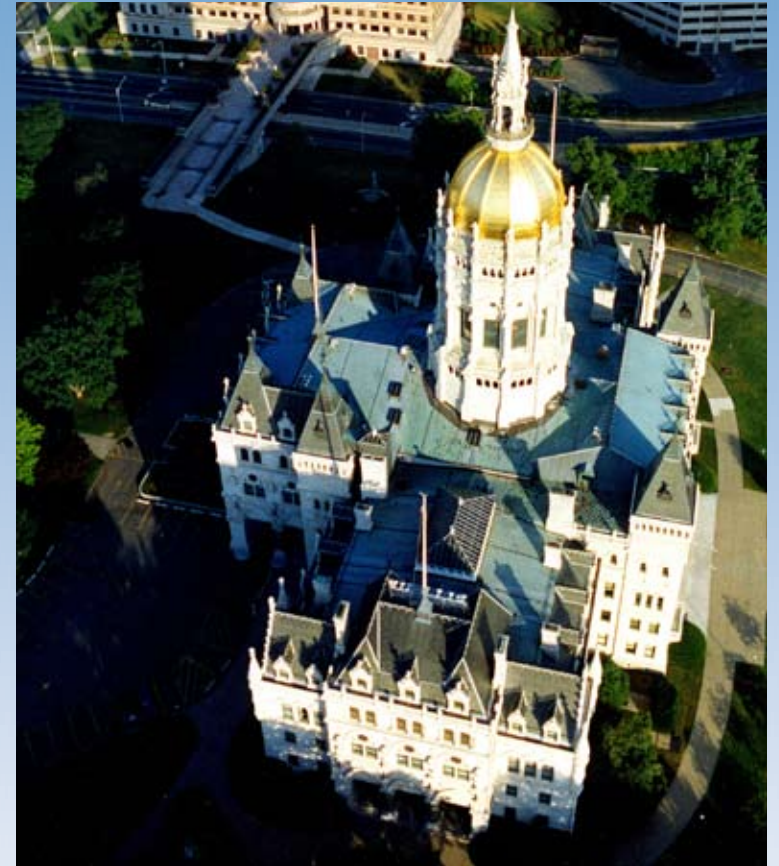


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# Toni E. Walker

State Representative  
93rd District  
**New Haven**



## 2007 Legislative Session Preview

# WHAT'S NEW THIS SESSION?

Thousands of bills are introduced each year in the Connecticut General Assembly. Here are some of the initiatives the legislature is considering this session.

## Education

- Increase state funding for local education
- Restore separate state reimbursement grants for special education
- Increase security measures at schools
  - Perform security assessments on school buildings
  - Establish or update crisis management plans
  - Provide special state aid for districts to hire and train security personnel
  - Install security devices, such as portable metal detectors, security cameras, and alarms
- Broaden the school bullying law
  - Redefine "bullying" to cover more situations and to extend its reach to incidents that occur off school grounds and in cyberspace
  - Require school districts to publish bullying complaints more widely or report complaints to the state
  - Change curriculum to discourage student violence and promote positive behavior.
- Provide remedial help and alternative programs for schools facing sanctions under the federal **No Child Left Behind** law.



- Increase space and quality of school readiness programs for low-income children in inner-cities
- Provide better preschool facilities
- Reduce the drop-out rate, improve student attendance, and reduce suspension and expulsion rates

## Juvenile Justice

Last session we established the Juvenile Jurisdiction Planning and Implementation Committee. I am chair of this committee, and I can attest to the fact that thorough investigations of current policy have been conducted.

These findings have been studied and we have made the following recommendations:

- Raise the juvenile court's age limit from 15 to 16 or 17
- Ensure that state agencies use evidence-based programs as the foundation for mental health and education services for adolescents

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## Health Care/ Insurance

### Public

- Expand existing public programs to allow more adults to participate
- Allocate more resources into safety net providers through community health centers and school-based health centers
- Offer premium assistance to residents who have access to employer-sponsored coverage



### Private

- Fund reinsurance programs to reduce the price of private insurance
- Provide tax incentives to encourage people to purchase insurance
- Mandate that employers offer coverage or face a financial penalty

### Facilities

- Boost state appropriation to UConn Medical Center for rising costs such as upgrading equipment