

Contact me for your copy of the year's laws affecting:
Children • Business • Educatio
• Energy • Environment
• Seniors • Veterans

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health and in good spirits.

Another year has passed, and our state has been hard at work crafting the necessary legislation to improve economic stability, education, health care, the environment and services that the people of Connecticut deserve. I have worked hard to advocate for mortgage assistance programs, municipal health care pooling, education security for foster care children, expansion of home hospice care, and many more programs and services. In this newsletter, I would like to share some of my accomplishments that will benefit the people of the state and all of us here in New Haven.

Your letters, e-mail and phone calls provide insight on what's best for the district, and allow me to understand your concerns. Please continue to share with me your thoughts and ideas. With your input, I will continue to fight for a better quality-of-life for the people of the 93rd District.

Sincerely,

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TONI WALKER State Representative

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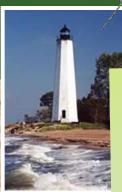
TONI WALKER



PROUDLY SERVING THE 93RD DISTRICT
NEW HAVEN



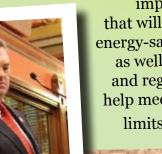
CAPITOL NEWS 2008



Global Warming

Connecticut became the fifth state in the nation this year to adopt mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. I endorsed a legislative package that directs state agencies to identify

improvements that will meet state energy-saving goals, as well as policies and regulations to help meet emission limits. PA 08-98



TONI WALKER WORKING FOR NEW HAVEN

2008 Legislative Session Highlights:

Mortgage Relief

To assist homeowners caught up in the subprime mortgage crisis, we authorized the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to continue the CT FAMILIES refinancing program, and to implement emergency mortgage assistance programs.

As of July 1, 2008, the Chief Court Administrator will establish a foreclosure mediation program in each judicial district. The program will run through 2010. PA 08-176

Food Stamps

To reduce child poverty, I pushed for legislation

that will direct Federal food stamp funds to many

local organizations that serve low-income families

and individuals.

Starting October 1, 2008, these providers and the

Department of Social Services will administer

the food stamp program and the program's

education, employment, and training activities

to food stamp recipients. Efforts will also be made to expand enrollment eligibility for these

services. PA 08-161





Representative Walker addresses the

House Chamber

Walker champions funding for the City of New Haven

This past legislative session, Appropriations Committee member Representative Toni Walker (D) of New Haven, helped put a notable amount of funding into the state budget for the City of New Haven. A few of her accomplishments include:

alternition	
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	\$17,875,000
Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Magnet Schools Magnet Schools PU OT Colleges and Hospitals	\$37,306,120
DIL OT Colleges and Hospitals	¢2 749 481

Public Transportation..... .\$243,392,043 Grand Total for all funding.....

Reminder: Sales Tax Exemption Week will run from Sunday, August 17 to Saturday, August 23.

Toxic Toys

Toys for all of Connecticut's children will be safer when PA 08-106 goes into effect on October 1, 2008. The legislation adopts stricter limits for lead in children's products, and bans the sale of toys and other items that contain asbestos and are marketed to children under age 16.



Health Care

Representative Walker consults Speaker

Amann about legislation on the

I co-sponsored the Connecticut Health Care Partnership Act in hopes that we as a state will be able to offer municipalities, small businesses and non-profits the option to voluntarily join the state employee health insurance plan. This legislation would have created a large pool of insured individuals, and could have translated to increased bargaining power and lower costs - which would have resulted in big taxpayer savings (upwards of eight million per year for large cities like New Haven).

I also advocated on behalf of PA 08-171 in order to establish a Minority Health Advisory Council. This newly-formed council will be working to eliminate disparities in health status based on race, ethnicity, and

linguistic ability.



in-district event

Long-Term Care

Seniors that prefer to stay at home for their long-term care needs will be happy to hear about the expansion of the Money Follows the Person program. I supported this expansion to assist Connecticut seniors by reducing their reliance on institutional care, and providing direct financial assistance through Medicaid for home health care costs. PA 08-180

I co-sponsored legislation that cracks down on unethical behavior of state

Ethics Reform

and municipal employees. Starting October 1, 2008 the pensions of corrupt officials and employees may be revoked or reduced, if they are convicted of jobrelated crimes by a Superior Court

Judge. HB 6502

Items on the Workbench

Representative Walker

provídes insight on Juvenile

Justice Reform

\$142 509.525

Juvenile Justice Reform

- Allow police officers to release arrested children into the child's own custody, and make it a delinquent act for a child to willfully fail to appear in juvenile court.

- Limit the use of pretrial detention.

- Establish pretrial diversion programs for children accused of certain offenses (contingent on available funding).

- Expand the availability of record erasure for children adjudicated delinquent, or for a child in a family with service needs.

Foster Care Education

- Maintain emotional stability of foster care children by keeping them enrolled in the same school district that the child attended before entering into the foster care system.

- Keep foster care siblings in contact with one another.

Gasoline

Through Senate Bill 1000, I helped allocate \$2.5 million to low-income families for home heating efficiency improvements.

SB 1000 also paved the way for discounts on cash purchases at gasoline franchises. In addition, the scheduled July 1, 2008 0.5% increase on the wholesale price of gasoline will be eliminated, saving consumers approximately \$0.03 per gallon of gasoline.