



State Representative

# Toni Walker



Questions? You can reach me:

**By Mail:** Legislative Office Building  
Room 4049  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
**By Phone:** 1-800-842-1902  
**By E-mail:** Toni.Walker@cga.ct.gov

*I look forward to hearing from you!*

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
PERMIT NO. 3937

## TONI WALKER State Representative

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE  
BUILDING ROOM 4049  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
1-800-842-1902  
Toni.Walker@cga.ct.gov  
www.house Dems.ct.gov/Walker

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,

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# TONI WALKER



PROUDLY SERVING THE 93RD DISTRICT  
NEW HAVEN



CAPITOL NEWS 2008



# TONI WALKER WORKING FOR NEW HAVEN



Representative Walker provides insight on Juvenile Justice Reform

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



## 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



Representative Walker consults Speaker Amann about legislation on the House floor

## 2008 Legislative Session Highlights:

I ❤️ NEW HAVEN

### 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

### 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:

- Education Cost Sharing (ECS) .....\$142,509,525
  - Magnet Schools.....\$17,875,000
  - PILOT Colleges and Hospitals.....\$37,306,120
  - Public Transportation.....\$3,748,481
  - Public Transportation.....\$243,392,043
- Grand Total for all funding.....\$243,392,043**

### 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.



Representative Walker listens to a colleague discuss proposed legislation

### Health Care

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.

### 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

### Items on the Workbench

#### 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.

### 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

### Ethics Reform

I co-sponsored legislation that cracks down on unethical behavior of state and municipal employees. Starting October 1, 2008 the pensions of corrupt officials and employees may be revoked or reduced, if they are convicted of job-related crimes by a Superior Court Judge. HB 6502



Senator Harp, Representative Dillon, and Representative Walker attend an in-district event