



State Representative
TONI WALKER

Connecticut is one of only three states that ends juvenile court jurisdiction at age 15. I am pleased to announce that as of January 1, 2010, 16-year-olds will be moved into the juvenile court system.

Young adults aged 16- and 17-years-old often lack the maturity to consider the consequences of their actions. Juveniles under the age of 18 should not be considered adults within the criminal court system, but rather, should be looked at as youth who are in need of guidance. Raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction helps put our focus on the rehabilitation, and not just the punishment, of our children. Below are the highlights of my legislative accomplishments in the area of juvenile justice reform:

- 2003: PA 03-257**
» Created a seven-person implementation team to review all matters necessary to implement an increase in the age limit for juvenile court jurisdiction.
- 2004: PA 04-127**
» Required courts to hold private court proceedings in areas away from adult criminal proceedings.
- 2005: PA 05-232**
» Allowed more youths to be eligible for youthful offender (YO) status.
- 2006: PA 06-187**
» Created the Juvenile Jurisdiction Planning and Implementation Committee, which planned for the implementation of change needed to extend juvenile court jurisdiction.
- 2007: PA 07-4**
» Integrated 16- and 17-year-olds into the juvenile court system with an implementation date of Jan. 1, 2010.
» Transferred cases involving serious felonies and certain motor vehicle offenses to adult court.
» Authorized the Judicial Branch to evaluate existing juvenile programs and services and make changes needed to ensure that they will meet the needs of these youth.
» Created Juvenile Jurisdiction Policy and Operations Coordinating Council to monitor the implementation of new and modified programs, procedures, and court operations associated with raising the delinquency age.
- 2009: PA 09-7**
» Compromises were made due to the economic climate so that the 16-year-olds would become juveniles in 2010 and the 17-year-olds in 2012.

For more information on laws pertaining to juveniles, please contact me at 800.842.8267.



State Representative | Co-Chair of the Human Services Committee
Toni Walker
Proudly Serving New Haven | 93rd District



Legislative Office Building
Room 2000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 1-800-842-8267
Toni.Walker@cga.ct.gov
www.housedems.ct.gov/Walker

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937



State Representative | Co-Chair of the Human Services Committee
Toni Walker
Proudly Serving New Haven | 93rd District



Toni Walker

Proudly Serving New Haven | 93rd District

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.

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

SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS

PA 09-70 | SB 710 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

- » Expands the State Family and Medical Leave Act
- » Permits employees to take up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for injured family members who are military personnel



Representative Walker addresses a concern of a senior during a public hearing

Assisting our Seniors

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



Representative Walker and the New Haven Delegation listen to community non-profits discuss their budgetary concerns at City Hall

Keeping our Children Safe & Healthy

New Haven's children need our protection from the numerous harms that exist. This legislative session I worked hard with my colleagues to pass legislation to do just that.

ELIMINATING CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO MACHINE GUNS

PA 09-62 | SB 358 – EFFECTIVE: 10.01.09

- » Bans selling, giving, and transferring machine guns to people under age 16
- » Increased penalties: fines up to \$1,000 and imprisonment of up to 10 years

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

HEALTH CARE FOR STEPCHILDREN

PA 09-124 | HB 5433 – EFFECTIVE: UPON PASSAGE

- » Requires health insurance policies to provide the same benefits to stepchildren as biological children

IMPROVING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

PA 09-154 | SB 735 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Requires funding to be set-aside by the Department of Transportation
- » Enhances bicycle and pedestrian use in our neighborhoods
- » Increases funding to municipalities for bikeways and sidewalks with curb cuts or ramps
- » Establishes a board to create new policies and procedures that improve the bicycling and walking environment in Connecticut



CONTACT TONI WALKER

Legislative Office Building
Room 2000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 800.842.8267

Toni.Walker@cga.ct.gov
www.housedems.ct.gov/Walker

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 and corrupt money managers like Bernie Madoff.

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

FORECLOSURE PROTECTION

PA 09-209 | SB 948 EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Implements federal reforms
- » Improves how lending professionals are licensed
- » Expands eligibility for state foreclosure prevention programs
- » Makes the state's foreclosure mediation program mandatory.

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR DISCLOSURE

PA 09-18 | HB 5414 – EFFECTIVE: 07.01.09

- » Requires home construction and home improvement contractors to disclose other business interests
- » Prevents potential conflicts before projects begin



Representative Walker and the New Haven Delegation gather outside the House Chamber