



Chairwoman Walker and Rep. Abercrombie discuss testimony on a committee bill



Reps. Walker and Holder-Winfield review an amendment on the House Floor

A BALANCED BUDGET *for* CONNECTICUT

– *On Time and On Target*

By working hard and reaching across party lines to create a compromise, we were able to balance this year’s state budget with:

- » No tax increases
- » No cuts in municipal aid or education funding (ECS)
- » Maintained funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses
- » Funding for dental care and prescriptions for seniors and the disabled
- » Lower co-pays for home care services on average \$100/month (AARP endorsed)
- » A \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
PAs 10-3 and 10-179

*We erased a \$10 billion deficit,
balancing the budget on time and on target.*

New Haven Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Aid	
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$4,390,033
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$34,234,458
Town Aid Roads	\$610,471
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,901,108
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$7,323,486
Adult Education	\$2,838,323
School Transportation	\$3,613,337
Educational Cost Sharing	\$142,509,525
Total State Funds to New Haven	\$197,420,740

State Representative
TONI WALKER

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State Representative



Toni Walker
Proudly Serving New Haven | 93rd District

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Capitol Update

Dear neighbors,

The 2010 legislative session has been one of both challenge and compromise as we worked to address the state budget deficiency. In the end, we saw real results as legislative leadership and the Governor worked together to craft a sound, responsible and fair state budget. I am proud that we were able to work together, across party lines, to create a compromise and close the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years with no deficit and a balanced budget that avoided both devastating cuts to services and widespread tax increases.

As we look ahead to the future, fiscal challenges remain. While I am truly optimistic about Connecticut’s economic recovery, I remain realistic about the absolute necessity to prevent wasteful spending, limit borrowing and keep taxes in check. I will continue to work towards those goals as your voice in the State Capitol.

Sincerely,

State Representative



Toni Walker
Proudly Serving New Haven | 93rd District

Toni Walker

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Rep. Walker testifies in support of the development of green jobs

Good News for Seniors Reducing Costs for Homecare Services

Seniors using the CT Homecare Program for Elders will soon see a reduction in their monthly costs for critical in-home services, such as meal deliveries and personal care assistance. The budget reduces the percentage seniors pay for these services from 15% to 6%-saving the average client nearly \$100 each month. PA 10-179

Protecting Seniors from the Medicaid Spend-Down

During these tough economic times, seniors may need financial assistance, but cannot receive it without sacrificing their retirement funds. I introduced legislation that will help seniors protect their assets when their spouse needs to enter a nursing home. Under current law, the spouse remaining at home must spend down half of his or her assets in order to allow the ill spouse to qualify for Medicaid coverage. This law increases the asset cap, so that the couple can keep assets up to \$110,000 and still qualify the ill spouse for Medicaid. PA 10-73

Strengthening Connecticut Schools

The achievement gap among Connecticut schools is one of the highest in the nation. We took steps to help turn around low-achieving schools, increase our chances for federal education dollars, improve our vocational high schools and help students with autism.

The legislation:

- » Strengthens the state's application for federal Race to the Top education funds
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- » Improves representation of vocational schools by adding members who have experience in manufacturing and vocational education to the State Board of Education
- » Protects children with better bus drivers and maintenance of buses
- » Requires public hearings before school closures and increases parent involvement
- » Makes sure students with autism get quality services through their special education individualized education plans (IEP) PA 10-111

Environment Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We all recognize the importance of recycling to protect our environment. Connecticut residents will now be able to recycle more through changes made to state law that:

- » Allow for more types of paper and plastic to be recycled
- » Require private trash collectors to offer recycling
- » Require recycling bins in public areas where regular trash bins are located PA 10-87



Reps. Walker, Hewett and Morris share their concerns during a Judiciary Committee meeting

Family and Social Services Education Stability for Youth in Foster Care

I introduced legislation that allows a child in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to continue to attend the school he or she attended before they were committed to the department. The bill applies to all school-age children, and it makes DCF responsible for some costs of transporting a child from a foster home placement to school. PA 10-160

Investigations by the Department of Children and Families

In order to protect the integrity of families involved with DCF, parents need to be advised of their rights when the agency investigates an abuse or neglect complaint against them. I introduced legislation that requires DCF to provide written notice to the child's parent or guardian that outlines their rights as well as consequences for failure to communicate with the department. The parent or guardian must be asked to sign and date the notice. If they refuse, the representative of DCF must indicate on the notice that the parent or guardian was asked to sign, but refused, and the representative must sign the notice as witness to that fact.

This bill passed through the House but not the Senate. I plan on reintroducing this concept during the 2011 legislative session.

HB 5143

Credit Protection for Foster Care Youth

Although all individuals may be susceptible to identity theft, youth in foster care may be at greater risk, as multiple organizations

have access to their personal data. In order to protect these youth, I introduced legislation to require DCF to obtain a free credit report for each youth in foster care over the age of 16. If DCF finds evidence of identity theft, they must report their findings to the Chief State's Attorney, and the youth's foster parent, case worker and attorney. PA 10-157

Notice Regarding Repayment for Services

Currently, Connecticut may claim reimbursement when someone aged 18 or older has received public assistance in the past and acquires property of any kind, including windfalls such as lottery winnings, lawsuit proceeds and inheritances. I introduced a bill that requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to notify an applicant who applies for state assistance that he, she or their legally liable relative may be responsible for repaying any aid received under the state's public assistance recoveries law. PA 10-183

Child Care Subsidies

In order to help get families back to work and improve our economy, affordable and accessible child care must be available. Care4Kids is a state-administered child care program for low-to-moderate income families. To improve accessibility to the program, I introduced legislation that requires eligibility to be redetermined every eight months instead of every six months. The new law also requires DSS to post notices on their website, and send written notice to child care providers and recipients, whenever they intend to make program changes, including those related to eligibility and access. PA 10-161



Rep. Walker and the New Haven delegation listen to community non-profits express their budgetary concerns at City Hall

Health Care Moving Forward on Health Reform

The recent passage of the historic federal health care reform law will lead to welcomed improvements in the quality, access and affordability of health care for Connecticut residents. This session, the legislature built on those improvements by taking steps to lower costs and enhance transparency and accountability in our health care system.

The new legislation:

- » Saves money for towns by allowing them to join the state in-bulk purchasing of prescription drugs
- » Requires insurance companies to disclose denial rates so consumers can compare the quality of different plans
- » Extends state COBRA coverage from 18 to 30 months so laid off employees can keep their health insurance as they look for new jobs
- » Requires insurance companies to refer consumers to the state Office of the Health Care Advocate for assistance with denials of coverage
- » Improves coverage for chemotherapy patients
- » Enhances patient safety by improving hospital reporting of medical errors

PA 10-13, 10-24, 10-63, 10-131

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

State Representative Toni Walker

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Creating Jobs Number One Priority — Dig Out of the Recession

One of the best ways to pull Connecticut out of the recession is through job creation.

Working with the Governor, we passed a significant new jobs bill that will help put Connecticut on the road to economic recovery.

The new job growth law creates jobs in Connecticut with:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and nonprofits
- » Student loan reimbursement and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- » Personal income tax credits for investments made in new and emerging technologies
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies, and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month per new employee
- » A Community and Technical College Advisory Board to assess the training needs of unemployed residents
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Reformed environmental rules that speed up the business permitting process and maintain environmental protections
- » Changes to the state's film tax credit program that will create more film production jobs in Connecticut PA 10-75

