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Delivering for Connecticut

This past fall the General Assembly worked together and acted decisively on a number of pressing issues. We:

- Increased emergency winter heating assistance;
- Closed a commercial trucking insurance loophole to make our roads safer;
- Rolled back HUSKY B health insurance premiums for children;
- Offset federal cuts to Medicare D drug coverage for seniors and persons with disabilities;
- Enacted landmark campaign finance reform to restore public trust in state government.

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State Rep. **Steve Fontana**

Delivering for Connecticut

2005 Fall Special Session Brief

Increased Health Care & Prescription Drug Access

We closed a number of holes in the new federal **Medicare Part D Program** to guarantee that Connecticut's seniors have access to life-saving medications. Now, the state will cover the co-pays for both Medicaid and Medicare eligible recipients and assist seniors in choosing an appropriate prescription drug plan. (Public Act 05-2)

With enrollment declining in **HUSKY**, Connecticut's health insurance program for children in need, we eliminated new premiums and premium increases to help raise participation and keep kids insured. Also, we permanently capped Band 2 enrollees' premiums and prohibited future Band 1 premiums. (Public Act 05-1)

NEW Emergency Home Heating Assistance

Anticipating high energy prices this winter, we enacted cost-saving measures to help Connecticut residents. The emergency package includes an expansion of the energy assistance program, new funding for the heating system repair and replacement program, subsidized, lower-interest home energy improvement loans, and price-gouging protections. A **Sales Tax Holiday** on weatherization products and heating equipment is in effect from November 25th - April 1st. **For more information, please call Infoline at 2-1-1 or visit www.infoline.org.** (Public Act 05-2).

Sweeping Campaign Finance Reform

Continuing our efforts to clean up government and restore public trust, Connecticut now has the toughest campaign finance laws in the nation and a newly established voluntary public financing program, free from special interest money. This landmark legislation prohibits lobbyist and state contractor contributions and ad book purchases, closing the corporate contribution loophole. (Public Act 05-5)

Enhanced Roadway Safety

After the tragic Avon Mountain multi-vehicle accident, we took immediate action to close a loophole that allowed commercial trucks to drop liability insurance coverage without notification to the state. In addition, we strengthened the penalties for driving a commercial vehicle without insurance. (Public Act 05-3)