



For our Families, a Safer & Healthier Connecticut

Although the General Assembly currently continues to work on the state budget, I would like to share with you some important steps that we took during the regular 2009 legislative session to make Connecticut a healthier and safer place for our families.

In this legislative update, I outline for you a few key bills that my colleagues and I passed this year. As always, I look forward to hearing from you; if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, the budget, or any other state matter, please feel free to contact me.

A blue ink handwritten signature of Steve Fontana.

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PESTICIDES & CHILDREN

Starting later this year, Connecticut parents and guardians must be notified 24 hours before pesticides are used at day care centers. This does not impact a facility's ability to quickly eliminate immediate threats to public health, such as mosquitoes, ticks or stinging insects.

GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS

Connecticut schools will now be required to use green cleaning products instead of potentially hazardous commercial cleaning chemicals. This will not affect the use of disinfectants or sanitizers in schools.

BANNING PRODUCTS WITH BPA

Infant formula containers, baby food containers, and all reusable food and beverage containers made with Bisphenol-A (BPA) will be banned in Connecticut beginning in 2010. BPA, a chemical used in plastic products, has been linked to reproductive problems, learning disabilities, and cancer.

EXPANDING COVERAGE FOR AUTISM

Group health insurance policies regulated by the state must now cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, including behavioral therapy for children through age 14 as well as certain prescription drugs, psychiatric and psychological services.

KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM CHILDREN

It is now illegal to give or sell machine guns to anyone under 16 in Connecticut. The law is in response to last year's tragedy where an 8-year-old accidentally shot himself in the head with a submachine gun.

PROTECTING KIDS IN SCHOOLS

Connecticut schools will now be allowed to accept gifts, donations, and grants for the purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators. These portable devices offer the best immediate treatment to restore heart rhythm during cardiac arrest. This commonsense reform will save lives –at no cost to the tax payer.

Useful Numbers

INFOLINE	211
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Tax Department	860.297.5962
Healthcare Advocate	866.466.4446
Unclaimed Property Hotline	800.833.7318
HUSKY Health Care for Kids	877.CT.HUSKY
CT Trust for College Savings:	888.799.2438
Temporary Family Assistance	860.424.5540
Head Start Preschool Programs	860.713.6548

For more information on these or other legislation please contact:

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