

## 2010 Laws Affecting Children & Families

While the 2010 General Assembly session rightly focused on balancing our budget and creating jobs, we also addressed several critical issues affecting the health, safety, and security of children.

Given how important these issues may be to your family, I wanted to share these accomplishments with you right away. If you have any questions about them or this year's session, please always feel free to contact me.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE *of the* CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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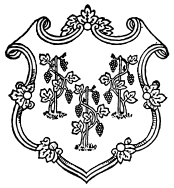
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If you need additional assistance  
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## A SAFER & HEALTHIER CONNECTICUT FOR CHILDREN

### *Responding To Domestic Violence*

To respond to several tragic family violence incidents, we provided educators, law enforcement, and survivors with new tools, from improved training, protective order enforcement, and employment and housing protections, to enhanced GPS monitoring for high risk offenders and emergency shelter staffing.

## BANNING CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY

Cadmium, a carcinogenic metal, fatally poisons many children each year. To educate parents on its dangers and to push the industry to use safer alternatives, we became one of the first states in the country to prohibit using cadmium in children's jewelry.

## HELPING FAMILIES IMPACTED BY THE RECESSION

The recession has plunged thousands of Connecticut children into poverty. We responded by becoming the first state in the nation to pass a law that improves hunger and housing services needed by children and families affected by the economic crisis, leverages all available federal dollars, streamlines government services for children, and assists parents who need to find work.

## IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

We addressed a number of pressing education issues this year by, first, strengthening our application for federal Race to the Top education funds. Second, we developed initiatives to improve performance in vocational-technical schools and low-achieving elementary and secondary schools. Third, we protected children by requiring better maintenance of buses and better bus drivers. Finally, we ensured that children with autism must receive quality educational services.

## PROTECTING STUDENT ATHLETES WITH CONCUSSIONS

Responding to a growing consensus that we need to do more to avoid and diagnose serious injuries to student athletes, we again led the nation by requiring that children who sustain head injuries must receive medical clearance before rejoining athletic activity. We also required that athletic coaches receive training by the start of the sports season's next school year to recognize and respond to concussions.

