



State Representative
Themis Klarides

Making CT Safer, More Affordable

- **Middle class Connecticut families are being torn apart.** Young adults are leaving the state for jobs and housing. Senior citizens often cannot afford to retire here. Jobs are fleeing to other states.

These long term trends are cause for concern. When we hit retirement age, will there be enough workers to support the elderly and the poor?

With these issues in mind, my fellow Republicans and I continued the fight to make Connecticut more affordable. For a sound future, we worked to keep and attract more jobs, income and people to Connecticut.

- **We proposed more incentives for young people to buy their first home.** We pushed to exempt pension benefits from the state income tax to help retirees feel more welcome here. We advocated immediate \$500 income tax credits to assist families with rising energy costs and \$500 income tax credits to help with health care costs.

- **For the safety of children and families,** we advocated life sentences for repeat violent offenders who commit three major crimes such as murder, rape, robbery and arson, known as 3 Strikes legislation.

These are some of our values that we continue to advocate. Following are highlights of new laws adopted, along with some unfinished business that must be addressed in coming years.

As always, please contact me with your state-related problems or concerns.

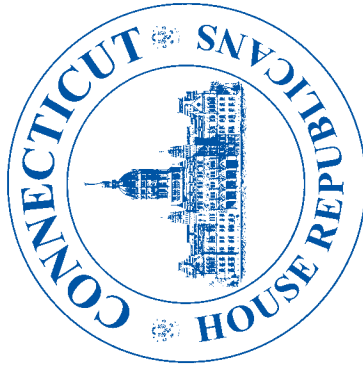
Sincerely,

Themis Klarides



Representative Themis Klarides speaks to students from Turkey Hill School on a recent visit to the State Capitol.

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Woodbridge ★ Orange ★ Derby



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2008 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
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Fighting For Your Interests...

During the 2008 legislative session, my colleagues and I worked to restrain state spending and hold down taxes to help keep families, jobs and seniors in Connecticut. I have consistently maintained that it is our responsibility as your elected officials to help make Connecticut safer and more affordable.

BUDGET: Streamlining Government Helping Middle Class Taxpayers

- ★ In the face of economic hardship and dwindling revenues, my colleagues and I proposed to shrink government and reduce state expenditures by \$163 million through voluntary early retirements.
- ★ We supported gasoline tax cuts, because many people have no choice but to drive to work.
- ★ We advocated ending a nuisance tax on job-creating small businesses which are the backbone of our local economy.
- ★ We proposed tax credits for energy and healthcare.

EDUCATION: Learn Here, Live Here

- ★ We added to a \$181 million increase in state school aid for 2008 into 2009.
- ★ A new law is intended to improve school learning environments, by revising policies on in-school suspension and school bullying
- ★ We proposed an innovative way for graduates to save for their first home and raise their families in Connecticut by banking their state income tax payments for up to 10 years.

SECURITY: Safety for Families, Children

- ★ We pushed for stronger penalties on repeat violent offenders. New legislation doubles and triples sentences for persistent dangerous felons.
- ★ It falls short of a Three Strikes law to impose life in prison for persons convicted of three violent offenses such as murder, rape, arson and home invasion.

SENIORS: Home Care for the Elderly

- ★ An important new law allows to 5,000 Connecticut elderly and disabled to receive long-term care in their homes without having to go into a nursing home. This is more desirable and cost effective.
- ★ We proposed exempting pensions from state income taxes to keep retirees in Connecticut.

VETERANS: Recognizing their Service

- ★ Some benefits to veterans will be improved, and Gold Star license plates will be issued free of charge to family members to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. "Support our Troops" plates also will be issued.



Leadership... for a Change