

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

GREENWICH DELEGATION: A TARGETED HELPING HAND DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN



“Middle-class relief from rising health care, energy prices”

HARTFORD – Most middle class individuals and families squeezed by skyrocketing health care and home heating expenses would get a significant reduction in their state income tax liability if tax credits proposed today by House Republicans become law, said state Representatives Livvy R. Floren, Lile R. Gibbons, and Claudia “Dolly” Powers.

The House Republican proposals were unveiled at a news conference Wednesday at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

“If the economic downturn many are predicting hits our state within the next few months, the tax credits we proposed today will come as welcome relief to middle class taxpayers in Connecticut who already are struggling to cope with the increasingly high costs of health care and heating their homes,” said Representative Gibbons, R-150th District.

“The tax credits we developed were offered in good faith as a way to help relieve two of the most burdensome expenses shouldered by middle income taxpayers in Connecticut. They are similar in spirit to proposals presented by the majority party in the Senate earlier this week, some of which our caucus has supported for years,” said Representative Floren, R-149th District.

“It is our hope that Republican and Democratic legislators can agree on a non-partisan package for middle class and business tax relief consisting of the best proposals developed by all four caucuses and pass them as soon as possible,” Rep. Powers, R-151st said.

For the short term, Republicans outlined a specific timetable of public hearings and various committee reviews that could produce a bipartisan, comprehensive relief package by March 19. Republicans proposed using roughly \$200 million of the state’s \$263 million surplus to:

- Provide maximum income tax credits of up to \$500 per household for joint filers earning up to \$150,000 for home heating assistance;
- Provide similar maximum \$500 income tax credits to offset out-of-pocket medical costs.