

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **REPRESENTATIVE SCRIBNER BACKS PLAN TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE, ENERGY RELIEF TO MIDDLE CLASS TAXPAYERS**



Hartford—State Rep. David Scribner (R-Brookfield, Bethel) today joined with fellow House Republican leaders in introducing a plan to ward off the effects of an economic downturn through immediate, targeted middle class tax relief to help those struggling to heat their homes and the combat ever increasing costs of health care coverage. It also includes a long term component to bolster the state’s economy through long term investments in the fuel cell industry.

The proposal outlines a specific timetable of public hearings and various committee reviews that could produce a bipartisan comprehensive relief package, using a portion of the state’s budget surplus.

“There are many areas where the state could apply the surplus. However, constituents have consistently told us how difficult the rising costs of energy and health care are for them,” said Rep. Scribner. “This plan would make the money available to people genuinely in need.”

Under the plan’s health care relief component:

- Anyone who has out of pocket non-reimbursable medical expenses exceeding 4% of their adjusted gross income would be eligible for a tax credit against their state income tax up to the lesser of your tax liability or \$500.
- Eligibility will be limited to certain income levels – up to \$75,000 for an individual and up to \$150,000 for a family.
- Similar subsidies would be provided to dislocated workers who suddenly lack any coverage or who forced to pay higher COBRA payments for up to 18 months.

The proposal’s energy relief component would:

- Provide a tax credit to help residents cover the cost of rising home energy costs. Energy includes — gas, oil, and electricity.

- Anyone who has home energy costs exceeding 4% of their adjusted gross income would be eligible for a tax credit against their state income tax up to the lesser of your tax liability or \$500.
- Eligibility will be limited to families of certain income levels – from \$20,000 up to \$75,000 for individuals and from \$50,000 up to \$150,000 for families.

Both benefits would be based on income eligibility requirements. Approximately 91% of all individuals and 84% of all families can take advantage of these tax credits.

Finally, the plan would

- Dedicate \$50 million each year over the next four years in bonding to create a Fuel Cell program which promotes economic, energy and environmental freedom.
- Under this program the state would: 1) contract with a Connecticut business to mass produce transit buses powered by fuel cells, 2) begin to transition over to using fuel cells at Bradley International Airport to make Bradley the first “Green” International Airport in the world and 3) establish 2 or 3 hydrogen refueling hubs in the state.