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PRESS RELEASE

Donovan Chosen as 2010 “Legislator of the Year”

House Speaker Christopher Donovan (D-Meriden) has been chosen by the CT Early Childhood Alliance to receive its “Legislator of the Year” award. He has been a consistent champion for Connecticut’s children this year, forming the “Task Force for Children in the Recession” and has shown unwavering leadership in supporting children.

Donovan spearheaded the “Task Force on Children in the Recession,” the first task force of its kind in the nation. The legislation that came out of recommendations from the task force, H.B. 5360 – “An Act Concerning Children in the Recession,” helps protect children from the impact of the recession and includes establishing a leadership team as a subcommittee of the state’s Child Poverty and Prevention Council; requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a plan for comprehensive state services with client-friendly timelines and a streamlined reapplication requirement; requires DSS to provide a 30-day notice to providers and parents about changes in eligibility criteria to the Care4Kids program; and makes attending a two- or four-year degree program an approved activity under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program after the unemployment rate exceeds 8% for the preceding three months. The bill, the first legislation of its kind in the nation, passed in the House 137-7 and in the Senate 32-0.

“We’re very proud to be naming Speaker Donovan our ‘2010 Legislator of the Year,’” said Ann Pratt, Executive Director of the CT Early Childhood Alliance. “He has been a great champion for children in Connecticut and we want to honor his accomplishments.”

Donovan was first elected to the CT General Assembly in 1992 and was sworn in as House Speaker on January 7, 2009.

Along with Donovan, *Special Recognition* will be given to four legislators – Rep. Cathy Abercrombie (D-Meriden), Rep. Beth Bye (D-West Hartford), Rep. Karen Jarmoc (D-Enfield) and Rep. Diana Urban (D-North Stonington) for the tremendous leadership role they played in elevating the importance of early childhood issues in the media, at the Capitol and in their communities. In addition, 52 members of the House and Senate will be honored for their engagement on issues related to early childhood.

The event takes place on May 26, beginning at 10 a.m., in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol.

The Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance is a group of organizations and individuals committed to improving developmental outcomes in the areas of learning, health, safety and economic security for children ages birth to eight. Member organizations provide care and education for nearly 20,000 children.

The Alliance's goal is for all children born in Connecticut to enter kindergarten healthy, eager to learn, and ready for school success.

2010 Honorees

Legislator of the Year – House Speaker
Christopher Donovan (D-Meriden)

Special Recognition:

Rep. Cathy Abercrombie (D-Meriden)

Rep. Beth Bye (D-West Hartford)

Rep. Karen Jarmoc (D-Enfield)

Rep. Diana Urban (D-North Stonington)

Children's Champions 2010:

Rep. Jason Bartlett (D-Bethel)

Rep. Michelle Cook (D-Torrington)

Rep. Elizabeth Esty (D-Cheshire)

Rep. Andrew Fleishmann (D-West Hartford)

Rep. Gerald Fox, III (D-Stamford)

Rep. Mary Fritz (D-Cheshire)

Rep. John Geragosian (D-New Britain)

Rep. Bob Godfrey (D-Danbury)

Rep. Marilyn Giuliano (R-Lyme)

Rep. Gail Hamm (D-East Hampton)

Rep. Deb Heinrich (D-Madison)

Rep. Gary Holder-Winfield (D-New Haven)

Rep. Claire Janowski (D-Vernon)

Rep. Susan Johnson (D-Windham)

Rep. Marie Kirkley-Bey (D-Hartford)

Rep. Themis Klarides (R-Derby)

Rep. Carlo Leone (D-Stamford)

Rep. Matthew Lesser (D-Middletown)

Rep. Joan Lewis (D-Coventry)

Rep. Chris Lyddy (D-Newtown)

Rep. Denise Merrill (D-Mansfield)

Rep. Patricia Miller (D-Stamford)

Rep. Sandy Nafis (D-Newington)

Rep. Melissa Olson (D-Norwich)

Rep. Tom Reynolds (D-Ledyard)

Rep. Betsy Ritter (D-Waterford)

Rep. Kelvin Roldán (D-Hartford)

Rep. James Shapiro (D-Stamford)
Rep. Kathy Tallarita (D-Enfield)
Rep. Jack Thompson (D-Manchester)
Rep. William Tong (D-Stamford)
Rep. Toni Walker (D-New Haven)
Rep. Roberta Willis (D-Salisbury)
Sen. Sam Caligiuri (R-16th District)
Sen. Eric Coleman (D-2nd District)
Sen. Paul Doyle (D-9th District)
Sen. John Fonfara (D-1st District)
Sen. Tom Gaffey (D-13th District)
Sen. Ed Gomes (D-23rd District)
Sen. Mary Ann Handley (D-4th District)
Sen. Toni Harp (D-10th District)
Sen. Jonathan Harris (D-5th District)
Sen. Joan Hartley (D-15th District)
Sen. John Kissel (R-7th District)
Sen. Andrew Maynard (D-18th District)
Sen. Andrew McDonald (D-27th District)
Sen. Michael McLachlan (R-24th District)
Sen. Ed Meyer (D-12th District)
Sen. Anthony Musto (D-22nd District)
Sen. Andrew Roraback (R-30th District)
Sen. Andrea Stillman (D-20th District)
Sen. Donald Williams (D-29th District)