

Donovan Chosen as 2010 “Legislator of the Year”

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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.