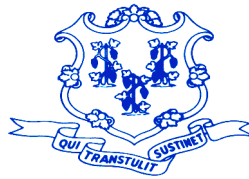


The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



For IMMEDIATE Release
Tuesday, August 26, 2008

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REP. FONTANA ANNOUNCES INCREASED HEATING ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Legislature meets in Special Session to Allocate Funds

State Representative Steve Fontana (D-North Haven) announces up to \$75 million in additional home-heating funds for Connecticut's families passed by the House of Representatives. The Legislature met in special session today to allocate the state budget surplus to families in need.

"These initiatives represent a good first step toward ensuring that hard pressed families and seniors will be able to heat their homes this winter," Rep. Fontana said. "Taken together, the monetary assistance along with tools to help people conserve energy and make homes more efficient, will give people the help they need."

The legislation will include the following:

- \$8.5 million to Operation Fuel assistance to households with incomes greater than \$31,800 but less than \$42,400 of the federal poverty level. This home heating assistance includes deliverable fuel, electricity, and natural gas
- \$4 million to assist residents 65 and older with incomes equal to or less than the state median household income
- \$3 million added to the furnace or boiler replacement program
- \$2 million to DECD for additional funding to their loan programs for insulation, alternative energy devices, energy conservation materials and replacement furnaces and boilers.
- \$2 million to DSS to provide funding for weatherization programs to households in the CEAP program
- \$7 million to subsidize the cost of an energy audit to households that heat by means other than natural gas or electricity
- \$2 million to provide eligible state residents with existing boilers or furnaces to repair or upgrade to make them more energy-efficient

"Low-income households spend as much as 10 percent of annual income on energy, compared to less than four percent for other households," said Rep. Fontana. "These additional funds will mean fewer

low-income older adults will have to choose between heating their homes and fulfilling other basic needs.”

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