



News from Senator

MICHAEL O. MOORE

SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT *Serving*

Auburn, Grafton, Leicester, Millbury, Shrewsbury, Upton, and Worcester Wards 5-8

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2009—Year In Review

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A letter from Senator Michael O. Moore

Since being sworn in in January of 2009, I have had the honor and the privilege of representing the people of the Second Worcester District in the State Senate through some interesting and challenging times. I wanted to update you on my goals, agenda, and accomplishments, to keep you connected with what is happening on Beacon Hill.

I have worked hard to address many issues that are important to my constituents such as job growth, economic development, transportation, healthcare, fiscal responsibility, as well as efficiency and accountability in state government. I believe we need to reform how the Commonwealth does business if we expect to meet the economic challenges in front of us and set a strong foundation for future success. Though the road ahead may be a

difficult one, I remain steadfast in my mission to improve the quality of life for my constituents.

As I continue to tackle the many challenges facing middle

further that goal, I offer this newsletter, which I hope you will find both helpful and informative.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or ideas! Your opinion and input is always appreciated. I look forward to working with you to make the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a better place to work and live.

Sincerely,



Sen. Moore reading to schoolchildren in Worcester

Michael O. Moore
State Senator
Second Worcester District

class families, I affirm my pledge to be as accessible and available as possible to every resident of the Second Worcester District. To

Focusing on Reform and Protecting Taxpayers

⇒ Senator Moore refused the 5.5% salary increase that was allotted to Legislators in 2009.

⇒ Sen. Moore and his colleagues took furlough days, saving the Commonwealth approximately \$50,000.

⇒ Sen. Moore voted to do away with two Suffolk County Holidays, Bunker Hill Day and Evacuation Day, an estimated savings of \$5 million.

⇒ Sen. Moore voted for comprehensive pension reform. The bill directed

the Blue Ribbon Commission on Pension Reform to review broader issues within the system, such as capping large pension payments.

⇒ Sen. Moore voted for transportation reform that called for the development of a new consolidated authority for transportation to improve the delivery of transportation projects. The bill promises to save at least \$2 billion, and up to \$6.5 billion over the next twenty years.

⇒The Senate unanimously passed a

wide-ranging ethics reform package that strengthens the integrity of the political process by expanding the definition of “lobbyist” and imposing new ethics training requirements.

⇒ During the Fall, Sen. Moore hosted three Ethics Seminars throughout the Second Worcester District for both elected officials and the public, to enable them to better understand the changes in the law that were enacted this session.

Sen. Moore Launches New Senate Office Website

Senator Moore launched a new Senate office website, www.michaelmoore.com, to update constituents on his agenda and happenings on Beacon Hill. The new site contains the Senator's biography, legislation, priorities, news, events, photo galleries, and more. “This site will enable me to ensure that my constituents have access to information relative to my work in the Senate.” Contact information for the Senator's State House and district

offices is featured on the website. An overview of the constituent services is also available, as is a full schedule of Sen. Moore's Office Hours in each of the district's cities and towns. The new site includes a vehicle through which the public can sign up to receive e-mail updates from Sen. Moore. The site was designed by Shrewsbury-based Arukor Communications. It is maintained by the Office of Senator Moore, at no expense to the taxpayer.

SENATOR MICHAEL O. MOORE
Serving the People of the Second Worcester District

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Welcome

Senator Mike Moore Working to Reform How the Commonwealth Does Business

It is a pleasure to welcome you to my official website! I hope this site serves as a useful resource in my respective role as a State Senator for the Second Worcester District, as well as a helpful information concerning government in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I am both honored and humbled to represent the communities of Auburn, Grafton, Leicester, Millbury, Shrewsbury, Upton, and Worcester, and I remain fully committed to making sure that each and every constituent has a voice on Beacon Hill. Since taking office on January 7, 2009, I have worked hard to address many issues that are important to my constituents such as job growth, economic development,



Sen. Moore and Worcester City Councilor Kate Toomey honor the memory of Worcester Firefighters

“The grant will leverage at least \$26 million in private investment [...] will accommodate biotech, industrial, and research and development firms. An estimated 600 jobs will be created...”

Making Economic Development a Priority

⇒ As Chairman of the Joint Committee on Small Business & Community Development, Sen. Moore has embarked on a series of listening tours around the Commonwealth, to hear the concerns of small business owners and see how they operate.

⇒ Sen. Moore announced in October that \$7.5 million has been awarded for the Canal District Streetscape project in Worcester, which will widen roadways, improve sidewalks, and add decorative lighting, benches, and waste receptacles.

⇒ Sen. Moore helped secure \$64 million in financing and subsidies for the Westborough Wastewater Treatment Plant, which serves the Town of Shrewsbury. Securing the funding prevented the cost of required upgrades from being passed on to Shrewsbury rate-payers.

⇒ Sen. Moore was a key supporter and organizer of Worcester Restaurant Week. Almost 50 restaurants took part in Worcester Restaurant Week in an effort to boost business at local family owned restaurants while giving people real value for their dollar.

⇒ Sen. Moore has announced that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation awarded a Public Works Economic Development (PWED) \$1 million grant for a new roadway and other improvements at the CenTech Park development in Shrewsbury. The grant will leverage at least \$26 million in private investment and build a critical new access road to the CenTech technology park, an 85 acre park that will accommodate biotech, industrial, and research and development firms. An estimated 600 jobs will be created.

⇒ Sen. Moore announced in August a commitment of more than \$1.2 million in state and federal funding for the environmental cleanup and development of the former Fisherville Mill site in South Grafton.

⇒ In May, Sen. Moore announced \$182,000 in financing and subsidies to fund an Inflow & Infiltration Analysis to determine the capacity of the Millbury sewer system. This project will be eligible for assistance through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

⇒ Central Mass Disposal Inc. of Auburn will receive an \$8,439 grant to retrofit four vehicles. The award was made available through \$302,000 in grants to four municipalities and five private waste haulers to retrofit 132 diesel waste collection vehicles serving 62 communities across the Commonwealth.

SHREWSBURY Moore Fights to Keep Glavin Open

In December 2008, the Department of Developmental Services announced their intention to close four of the Commonwealth’s six developmental centers, including the Glavin Center in Shrewsbury. This plan calls for the transfer of developmentally disabled residents to group homes, or to one of two facilities that will remain open. Sen. Moore opposes the closure of Glavin, and has fought to keep its doors open.

While Sen. Moore agrees that the vast majority of developmentally disabled individuals can thrive in group homes, there is a small segment of this population for whom a more intense level of care is necessary. Sen. Moore believes that the best interests of these individuals, as well as the wishes of their families, should be prioritized over ideological beliefs.

The Senator guided the Secretary of Health and Human

Services on a tour of Glavin, hosted DDS Commissioner Elin Howe at a question & answer forum for families, invited other legislators to visit the facility and hear from family members, and met with Gov. Patrick to express these concerns. Sen. Moore was also successful in fighting to include language in the FY’10 budget, requiring a study of the closure plan to be conducted before any of the facilities can be closed.

AUBURN Moore Secures Funding for Police K9 Program, Only One of its Kind in Region

Sen. Moore secured approval for a grant of over \$58,000 to enhance the Auburn Police Department’s School Safety K9 initiative. The grant was meant to address four main safety goals. The grant should enhance regional ability to assess risk and prevent future terrorist attacks, improve regional ability to collect, analyze, disseminate and manage key information, improve the re-

gion’s preparedness by enhancing coordination among all public safety officials and improve the region’s ability to recover from a terrorist attack or other critical incident. Moore worked with the Central Region Homeland Security Council and with the administration to secure approval of this much needed funding.

The Auburn Police Department is the only local

agency with a team that is trained specifically for school safety. This unit is an asset to the region as it responds not only to incidents in Auburn schools but to thirty-two communities served by the Central Region Homeland Security Advisory Council. By securing this grant the Auburn Police Department will be able to continue to provide this critical service to the region.



LEICESTER Moore Advocates for New Leicester Fire Station

Sen. Moore was pleased to work with Representative John Binienda in obtaining funding for a feasibility study to determine the cost of constructing a new handicapped-accessible fire station in the Town of Leicester. The Executive Office of Public Safety will spend from its remaining FY09 bond cap \$50,000 allocated in the General Bond Bill for this needed study. Sen. Moore ac-

tively requested that this funding be expended on behalf of the Town of Leicester for its main fire station, Fire Station 1, which is over 80 years old and is insufficient to support current fire department operations. Senator Moore continues to work closely with the town of Leicester to find additional funding streams to finance the construction of a new fire station.

UPTON Pole Issue Addressed

Sen. Moore received numerous phone calls, emails and visits from concerned Upton citizens regarding a strong odor being emitted from utility poles stored on a Maple Avenue property in Upton and a perceived lack of action. Due to the perception of a lack of transparency, Sen. Moore held a meeting in an attempt to get each party involved at the table to better understand what had transpired

and to further discuss possible resolutions. As a result of several meetings, Cox Industries had agreed to move the poles off-site. Sen. Moore continues to monitor the situation and maintains a dialogue with both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Board of Health. Sen. Moore will continue to work towards total resolution of this issue for the citizens of Upton.

MILLBURY Moore secures funding for Mt. Ararat

Sen. Moore recently announced that the Town of Millbury has been awarded a \$158,400 grant to purchase and preserve a 15-acre parcel near Brierly Pond, known as Mt. Ararat. "I am very pleased that this funding has been made avail-

able for Kiwanis Beach and Brierly Pond," said Moore. "This project will help secure the future and vitality of a notable recreation and wildlife area for the town." The parcel will link town-owned Kiwanis Beach to Brierly Pond, an area already popu-

lar with bikers, hikers, and skiers. The project will also protect historic Old Common Road.

"As Senator, and as a Millbury resident, I am proud to see these efforts go forward. This is great for our town," said Moore.

"Restoring this funding lifts some of the burden from these districts, and in doing so helps to stave off additional budgetary hardships at the local level."

- Sen. Moore

Moore Announces Restoration of Transportation Funding for Regional School Districts

Senator Moore recently announced that Governor Patrick has fulfilled his promise to restore cuts he made three months ago to regional school transportation. The Governor had previously announced his intention to come up with a plan to restore the funds; the full \$18 million was restored.

"This is very good news for regional school districts, who have been forced to cope with both the loss of transportation funding, as well as cuts to academic programs as a result of state and local fiscal crises," said Sen. Moore. "Restoring this funding lifts some of the burden from these districts, and in doing so

helps to stave off additional budgetary hardships at the local level."

63 members of the General Court signed a letter addressed to Governor Patrick, asking him to reconsider his 9C cut to Regional School Transportation Reimbursement. The account was cut nearly 50% by the Governor and represented a 63% reduction in regional school district aid since Fiscal Year 2009.

The bi-partisan group of legislators said at the time that since regional schools are required by law to provide transportation, most travel greater distances than municipal school districts, and cannot go

back to member towns for additional funds after the cut (the way municipal districts can), this cut represented a significant cut in local aid to regional school districts.

The Patrick Administration was able to fill the cut after recent revenue estimates came in above projected benchmarks. Since October 15th, the state has collected \$181 million more than expected, allowing the Governor to restore the cut he had made.

Protecting and restoring this funding had been a priority of Sen. Moore's. Its elimination would have shifted the burden onto struggling local school districts.



Sen. Moore at a Habitat for Humanity Groundbreaking in Millbury

Recognized for Community Service

During 2009, Senator Moore was honored as:

- ⇒ "Freshman Legislator of the Year," Massachusetts Nurses Association
- ⇒ "Legislator of the Year," Massachusetts Coalition of Police
- ⇒ "Legislator of the Year," Mass. Police Association
- ⇒ Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce Salutee

"Senator Moore has been a tremendous advocate for nurses, health care professionals and our patients. [...] Senator Moore is a legislator who is most deserving of an award recognizing his hard work on behalf of nurses, health care professionals and patients." — Lynne Starbard RN, Chair, MNA Regional Council 2

Moore Votes for Improved Benefits for Veterans

Sen. Moore voted to pass legislation, which was approved by the legislature and signed into law to enhance and protect benefits of Mass. veterans and servicemembers.

"I was very proud to cast this vote for our veterans, who have put their lives on the line for our country," said Sen. Moore. "This legislation reflects only a microcosm of what we owe these brave men and women. I am hopeful that this legislation will have a real, positive impact on each of them"

The bill makes improvements in numerous areas, including access to veterans' services, employment and benefits.

The Senate's version of the legislation:

⇒ Allows Mass. residents serving overseas to receive and return absentee ballots via electronic means for elections

⇒ Directs the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to study the states current capacity to provide health care services to veterans, and assess the feasibility of expanding

capacity at current soldiers' homes or establishing additional soldiers' homes;

⇒ Authorizes state licensing boards to draft regulations exempting honorably



-discharged veterans from requirements or credits towards licensure based on skills accumulated during their military service

⇒ Includes a preference in the General Laws for service-disabled veterans for

public works projects

⇒ Amends the current Welcome Home Bill program, where service members are currently able to obtain a \$1,000 bonus for a single overseas deployment, to allow servicemembers who are deployed on multiple tours to apply for up to 50 percent of the bonus upon each subsequent return. This additional benefit will only be allowed while current funds remain available

⇒ Allows city and town clerks to provide the list of veterans to the Executive Office of Veteran Affairs and to local veterans' service officers.

The legislation was passed by both the House and the Senate, and signed into law by the Governor on Veterans' Day.

Servicemembers or their families with questions regarding the expanded benefits may contact:

**Department of Veterans' Services
617-210-5480**

GRAFTON Moore Secures Funding for Tufts Veterinary in FY'10 Budget

Senator Moore was very proud to secure funding to keep the doors of the Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine open. This facility is the largest veterinary care center in New England and is of great importance to the town of Grafton and the 2nd Worcester district as a whole. In addition to being a top-

notch school and research center, the Cummings School provides emergency care to pet owners throughout the region. Senator Moore worked with Senate Ways and Means Chairman Steven C. Panagiotakos to appropriate the necessary funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget and keep this vital institution open.



Sen. Moore around the district...

