

# From the Office of Senator Pam Resor

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## *Beacon Hill News: District Wins Big in Transportation Bond Bill*

The state's recent \$2.5 billion transportation bond bill included several provisions for the Middlesex Worcester district. Included were funds for the installation of new traffic signal equipment in the town of Acton, two million dollars needed for the completion of the Ayer MBTA station, funds to improve or install sidewalks in Littleton, directives to conduct a curb cut and the construction of a queuing lane and signage on the western side of Route 20 heading eastbound in Marlborough. Additional funds were included to erect new signage for exit 23c on I-495 north and south to fund the completion of improvements to the MBTA train station located in the town of Southborough and Westborough.

Further, \$1.8 million was included to improve and install traffic signalization in the town of Northborough, as well as to widen and realign certain roads and replace the Church Street Bridge. Additional funds have also been approved to conduct noise studies along Rte. 290 in the town of Northborough and the area of I495 between exits 26 and 28. Senator Resor asserts that as the economic recovery continues it is critical to restore funding to our transportation infrastructure and was pleased the bill makes a strong commitment to Chapter 90 funding, small town road assistance and public works economic development grants authorizations.



## Legislature approves School Building Assistance Reform

Legislation spearheaded by Treasurer Tim Cahill was recently signed by the Governor to fund all 425 school building projects on the SBA waitlist by FY 2007 and open the list to new projects. Senator Resor worked continuously with the Treasurer's office and Senate Ways and Means to promote successful passage of this legislation to assist all of her district communities that have school building projects on the waitlist. Senator Resor and state Treasurer Tim Cahill will be hosting two informational forums this month regarding the new SBA regulations. These sessions will be held on September 9, 2004 in Littleton from 9:00-11:00am and September 17, 2004 at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School in Marlborough from 11:00am-1:00pm. The Senator encourages anyone interested to attend.



## Prescription Advantage: Enrollment in September

Senator Resor is pleased that the state's Prescription Advantage Program will be having an open enrollment period from September 1 through September 30. This program is designed to assist seniors with the high cost of prescription drugs. To be eligible you must be 65 years or older and complete an application by September 30, 2004. Recent budget shortfalls have threatened the stability of this program but the legislature has fought to have the necessary funding maintained. However, the program is only open to new applicants for one month only so eligible seniors must act quickly.



## Resor Works to Fund Special Olympics

Senator Resor and Representative Steven LeDuc worked hard during recent budget debates to secure funding for the Special Olympics. These games play a vital role in the lives of many truly amazing men and women in the Commonwealth and believe that the continued support of this dynamic and worthwhile organization is necessary. To find out more about this organization please visit their website at:

[www.specialolympicsma.org](http://www.specialolympicsma.org).

### *“Senator Resor on Affordable Healthcare”*

One of the top concerns of my constituency is the lack of affordable health insurance and prescription coverage in the state. Massachusetts is indeed facing a healthcare crisis. Nearly 600,000 men, women and children across the state are living without health insurance. The slow economic recovery, enrollment reductions and eligibility changes in existing state healthcare programs have all further contributed to the problem. Currently, our healthcare system is not working well for anyone; employers, healthcare providers and patients across the state are all facing out of control costs, waiting lists and unaddressed concerns. In a state considered a pioneer in the medical research, technology and training fields, this is unacceptable.

According to the Health Care for Massachusetts campaign, affordable health insurance is the number one concern of voters statewide. In my district alone 1,570 residents signed a petition to put a constitutional amendment before the Legislature that would guarantee every Massachusetts resident equitable access to affordable health insurance. On July 14<sup>th</sup> the legislature convened in a constitutional convention to debate this amendment. This bill passed with a strong majority vote and I was proud to join my colleagues in supporting this measure. I am eager to begin working towards a solution that will put an end to our current healthcare crisis but I also realize that such a plan must be developed and implemented cautiously.

Before final enactment, this amendment will be up for a second vote by the 2005-2006 Legislature and again by voter referendum in 2006. In the meantime, this bill does bring Massachusetts one step closer to finding a feasible solution to the healthcare crisis. It will charge stakeholders across the state with the task of creating a healthcare system that will ensure every resident access to high quality healthcare while addressing the burdens the existing system imposes on employers, providers and taxpayers alike.

If you have any concerns or questions about this issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office via phone: 617.722.1120 or by email: [presor@senate.state.ma.us](mailto:presor@senate.state.ma.us)

### Thank You, Pam!

“Congratulations on your successful accomplishment of succeeding in having the Route 2 rest stop closed by action of the legislature... Your continuing efforts to respond to your communities’ requests are remarkable for their constancy and success. From all the Members of Citizens to Protect Residential Harvard for your championship accomplishment, our deepest gratitude.”

Mildred A. Chandler, President

“...Thank you for your constant support and commitment to the 495/ MetroWest Corridor Partnership throughout the state budget process. This was a hard fought victory, but one that would have never happened without your advocacy and hard work. All involved in the partnership, including municipal officials, major employers, chambers of commerce, to the Governor’s desk and finally back to the floor for veto overrides.”

Paul Matthews, I-495/ MetroWest Corridor Partnership