*State Senator*

# Cathy Cook

## HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE

During the recent Special Session, the General Assembly passed legislation (SB 2100) An Act Concerning Heating Assistance. With a long, cold winter predicted, this legislation is aimed at helping you manage the high costs of heating your home. Some of the highlights of this legislation are outlined below.

- Under this legislation, benefits offered under both the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) and the Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) are increased.
- A new program under the Home Energy Assistance and Reimbursements for Tune-ups on Heating Equipment (HEARTH) provides a reimbursement of up to $50 per household to eligible contractors who provide home heating equipment tune-ups and install or provide water heater blankets, window film, or programmable thermostats.
- From November 25, 2005 to April 1, 2006, the following products are exempt from the 6% sales tax: insulation; programmable thermostats; water heater blankets; window film; window and door weather strips; caulking; water heaters, gas furnaces, windows, and doors that meet federal Energy Star standards; oil furnaces that are at least 85% efficient; propane furnaces and boilers; natural gas boilers; and heat pumps that meet the minimum federal energy efficiency rating.

For more information on these programs, contact Infoline at 211, the Department of Social Services winter heating assistance line at 1-800-842-1132, or www.dss.state.ct.us. If I can be of assistance with this or any state matter, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cathy