



CANDIDATE BIO

State Senator David J. Cappiello of Danbury has served with great distinction in the Connecticut General Assembly for over 12 years. First elected to the House of Representatives from the 138th Assembly District in 1994, Cappiello was elected to the Connecticut state Senate in November of 1998 representing the 24th Senatorial District, which includes the towns of Danbury, Bethel, New Fairfield and Sherman. A proven leader, Cappiello puts the needs of his constituents before anything else.

As an independent Republican, Cappiello is respected by his colleagues and has become an influential voice of reason in the General Assembly. He has been at the forefront of issues facing Connecticut and has established and maintained a strong record of passing effective, far-reaching legislation. Known for fiscal responsibility, Cappiello is a staunch advocate of protecting the state's Constitutional Spending Cap. As the Ranking Member of the legislature's budget writing Appropriations Committee, he has worked feverishly to make sure the state does not spend beyond its means while keeping taxes affordable for all of Connecticut's taxpayers.

In addition to these responsibilities, he also serves as lead Republican on the influential Judiciary Committee, the Program Review and Investigations Committee, and Chairs the Internship Committee.

As a strong advocate of protecting the public's safety, Cappiello recently made news when he called for an evaluation of Connecticut's Emergency Management system. The study, to be commenced by the Office of Program Review under his directive, will provide a complete and thorough review of all Homeland Security Agencies in Connecticut. The purpose is to make sure all of the state's public safety organizations have the necessary tools available, as well as the proper chain of command in place to help protect the public and make Homeland Security in Connecticut stronger and more efficient.

In wake of the April 2007 rain storm that wreaked havoc across the northeast and caused millions of dollars worth of damage to communities throughout the state, Cappiello has advocated funding Connecticut's bankrupt Emergency Relief Account. A fully funded Relief Account would provide grants to heavily damaged municipalities and communities where the public health and welfare of residents of those towns would be threatened. It is his belief that protecting our communities is the number one responsibility of government and because of that, emergency state funding should be available to assist local communities with the cleanup.

Cappiello's public service record began in 1994 when he was elected to the Danbury City Council serving at large. At the time he also served as a legislative aide for the Connecticut House Republican Office in Hartford, a position that he held for two and one half years.

Since being elected to the General Assembly, Cappiello's legislative accomplishments have been honored by numerous state and local organizations. His commitment to public service earned him a nomination for the Distinguished Service Award by the Danbury Jaycees. The American Red Cross of Western Connecticut honored Senator Cappiello for outstanding Disaster Relief Services following the events of September 11th.

Senator Cappiello has dedicated an enormous amount of time and energy into healthcare and health related issues facing our children. He was a major force in getting approval of Danbury Hospitals bid to provide cardiac care at their facility. Due to his efforts thousands of residents in Western Connecticut now have greater access to quality and emergency cardiac care and is why the American Heart and American Lung Associations honored him for his steadfast commitment to health care.

He is an outspoken proponent of infant screening and is the author of legislation that requires the screening of newborn babies for metabolic diseases. The bill, which was signed into law in 2002, expands newborn testing to include testing for L-CHAD - a disorder that prevents the body from turning fat into energy and the rare metabolic disorder known as M-CAD, along with 30 other metabolic disorders. For his efforts he was hailed by non-profit groups throughout Connecticut including the March of Dimes for his longtime dedication and efforts to increase newborn screening awareness. He is also a 2003 recipient of the WeCARE public service award for his hard work, dedication and support of the needs of children and adults with mental retardation, and has also been honored by the Danbury War Memorial and the Western Connecticut YMCA.

Cappiello helped lead the fight in General Assembly to provide more funding for prescription drug benefits for the state's ConnPACE and Medicare/Medicaid recipients. The acquisition of an additional \$5 million for these recipients led the Connecticut chapter of AARP to recognize his efforts in December of 2006.

He continues to be an active member of the community in his participation on the Danbury Land Trust and the Danbury Lions Club, as a well a member of the Lebanon American Club, the Sons of Italy Amerigo Vespucci Lodge, and the Portuguese Cultural Center.

Born in Danbury, Connecticut on August 15, 1968, he is a 1986 graduate of Immaculate High School in Danbury, and attended Western Connecticut State University. He currently serves as a mortgage loan officer for Charter Funding in Danbury. He and his wife Christine Ciarlegio were married on June 28, 2002. They are proud parents to John (Jack) Reagan Cappiello born in July 2005 and the couple is expecting their second child in June 2007.