

What Works in Reducing Crime? A Family Perspective for State Policymaking

Speaker Contact Information and Bio

**The Honorable Mike Lawlor
State Representative
State of Connecticut**

Address:

**Legislative Office Building, Room 2500
Hartford, CT 06106-1591**

Phone: (860) 240-0530

Email: MLawlor99@juno.com

Website: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/hdo/HDO099.asp>

Biography:

Representative Lawlor is serving his tenth term as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives. He represents the Town of East Haven. In the legislature, Representative Lawlor has been recognized for his work reforming Connecticut's criminal justice system.

Representative Lawlor has been the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee since 1995. Prior to that, he was Chair of the Labor and Public Employees Committee where he played a major role in the reform of Connecticut's workers compensation system. Representative Lawlor is also a member of the Government Administration and Elections Committee and the Program Review and Investigations Committee.

He is active in both the National Conference of State Legislators and the Council of State Governments. He is a chair of the Criminal Justice / Mental Health Consensus Project and an Associate with the State Sentencing and Corrections Program at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City and a member of the National Resource Committee for the Center for Sex Offender Management within the U.S. Department of Justice. Representative Lawlor is a member of the American Bar Association's Coalition for Justice, a national effort to build trust and confidence in the justice system. Representative Lawlor served on the national drafting team for the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and the Interstate Compact for Juvenile Probation and Parole. Recently, Representative Lawlor has served as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Justice assisting in the establishment of an adult probation system in Bulgaria.

As Chair of the Judiciary Committee, Representative Lawlor played a key role in two amendments to the Connecticut Constitution. The first established rights for victims of crime. The second eliminated the patronage-ridden county sheriff system. Representative Lawlor has also been a leader in efforts to enact workable gun control laws; to address racial disparities in the state's criminal justice system; to pass laws ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; to rewrite Connecticut's domestic violence laws; to reform the juvenile justice system and to address prison overcrowding.

Representative Lawlor has been a featured speaker at numerous national criminal justice conferences and has been honored for his legislative service by the Connecticut Coalition of Police and Corrections Officers and by the Connecticut Police Chief's Association. The New Haven County Order of Centurions, an Italian-American Police organization, has recently honored Representative Lawlor for his many years of support for those in law enforcement.

Representative Lawlor graduated as an Honors Scholar in Slavic and Eastern European Studies from the University of Connecticut in 1979. He earned a Masters Degree in Soviet Area Studies from the University of London in 1981 and he graduated from the George Washington University School of Law in 1983. Representative Lawlor has also participated in language studies in Russia in 1977 and received a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship to study economic reform in Hungary in 1982.

Following law school Representative Lawlor was appointed as a prosecutor in the State Attorney's Office in New Haven, where he served until his election to the legislature in 1986. Representative Lawlor is currently an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of New Haven and a Visiting Lecturer in Law at the Yale Law School.