

# Westerly Hospital thanks area lawmakers

We would like to publicly thank the members of the Rhode Island General Assembly "Westerly delegation" for all of their hard work on behalf of The Westerly Hospital during the 2009 legislative session. Although the General Assembly is currently in recess, the local delegation of Sen. Dennis Algieri, Rep. Brian Patrick Kennedy, Rep. Sam Azzinaro and Rep. Donna Walsh has been active in their advocacy of The Westerly Hospital and for issues affecting overall health care reform in Rhode Island.

In the 2009 session, there was certainly no shortage of health care or hospital related issues for the General Assembly to confront. On a number of issues, the Westerly delegation took a leadership role in their advocacy for measures which will provide for the continued financial stability of Westerly Hospital and for the adoption of statewide policies providing for fairness and equity in the Rhode Island health care delivery system.

Working closely with General Assembly members Sen. Susan Sosnowski and Reps. Don Lally, David Caprio, Ken Carter, Michael Rice, Laurence Erhardt and Rod Driver, who were advocating for and repre-

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sent areas served by South County Hospital, a major kudos goes to the Westerly delegation for their difficult work in passing a state budget. The product of many hours of committee meetings and debate, the FY2010 state budget reflects discussion and recognition of the quality care and services provided at Westerly Hospital, South County Hospital and other community hospitals in Rhode Is-

land.

If Westerly Hospital and all Rhode Island community hospitals are to survive and remain viable entities for the long term, then reform of the Rhode Island health care system must be undertaken as soon as possible. Through their hard work during the 2009 legislative session, the Westerly delegation has shown their sincere interest in and dedication to maintaining the quality care and services provided at The Westerly Hospital.

So, to Sen. Algieri, Rep. Kennedy, Rep. Azzinaro and Rep. Walsh, as well as to the General Assembly members from the South County area, once again, we say thank you very much. As Westerly's largest employer and as a vital Rhode Island community hospital, we look forward to continuing to work with you as the General Assembly takes on a much needed reform of the Rhode Island health care system, and to help ensure that Westerly Hospital is here for generations to come.

**Fred Allardyce**  
**Chairman of the board of**  
**The Westerly Hospital**  
**Charlie Kinney**  
**CEO of The Westerly Hospital**