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-PRESS RELEASE-

SECRETARY MERRILL MOURNS THE PASSING OF STATE REP. O'BRIEN, NOTIFIES GOVERNOR MALLOY OF VACANCY IN 61ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

GOVERNOR WILL HAVE 10 DAYS TO ISSUE WRIT OF SPECIAL ELECTION TO
FILL VACANCY IN 61ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today is mourning the passing of State Representative Elaine O'Brien of Suffield, who represented constituents in the 61st General Assembly district. Secretary Merrill has also officially notified Governor Dannel P. Malloy of the vacancy in the 61st district. Under state law, Governor Malloy has until March 3, 2014 to issue a Writ of Special Election to choose a successor to Representative O'Brien to serve constituents in the district. That special election must be held within 46 days of the issuance of the writ of Special Election.

"I am very saddened today by the untimely loss of our good friend Representative Elaine O'Brien, someone who truly embodied the meaning of public service," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "Elaine was not only a friend but she was also a tireless advocate of expanding democracy and as a town clerk she possessed a great wealth of knowledge about elections and voting. She will be dearly missed. And although our hearts are made heavy by Elaine's passing, even she would recognize that democracy must move forward. To that end, my office has officially notified Governor Malloy of the vacancy in the 61st General Assembly district. Governor Malloy now has 10 days to issue a Writ of Special Election to fill the vacancy; with that election taking place 46 days after the writ is issued."

The 61st General Assembly district covers the town of Suffield and parts of East Granby and Windsor.