

Dear Neighbor,

The 2025 legislative session featured big issues like lowering energy bills, childcare, special education and the state budget – and we tackled them all.

Our budget provides a \$250 check to working families under EITC guidelines and \$300 million to fund the childcare trust fund. We devoted hundreds of millions of dollars to special education and we approved comprehensive energy legislation to reduce electric bills for businesses and families.

“Connecticut will be poised to continue saving hundreds of millions of dollars annually to continue paying down its hefty pension debt at an accelerated pace.”

-CT Mirror

And we did it responsibly. This newsletter has more details about the 2025 legislative session.

Enjoy,



HONORING OUR VETERANS

Serving those who served:

- Excluded veterans’ pension benefits from income eligibility determinations under HUSKY A & D, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, and CEAP. Additionally, we exempted service-connected disability compensation from income calculations for public defender eligibility - expanding access to legal defense for veterans with mental health conditions. Expanded our price gouging laws to further protect consumers against exorbitant pricing.
- Improved access to capital and job creation among our veterans by prioritizing disabled veteran entrepreneurs in the Small Business Express loan program,
- Extended tuition waivers to exempt some hidden fees at public colleges and universities for veterans and National Guard members.
- Designated June 12 as Women’s Veterans Day.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ANDRE BAKER

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025



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A BALANCED BUDGET AND OUR SECOND-LARGEST SURPLUS IN STATE HISTORY

THANKS TO SOUND BUDGETING AND THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WE:

- Delivered the single greatest investment in children in Connecticut's history.
- Made historic investments in special education. Bridgeport gets \$2,624,295 for fiscal year 2026 and \$2,624,295 for fiscal year 2027.

WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:

- Established an Enhanced Tax Credit for families.
- Supported childcare providers.
- Helped families save for college.
- Expanded capital for special education infrastructure.
- Invested in our workforce and residents.

CUTTING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL; NOT YOUR POWER.

- Moved programmatic charges out of your bill and created better oversight of new charges.
- Capped infrastructure programs that utility companies make us pay for while they profit off the interest.
- Removed industry subsidies from our clean energy investments.
- Used state financing to pay down COVID-era back payments and storm-related costs, which would otherwise be passed onto ratepayers.
- Our comprehensive reforms deliver \$780 million in savings over the next few years, meaning:
 - Lower bills.
 - A smarter grid.
 - A stronger future for Connecticut.

STRENGTHENING HOMEOWNER RIGHTS:

- Prevented people from being foreclosed on for small, missed sewer payments.
- Increased the reimbursement homebuyers get when their contractor goes bankrupt and cannot repay them.
- Prevented condo associations from prohibiting homeowners from installing solar panels on their detached homes.

EMPOWERING THE WAY WE POWER:

- Energy Procurement Reform – authorized dynamic market purchases with updated procurement planning to lock in lower prices.
- Emergency Planning & Utility Labor Protections – improved emergency restoration planning with crew participation and safety requirements.
- Clean Energy Innovation – approved nuclear development, geothermal heating networks, and incentives for higher grid efficiency.



PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN:

- Created new regulations on THC drinks, “technically” legal drugs from smoke shops and hemp products.
- Cracked down on electronic cigarette dealers.
- Required electronic cigarette sellers to ask all prospective buyers to present identification to prove they are 21 or older.
- Increased fines for anyone who gives a vape to kids.
- Strengthened penalties for stores that sell cannabis to a minor.
- Stopped the practice of handcuffing kids under 14.
- Made it easier for kids who age out of foster care to access services, including special education programs.
- Made it easier for schools to buy new response systems to instantly contact first responders and save lives.

PROMOTING HEALTH EQUITY AND PATIENT PROTECTIONS:

- Cracked down on insurance carriers to ensure better parity between mental and physical health coverage.
- Improved access to critical medications, including treatments for multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- Created more ways for the state to reduce premium hikes.
- Ensured victims of incest and sexual assault have access to health care and birth control.
- Prohibited individual health care providers from denying care based on their individual beliefs.

TAKING STEPS TO LOWER THE COST OF PRESCRIPTIONS:

- Stopping middlemen from passing along cost increases for their personal profit.
- Guaranteed rebates from drug manufacturers are passed along to consumers.
- Taking initial regulatory steps to import cheaper drugs from Canada.