



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,

Kevin P. Brown

BIG WINS FOR VERNON

- Cut Your Electric Bill
- Provided Millions for Special Education
- \$250 Tax Credit for Working Families
- Made Childcare More Affordable and Accessible



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KEVIN BROWN

PROUDLY SERVING VERNON

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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 Single Greatest Investment in Children in Connecticut's History
- Made Historic Investments in Special Education

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

HONORING OUR VETERANS

- **Expanded access to benefits** by excluding veterans' pension income from eligibility calculations for HUSKY A & D, Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Program, and CEAP.
- Provided **no-cost driver's license renewals** for veterans, and required the DMV to issue vouchers for veterans whose licenses are close to their expiration date.
- **Improved access to capital and job creation** among our veterans by prioritizing disabled veteran entrepreneurs in the Small Business Express loan program.
- Increased staffing in the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance, **improving assistance with benefits.**

MAKING SENIORS OUR PRIORITY

- **Ensured insurance coverage** of biomarker testing to detect cancer early and improve treatment.
- Closed a loophole so that **all employees at long-term care facilities undergo a background check.**
- Provided **free online college courses** to our nursing home residents.
- Required **greater consideration of how close your family lives when care homes try to transfer patients.**
- **Created anti-discrimination protections** for residents of long-term care facilities and now require their staff to receive anti-discrimination training.

LOWERING COSTS, PROTECTING CONSUMERS

- **Reduced electric bills** through comprehensive reforms that cap excessive utility charges, eliminate unnecessary industry subsidies, shift costs off monthly bills, and prevent rate hikes—delivering \$780 million in savings while building a smarter grid and a stronger energy future for Connecticut.
- **Took meaningful steps to lower prescription drug costs** by ending profiteering by middlemen, ensuring manufacturer rebates go directly to patients, and beginning the process of importing lower-cost medications from Canada.
- **Reformed our car towing laws**, increasing transparency, protecting vehicle owners from surprise tows, and guaranteeing that drivers have a chance to address violations before their car is taken.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN & SCHOOLS

- **Established an investable trust to provide Universal Childcare & Pre-K** for families that earn under \$100,000. Those who make over \$100,000 will not pay more than 7% of their income for childcare.
- Invested **\$30 million annually for a new Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant** to districts.
- Established **\$10 million in competitive grants for more in-district programming.**
- Provided **\$221 million in annual reimbursement for special education costs.**
- Secured **\$10 million in financing for capital projects** related to special education.
- Held harmless Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding, **ensuring no district sees a cut in state education funding.**

SERVING ALL CT RESIDENTS

- Established **inflationary increases for our nonprofit providers.**
- **Expanded Medicaid coverage** for sickle cell treatment.
- **Standardized and professionalized interpreter services** for our residents who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing while creating training opportunities and complaint investigation.
- **Promoted access to new birthing centers** and encouraged more paternal involvement in the health of mothers and children.
- **Helped terminally ill young adults** get off a Medicaid waitlist and navigate care through a different program.