

Dear Neighbor,

The 2025 legislative session is finished, and I am happy to share some highlights of the work that was done. As always, it is a privilege and an honor to serve the residents of Middletown at the state Capitol.

This session featured big issues like making childcare affordable, funding special education and the state budget. Our budget provides an additional \$250 check for working families under EITC guidelines, and maintained all the working-class tax cuts that we made in 2023.

I had the honor to be the lead author of Public Act 25-82 and Public Act 25-93, which will address the high cost of childcare. We created a first in the nation Early Childhood Endowment and deposited \$300 million into the fund. This fund will grow over time and create a system where participating day care centers and home providers will boost worker pay while offering free childcare for families making under \$100,000 per year, and cap fees at 7% of household income for families making over that amount. The endowment will be a significant boost to our workforce and economy.

We did it all without raising any taxes. This newsletter has more details about the 2025 legislative session and the bills I worked on.

Thank you,

Brandon Chafee



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BRANDON CHAFEE

PROUDLY SERVING MIDDLETOWN

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**



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CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IS CARING FOR OURSELVES

Connecticut is showing the country that some of us still care about the environment:

- Regulated the use of rodenticides.
- Banned fertilizers that contain PFAS.
- Established an extended producer responsibility program around the collection and recycling of batteries in an effort to reduce soil and water contamination and minimize landfill waste.
- Set new state climate goals for greenhouse gas reduction.
- Supported clean energy jobs through tax incentives.
- Encouraged heat pump deployment through strategic planning and local school building projects.

MAKING AN ENORMOUS INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

- We established the Early Childhood Education Endowment - an investable trust fund that will create universal access to childcare - starting with a down payment of nearly \$300 million.
- By 2027, families earning up to \$100,000 will be able to receive childcare at no cost, while families earning more than \$100,000 will pay no more than 7% of their income for childcare at participating centers.
- We authorized \$80 million to help childcare providers expand and upgrade their facilities.
- We rejected attempts to cut education funding - ensuring no school district receives less than the year before from the state.
- We made funding for indoor air quality improvements a permanent part of our state financing for local school construction.
- We increased the state reimbursement grants for school construction projects related to special education and childcare.
- We continued programs to support school districts in reducing chronic absenteeism.

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

- We ensured insurance coverage of biomarker testing to detect cancer early and improve treatment.
- We required greater consideration of how close your family lives when care homes try to transfer patients.
- We closed a loophole so that all employees at long-term care facilities undergo a background check.
- We provided free online college courses to our nursing home residents.

FUNDING FOR MIDDLETOWN

Representing Middletown is a privilege and when I work with my colleagues on the state budget it is always top of mind.

This year we secured over \$52 million for Middletown. This represents a 9% increase in state funding brought home.

Additional funding for Middletown:

- \$35,276,460 in reimbursement for MacDonough School Construction Funding
- \$350,000 for Special Education SEED funding
- \$200,000 for Middletown Youth Programming
- \$200,000 for the Racial Justice Coalition
- \$50,000 for the Russell Library
- \$50,000 for the Middlesex YMCA
- \$25,000 for the Amazing Grace Food Pantry
- \$10,000 for Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater
- \$10,000 for Middletown Public Works
- \$5,000 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Committee of Greater Middletown

