

Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative and as your voice under the Capitol dome in Hartford. With the 2023 legislative session in the rearview mirror, work is already underway for 2024. But before we get there, let's take a moment to check in and celebrate this session's achievements made with the help of support from our friends across the aisle, from passionate advocates, and from residents like you.

As I continue my work as the House chair of the Education Committee and a member of the Appropriations, Commerce, and Judiciary Committees, please do not hesitate to contact me and share your thoughts and ideas on solutions so that we continue to say with pride, "We Love CT."

You can reach me at home 860-528-8822 or the office 860-240-8585. And, always stay up-to-date on what's happening at the Capitol and in our community by signing up for email updates at housedems.ct.gov/currey or use the QR code to your right.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Currey
State Representative

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

JEFF CURREY



PROUDLY SERVING THE 11TH HOUSE DISTRICT
EAST HARTFORD | MANCHESTER

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JEFF CURREY

PROUDLY SERVING EAST HARTFORD AND MANCHESTER

CONTACT ME ANY TIME:

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Please sign up for my updates via email at housedems.ct.gov/currey





FIGHTING FOR OUR SCHOOLS, EDUCATORS, AND STUDENTS AS EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

...because education is foundational to success.

- Invested over **\$240 million** in public education for the 2024-25 school year:
 - \$164 million in new funding to local boards of education
 - \$9.3 million in new funding for charter schools
 - \$53.3 million in new funding for magnet schools
 - \$11.4 million new funding for Open Choice
 - \$7.2 million in new funding for vocational agriculture programs
- Continued our commitment to funding local boards of education with an honest ECS formula (\$45 m)
- Capped tuition payments that local districts pay for kids attending choice programs resulting in millions of savings for local school districts
- Required classroom safety protocols and school climate improvement plans to address and prevent challenging behaviors
- Audited districts' time and costs association with state and local testing
- Greater charter school accountability to align with traditional districts
- Increased supports for paraeducators
- Expanded the Special Education Task Force's required focus areas for recommendations on issues impacting students and educators
- Mandated play-based learning in pre-K and kindergarten

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE AND PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

...because your well-being matters.

- Expanded pharmacy services to include administration of CDC immunizations; testing for COVID, flu and HIV; and prescribing preventative HIV treatment
- Allowed over-the-counter drugs as well as Narcan and other life-saving opioid antagonists to be sold through regulated vending machines
- Increased telehealth options for matters like medical marijuana prescriptions and follow-up appointments
- Expanded workers' comp coverage for anyone who experiences PTSD at work
- Allowed pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraceptives
- Directed all state college and university campuses to provide reproductive health resources to students
- Invested in state research and development for endometriosis treatment and prevention

OUR STATE BUDGET

INVESTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

THE STATE BUDGET CUTS TAXES FOR MIDDLE CLASS AND WORKING CLASS FAMILIES, WHILE INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY AND SMALL BUSINESSES. IT BOOSTS FUNDING FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, K-12 EDUCATION, AND CHILD CARE.

For our towns:

- **\$60,847,465** for **East Hartford Schools**
- **\$42,920,769** for **Manchester Schools**
- **\$16,854,373** in total municipal funding for **East Hartford**
- **\$6,240,470** in total municipal funding for **Manchester**
- **\$7.5 million** for the **Downtown Streetscape Project** in **Manchester**
- **\$750,000** for playscape replacements at **East Hartford Elementary Schools**
- **\$6,980,278** for **demolition and remediation of Silver Lane corridor**
- **\$6.5 million** for the abatement and demolition of buildings on and adjacent to the Founders Plaza site on **East River Drive in East Hartford**
- **Critical funding** to support youth programs



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

... because our children deserve a healthy home.

- Allowed DEEP to deny permits for or place conditions on factories, waste plants, and other polluters when they are proposed in overburdened locations that have historically dealt with high levels of pollution ("Environmental Justice")
- Responded to the municipal solid waste crisis with new funding for facilities and mandatory food scrap diversion at colleges, hospitals, and nursing homes
- Provided additional funding to towns to deal with harmful chemicals like PFAS
- Expanded eligibility for Microgrid and Resilience Loans allowing the state to build more green buildings
- Banned hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs to protect their role in helping to safeguard human health and our coastal waters

GROWING OUR ECONOMY & BUILDING OUR WORKFORCE

...because a stronger economy means a stronger Connecticut.

Building a Skilled Workforce:

- Expanded school-based apprenticeship opportunities in aviation and aerospace, training for future paraeducators, and dual credit/enrollment opportunities
- Created prosecutor apprenticeships for legal interns
- Created tax credits and incentives for towns and businesses that build workforce housing, including for teachers, police officers, and firefighters
- Granted free graduate school tuition to eligible veterans and their families, as well as active members of the National Guard
- Eased licensing requirements for childcare providers who serve military families
- Cut the number of reporting requirements for businesses

Local Funding to Towns:

- Reformed retirement plans for municipal employees – saving towns hundreds of thousands of dollars annually
- Provided \$60 million in new funding for town governments

RALLYING BEHIND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

...because representation matters, especially as one of four LGBTQ+ members of the CT General Assembly.

- Protected pharmacists and health care providers who are licensed in other states from discipline for providing reproductive and gender affirming health care services in our state
- Closed a loophole allowing certain landlords to discriminate based on sexual orientation
- Secured additional funding for the LGBTQ+ Justice and Opportunity Network (aka Health and Human Services Network)
- Updated the definition of "sexual orientation" to reflect a person's identity in relation to their gender or genders, including any identity that a person may have previously expressed or is perceived by another person to hold