

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session focused on protecting Connecticut residents from extreme policies on health, such as vaccines; personal liberty, such as ICE seizures of residents; and the economy, including cuts to food supports and shifting costs to states inflicted by the Trump Administration. We continued work on big issues like elections, standing up for working families, childcare, funding our schools, and the state budget.

We made historic investments in police, fire, EMS, veterans, teachers, and health care workers. Voters demanded better access to absentee ballots, and their voices were heard. Property taxes are too high, so we ensured that every city and town received more state funding, with the direction to lower mill rates.

In a three-month legislative session, we had mountains to move. This newsletter has more details about the legislation we passed and key policy initiatives from the 2026 session.

Thank you for your ideas and your work to improve our community and support each other.

Enjoy,



MAKING CT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

- Expanded sales tax-free week to include clothing, shoes, and backpacks under \$300
- Made basic school supplies tax-free, including backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens/pencils, crayons, rulers, and paper
- Created a family caregiver tax credit for residents caring for a loved one
- Delivered on our promise to support early childhood education by investing \$300 million more in the Early Childhood Education Endowment



STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAT DILLON

PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

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CAPITOL UPDATE 26

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PAT DILLON

PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAT DILLON

CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

IN THE NEWS

- ◆ *Attended Three Kings*
- ◆ *CT Main Street Center Founders Award – awarded to Lizzy Donius, Exec. Director, WVRA*
- ◆ *Participated in Dwight Charrette*
- ◆ *Spoke at Earth Day at Capitol*
- ◆ *Melanie Cradle nominated as first black woman to CT Supreme Court*
- ◆ *Attended Ladybugs release at Mitchell Library*
- ◆ *Spoke at Edgewood Park on the importance of lighting - We are stewards of the land*



MONEY FOR NEW HAVEN

- ✓ We invested over \$190 million in public education for 2026-2027 school year
 - New Haven gets an **extra \$8 million** on top of the \$ 170+ million in ECS funding
- ✓ New Haven will receive over **\$176 million** in city aid in 2027 - this is an increase of **\$26.9 million**
 - The state also funded an **additional \$18.9 million** to help with rising property taxes
- ✓ Obtained an additional **\$243,000** in state bonding so that the lighting at Edgewood Park could be addressed while they were doing \$800,000 in upgrades from previous funding
- ✓ Awarded a DEEP Climate Resilience Grant of \$250,000 to conduct a resilience action plan for Edgewood Park and the surrounding areas on how to take advantage of the park’s natural infrastructure

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS AND FIGHTING BACK AGAINST ABUSE BY ICE

- Allowed residents to sue ICE agents when their constitutional rights are violated
- Empowered our Attorney General and Inspector General to intervene on behalf of residents
- Statewide ban on federal agents wearing masks
- Banned federal troops from coming to Connecticut against our wishes
 - Strengthened minimum training standards of police
 - Stopped local police from hiring ICE agents who lost their jobs because of misconduct
 - Protected traffic camera data from being used for immigration enforcement

HEALTHCARE CONDITIONS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

- Made breast cancer screenings more accessible to inmates
- Required bilingual posters on rights to health care
- Created an independent audit of the DOC’s food service and nutrition programs

FINANCIAL PROTECTIONS AND SUPPORTS FOR NURSES AND TEACHERS

Nurses:

- Financially protected health care employees if they are assaulted on the job
- Protected lost wages and benefits through workers’ compensation up to 100% from 75%
- Pay out-of-pocket medical expenses
- Stopped employers from requiring workers to use their accrued time off to cover their missing work due to an assault
- Laid the groundwork for giving visiting nurses the info they need when they’re treating patients with a history of violence

Teachers:

- Expanded existing financial protections through workers compensation to keep public school teachers from paying out-of-pocket expenses if assaulted on the job
- Helped paraeducators who are laid off over the summer to collect unemployment



GOOD STEWARDSHIP WILL HELP FUTURE GENERATIONS

- Advocated for wildlife
- Protected striped bass from overfishing
- Created a way for citizens to address dams that keep fish from spawning
- Strengthened the state’s ability to respond to outbreaks of animal-borne diseases
- Statewide training for our local inland wetlands commissions
- Farm investment tax credit program

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Banned convertible pistols/firearms that can be modified to work just like an automatic machine gun – often using a simple household item like a screwdriver
- Made it easier to surrender firearms to local police (existing law only applies to assault weapons)
- Protected funding for evidence based gun violence prevention in the Department of Public Health



NUTRITION SUPPORT

Individuals impacted by federal SNAP eligibility changes, will get help allocated by the Governor from our Response Fund

- ✓ **\$24.55 million** – For food banks and pantries to increase capacity (approximately \$8.8 million in FY 26 and \$15.75 million in FY 27)
- ✓ **\$8.5 million** - One-time provision of \$300 grocery cards for estimated 25,000 people losing SNAP. Cards being distributed by community action agencies