

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HENRY J. GENGA
PROUDLY SERVING EAST HARTFORD

Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic has produced numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked to address these new challenges and the existing injustices by passing over 350 bills and resolutions.

I know the past year has been difficult for each individual and family in our community, and I believe the legislation passed in Hartford will empower everyone in our district. This session I advocated for equitable public health policies, increased access to mental health resources, and provided additional support for our seniors, schools, and small businesses. I also worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education. I successfully fought to secure funding for East Hartford in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 – the town will see an increase of millions of dollars, which will provide relief for property taxes. I am confident that these state investments will see our community recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic.

Please continue reading below for more information on legislative highlights and resources developed this session that will benefit your family, our district, and our state.

Best,



Henry Genga



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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2021**

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE HENRY J. GENGA

STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

- Required background checks at homemaker-companion agencies (PA 21-37)
- Allowed towns to offer more seniors a break on their property taxes (HB 6458 & PA 21-84)
- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring by loved ones for nursing home residents (PA 21-55)
- Strengthened rights for residents of long-term care facilities (PA 21-55)
- Fought age discrimination in the workplace – limited the need for your age and other dates on job applications (PA 21-69)
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies and supply inventories in response to COVID-19 (PA 21-185)

HEALTHCARE

- The House approved lower costs, and greater access, for epi-pens (HB 6587)
- Ensured dental coverage for kids through their parents' plans, up to the age of 26 (PA 21-149)
- Continued coverage for, and access to, telehealth (PA 21-133 & PA 21-9)
- Provided new health care coverage to 40,000 low-income residents and families (PA 21-2) [regardless of immigration status (PA 21-176)]
- Provided better training and tools for police to respond to opioid overdoses (PA 21-108)
- Expanded workers' comp benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and health care providers who were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic (PA 21-107)
- Strengthened rights for the deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing (PA 21-72)
- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- Improved mental health first aid training for paramedics (PA 21-134)
- Put community violence prevention programs on a path to sustainable funding and growth in our state – to serve more victims of gun violence and their families (PA 21-36)

GROWING CT'S ECONOMY

- Expanding the hemp industry in CT through licensed medical marijuana providers (PA 21-37)
- Fair reimbursements to mom and pop outdoor equipment dealers who perform warranty maintenance (PA 21-127)
- Centralized state GIS mapping (the zoning and geographic maps of our towns) to help development, local government, and planning (HB 6647)
- House Democrats fought to expand the Small Business Express Program to help more local businesses grow and expand minority, women, veteran, and disabled-owned businesses (HB 6467)

Taking Care of CT's Restaurants

- » Created a tax-free day for restaurants (PA 21-2)
- » Continued alcohol to-go and delivery sales by local bars and restaurants (PA 21-37)
- » Approved self-pour beer and wine machines at CT bars (PA 21-50)
- » Cut permit costs for nonprofit and private clubs (like the Army Navy Club and VFW) (PA 21-10)
- » Cut red tape and made outdoor dining a permanent option for bars and restaurants (PA 21-2)



LAND OF STEADY HABITS GETS WITH THE TIMES

- **Legalized Adult Use of Cannabis** (PA 21-1)
 - » Only for those 21 and older
 - » Balanced health, treatment, public safety and equity
 - » Erasure of past marijuana convictions
 - » Home grow in 2023
 - » Majority of state proceeds go to advancing equity and substance abuse treatment
- Legalized sports betting and online gaming (PA 21-23)
- Paved the way for our state's first Inspector General to independently investigate police-involved shootings (PA 21-8)

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

- Cut unemployment insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs and paying directly into the fund (PA 21-5 & PA 21-2)
- Ensured legal representation if you're facing eviction (PA 21-34)
- Increased protections on homes, cars and bank accounts when someone falls into debt (PA 21-161)
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance (PA 21-44)
- Increased funding to local health departments (PA 21-2)
- Created an Unemployed Workers' Advocate to assist out-of-work residents with accessing benefits and getting back to work
- Streamlined workforce initiatives under a new Office of Workforce Strategy and made it easier for residents to know what CT colleges they can easily get into, and what certificate programs are worth taking (PA 21-2)
- **Ensuring our kids recover from this pandemic** (PA 21-46)
 - » Expanded youth suicide prevention training
 - » Created more outpatient services for kids
 - » Required social emotional learning as part of professional development for teachers
 - » Continued virtual parent-teacher conferences
 - » Ended lunch shaming when kids fall behind in paying for their school lunches

EAST HARTFORD BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
General Government Aid	\$2,329,007	\$4,475,554	\$4,475,554
Education	\$54,655,215	\$56,872,026	\$59,048,164
Bonding	\$7,342,312	\$9,086,855	\$9,086,855
TOTAL	\$64,326,533	\$70,434,436	\$72,610,573