

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSEPH P. GRESKO
PROUDLY SERVING STRATFORD

Dear Neighbor,

Throughout the 2021 legislative session, my colleagues and I worked to address pandemic related challenges and existing injustices by passing over 350 bills and resolutions.

This session I advocated for equitable public health policies, increased access to mental health resources, and 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 have fought to ensure Stratford will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through this budget. 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,



Joseph P. Gresko



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CAPITOL UPDATE 2021



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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A VOICE FOR THE CONSUMER

- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring manufacturing discounts go to the consumer and not the insurance company (PA 21-14)
- Strengthened our laws on cyber security and identity and data theft (PA 21-59 & HB 6607)
- New Utility Protections for Residential Customers (HB 6526)
 - » No more cancellation fees by electric companies
 - » Banned unpredictable variable rates

PUTTING SAFETY FIRST

- Increased property tax breaks for volunteer firefighters and first responders (HB 6420)

THE FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- Strengthened our domestic violence laws and ensured immediate cash assistance for victims and their families (PA 21-78)

A DEMOCRACY THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US

- Voters will get to decide in 2022 if we should have early, in-person voting and in 2024 you'll decide if every registered voter in CT should be able to vote by absentee ballot (HJ-59 and HJ-58)



STRATFORD ECS FUNDING INCREASES

FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
\$21,887,266	\$23,024,426	\$24,116,337	\$25,147,965	\$26,179,593

STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

- Maintained phase out of the state income tax on Social Security and pensions, as well as expanding the phase out of state income tax on IRA's.
- Maintained a robust Rainy Day Fund which will be used to pay down unfunded pension obligations
- Allowed towns to offer more seniors a break on their property taxes (HB 6458 & PA 21-84)
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies, supply inventories in response to COVID-19 (SB 1030)

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 & SB 1202)

HEALTHCARE

- Continued coverage for, and access to, telehealth (HB 6470 & PA 21-9)
- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)

GROWING CT'S ECONOMY

- 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 (SB 1202)
- 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 (SB 1202)

HOUSING COST AND FAIRNESS

- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: foreclosure mediation, lien assistance and emergency mortgage assistance (SB 891)

FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY

- Erased most misdemeanor crimes after 7 years and lesser felonies after 10 (PA 21-32 & PA 21-33)

PUTTING WORKING AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES FIRST

- Repealed the poverty tax to stop the state from taking back cash and medical assistance when individuals fight their way out of poverty (PA 21-3/SB 1202)