

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSHUA HALL
PROUDLY SERVING 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 will empower everyone in our district. This session I championed the following legislation: Ban on No Knock Warrants; 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on a path to sustainable funding and growth in our state - to serve more victims of gun violence and their families; repealed the poverty tax to stop the state from taking back cash and medical assistance when individuals fight their way out of poverty and instituted Community Investment Fund (which allocates \$2 billion for needed projects in communities like ours). 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 the city of Hartford 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 for more information on legislative highlights and resources developed this session that will benefit your family, our district, and our state.

Best,



State Representative Joshua Hall



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JOSHUA HALL
PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD | 7TH DISTRICT



CAPITOL UPDATE 2021

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSHUA HALL**

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
- Ended prison gerrymandering – the practice of counting prisoners as if they were registered voters when determining what districts our elected officials represent
- Restored voting rights for individuals in community facilities or on parole
- Guaranteed two hours off from work to vote in state and federal elections



HEALTHCARE

- 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
- Ensured dental coverage for kids through their parents' plans, up to the age of 26
- Continued coverage for, and access to, telehealth
- Provided new health care coverage to 40,000 low-income residents and families regardless of immigration status
- Expanded workers' comp benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and front-line health care providers who were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic

PUTTING SENIORS, WORKING FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN FIRST

- Repealed the poverty tax to stop the state from taking back cash and medical assistance when individuals fight their way out of poverty
- Increased the state's earned income tax credit, providing tax credits for qualifying working families with children
- Fully funded free community college – meaning students can work on their Associate Degree without having to pay tuition out of pocket
- Allowed student athletes to make money from their name, image and likeness
- Allowed towns to offer more seniors a break on their property taxes
- Strengthened rights for residents of long-term care facilities
- Fought age discrimination in the workplace – limited the need for your age and other dates on job applications
- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring manufacturing discounts go to the consumer and not the insurance company
- New Utility Protections for Residential Customers
- Raised awareness of child sex abuse and required comprehensive background checks at athletic leagues and youth camps
- Added Native American studies to the public school curriculum
- Ensuring our kids recover from this pandemic
 - 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
 - Addressed absenteeism in virtual learning
 - Ended lunch shaming when kids fall behind in paying for their school lunches
- Established the National Purple Star School Program to assist military families with school registration, planning, counseling and other support services
- Directed state colleges and universities to update what credits they can award based on military training



THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL AND GENDER EQUALITY

- 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
- Passed Clean Slate legislation that erases most misdemeanor crimes after 7 years and some lesser felonies after 10 years
- Ended the practice of charging prisoners to use the phone
- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities
- Launched a new anti-bias in hiring initiative in public schools
- CT joined seven states in making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture and protective hairstyle ("CROWN ACT")
- Paved the way for our state's first Inspector General to independently investigate police-involved shootings
- Legalized Adult Use of Cannabis for those 21 and older. Majority of State proceeds would be for advancing equity and substance abuse treatment.
- Strengthened our domestic violence laws and ensured immediate cash assistance for victims and their families
- Blocked individuals whom a court determines as high-risk from getting their hands on a gun
- Required employers to provide a salary range for job openings – making sure you don't waste your time on jobs that won't pay the bills; and that your salary negotiations are based on what the job is worth, not what you've been paid in the past
- Ensured domestic workers get upfront information on the terms of their employment and established a new education and training program
- Allocated funding to the Connecticut Women's Business Development Council, which provides support and resources for women and minority-owned businesses throughout our state.

HOUSING COSTS AND FAIRNESS

- Championed new zoning reforms to deal with rising housing costs and address affordability, equity and opportunity in our communities
- House Democrats fought for guaranteed walkthroughs for renters before they sign their lease and capped fees for being late on rent payments
- Guaranteed legal representation if you're facing eviction
- Invested resources to clean up and make our public housing more energy efficient
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance