



Dear Neighbor,

I am proud to share some historic highlights from the 2022 legislative session.

Historic like more than \$650 million in tax cuts. Historic like our investment in the mental health of our children. Historic like our commitment to growing jobs and our economy. Historic like a state budget that pays off millions in pension debt and continues our record rainy day fund while investing in Hartford's schools, mental health, public safety, and programs that work - all while honoring the spending cap.

That's not to say we aren't facing challenges. We are seeing inflation that hits everyone's wallets and housing prices that are pricing many out of even modest homes. That's why I fought hard to provide you with relief: increasing the property tax credit, phasing out taxes on retirement income, creating a childcare rebate, cutting the gas tax, and more.

I hope you find this newsletter packed with useful information. It is my pleasure to serve as your state representative.

All my best,

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Making CT More Affordable for Residents
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA M. HALL

PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD, ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 7

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022

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STANDING UP FOR WORKERS

- Toughened the penalty for public contractors who under-pay or withhold wages and benefits, created a public registry of these individuals, and established a process for revoking the licenses of repeat offenders (PA 22-17)
- Expanded access to special relief funding for specific front-line workers who had to work during COVID and became sick as a result (HB 5506)

RESPONDING TO THE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS (HB 5001, SB 1, HB 5506)

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansions of school-based health centers and the services they provide

EDUCATION & EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

Supporting our Teachers

- Expanded scholarships for minority teachers (SB 1)
- Doubled grants to school districts for bilingual education (HB 5506)
- Increased funding for infant and toddler care programs
- Increased pay to childcare workers to attract and retain more educators
- Approved state tax credit for childcare

MAKING CT MORE EQUITABLE

- Limited the circumstances in which a felony disqualifies you from holding an occupational license and created a pre-approval process to check if a prior conviction disqualifies you before going through testing or training requirements (HB 5259)
- Created a Hate Crimes Investigation Unit within the State Police while also improving data collection, reporting, and information sharing between departments (PA 22-9)
- Limited the use of solitary confinement and expanded the office of Corrections Ombudsman (PA 22-18)
- Required towns with over 25,000 residents to establish a local fair rent commission. These commissions will respond to tenant complaints about excessively harsh rent increases and lack of code enforcement by a landlord or property manager (PA 22-30)
- Established June 19th as Juneteenth Independence Day. This new state holiday will forever celebrate the independence of African Americans freed from slavery (SB 350)

Continuing Our Fight for Equity (HB 5506)

- Honor our commitment to body cameras, police accountability, and our new clean slate laws
- Established an office on gun violence prevention
- Increased business development funding for minority-owned businesses
- Expanded minority teacher scholarships

I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

\$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✓ Creates a Child Tax Credit
- ✓ Cuts property taxes for retirees
- ✓ Cuts the car tax
- ✓ Extends the gas tax cut
- ✓ Extends free bus service
- ✓ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✓ Invests in healthcare workers

LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY (HB 5506)

- Cut taxes by over \$650 million
- Increased state income tax credit for property owners from \$200 to \$300
- Increased the Earned Income Tax Credit for the 2023 tax year, cutting taxes for our neediest families
- Eliminated pension and annuity taxes for retirees making less than \$75k/year
- Secured one-time childcare rebate of \$250 per child, up to three children
- Capped car taxes at 32.46 mills

GROWING CT'S ECONOMY

- Established JobsCT program – helping companies in target industries earn rebates against insurance premiums and state taxes for meeting job targets
- Support CT residents with CDL training
- Made direct investments in community nonprofits
- Provided support to museums, theaters, and other CT attractions
- Created additional student loan assistance programs

Helping CT Residents Land Good-paying, High Demand Jobs

- Expanded successful Manufacturing Pipeline program (HB 5506)
- New paid internship program at DOT (HB 5506)
- Provided parents and students with occupational opportunities and helped schools partner with more local businesses (SB 228)
- Established student loan reimbursement program for in-demand health care and mental health workers (HB 5506)
- Expanded the debt-free community college program to more first-time, and part-time students (HB 5506)

IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE (HB 5506)

- Strengthened the state's intervention and response to lead poisoning and prevention



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

- Guaranteed CT veterans in-state tuition rates (HB 5301)
- Established a new, local-option property tax exemption equal to 10% of home values for more veterans (PA 22-34)

PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

Diverting Juvenile Crime, Auto Thefts and Pandemic-related Crime (HB 5506)

- Invested in Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- Expanded alternatives to incarceration

Stopping Child Abuse (HB 5243)

- Increased training and education on sexual abuse identification and prevention
- Extended address confidentiality to victims of kidnapping, human trafficking, and child abuse