

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session focused on protecting Connecticut from the wildly chaotic economy being whiplashed daily by the Trump Administration, as well as other big issues like elections, standing up for working families, funding our schools, and the state budget.

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

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

Enjoy,



**OVER \$300 MILLION RELIEF PACKAGE  
FOR CITIES, TOWNS, AND SCHOOLS**

- \$190 million in additional direct support for schools.
- \$100 million to mitigate local tax increases.
- \$12 million to establish universal free school breakfast programs across the state.
- Expanded grants for successful special education programs.
- Created numerous grants for towns to address rising costs associated with construction and purchasing.
- \$4 million to help communities where hospitals abruptly came off the tax rolls.



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**JOSHUA HALL**  
**PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD**

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**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 26**

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Hartford, CT 06106-1591



**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2026**

**FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**JOSHUA HALL**  
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# STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA HALL

## CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

### WE STAND WITH OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

- Provided State health insurance to the families of volunteer firefighters and state marshals who lose their lives in the line of duty.
- Created a new mortgage assistance program for first responders.
- Ramped up efforts to hire and train more police officers and firefighters, including volunteer firefighters.
- Expanded a successful program that partners police with mental health workers.
- Bolstered efforts to connect veterans with employment opportunities – including workplace postings on veterans’ benefits and services.
- Improved pay for state police at state DOT projects.
- Created a tuition assistance program for in-state first responders.



### FOUGHT 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 our residents.
- Created a statewide ban on federal agents wearing masks.
- Banned federal troops from coming to Connecticut against our wishes.
- Strengthened the minimum training standards of the 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.

### THE STATE-LED EFFORT TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

- \$12 million to expand free school breakfasts across the state.
- Newly launched literacy interventions and concentrated tutoring.
- Expanded the Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program.
- Increased supplemental education funding to cities and towns.
- Deposited \$300 million into the Early Childhood Endowment.

### REFORMED DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Prioritized placing children with family members and responsible adults who are already in their lives.
- Made sure there’s follow-up with sister agencies when foster children move out of state.
- Directed DCF to listen to other children in the house when there’s an open investigation.
- Provided robust resources for parents and our DCF workforce.
- Increased childcare stipends.
- Expanded funding for training and services.
- Supported social workers with better training and a new mentorship program.

### FINANCIAL PROTECTIONS AND SUPPORT FOR NURSES & TEACHERS

#### NURSES:

- Financially protects health care employees if they get 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 they get assaulted on the job.
- Helped paraeducators who are laid off over the summer to collect unemployment.



### PRIORITIZED MAKING CONNECTICUT 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 in the Early Childhood Education Endowment.