

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANNE HUGHES

Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic has delivered numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked together to address these new challenges and meet the widening array of public needs by passing over 350 bills and resolutions.

I recognize how difficult the past year has been for each individual and family in our community, and I continue to champion legislation in Hartford that will empower everyone in our district. 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, the healthcare workforce, sustainability efforts, and education. I have fought to ensure Easton, Weston, and Redding 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,



Anne Hughes



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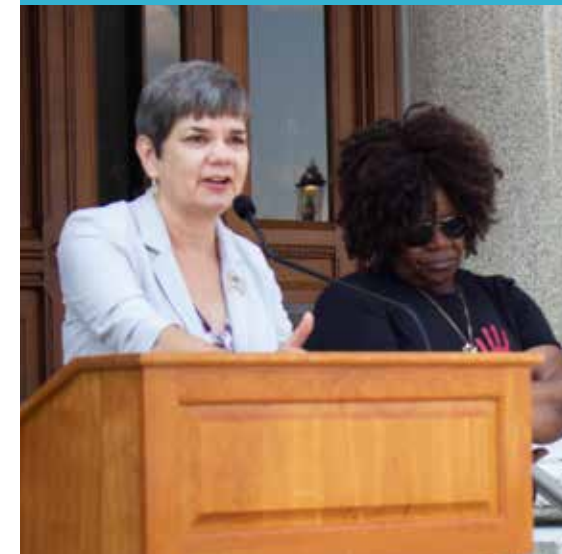
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ANNE HUGHES
PROUDLY SERVING EASTON, WESTON, & REDDING



CAPITOL UPDATE 2021



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FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

- Legalized Adult Use of Cannabis (PA 21-1)
 - » Only for those 21 and older and home grow in 2023
 - » Balanced health, treatment, public safety and equity
 - » Erasure of past marijuana convictions
- 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 (PA 21-1 and PA 21-2)
- Expanded the definition of domestic violence to include coercive control and created a program to provide legal counsel for certain restraining order applicants (PA 21-78)
- Fought age discrimination in the workplace – limited the need for your age and other dates on job applications (PA 21-69)
- New Utility Protections for Residential Customers (PA 21-117)
 - » No more cancellation fees by electric companies
 - » Consumer-friendly notifications
 - » Banned unpredictable variable rates

INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- Continued coverage for, and access to telehealth (PA 21-9)
- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring by loved ones for nursing home residents (PA 21-55)
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies, and supply inventories in response to COVID-19 (PA 21-185)
- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- Provided new health care coverage to 40,000 low-income residents and families (PA 21-2) regardless of immigration status (PA 21-176)



ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- Regulated the harmful chemical “PFAS” (PA 21-191)
- Raised bottle deposits to 10 cents, applied deposits to more products and provided more money to towns and redemption centers to ensure these products don't end up as litter or in a landfill (PA 21-58)
- Created higher renewable energy standards for heat and electric utilities (PA 21-118)
- Required more biodiesel in home heating oil and greater transparency for consumers (PA 21-181)

STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

- Expanded property tax relief for seniors (PA 21-84)
- Authorized up to \$875 million in bonds for a five-year bonding program to fund municipal projects and grants (PA 21-111)
- Created a baby bond trust program, the first in the nation, for children in low-income families (PA 21-11)
- Established a dedicated funding stream for the debt-free community college program (PA 21-2)
- Increased flexibility for the Small Business Express program to allow increased participation by private lenders (PA 21-2)

2022-2023 BIENNIUM BUDGET

- Rejects tax hikes on gasoline, insurance policies and large Connecticut home properties
- Includes tax relief for restaurants
- Increases the state's earned income tax credit to 30.5% of the federal credit
- Maintains our historic balance in the state's \$3.5 billion Rainy Day Fund
- Increases town aid and funds Education Cost Sharing (ECS) fairly
- Expands healthcare for 40,000 residents and families
- Supports small and minority-owned businesses
- Expands workforce training
- Includes relief for arts, culture and tourism and reduces the admissions tax for certain events

TOWN AID TO EASTON, WESTON, & REDDING

	FISCAL YEAR 22	FISCAL YEAR 23
EDUCATION AID:	\$644,608	\$674,060
NON-EDUCATION AID:	\$298,717	\$298,717
TOTAL STATE AID:	\$943,324	\$972,778

