



Dear Neighbor,

It is a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2025 legislative session ended in June, and I want to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

I am especially proud of our work enhancing educational opportunities for our special needs students and fully funding our Educational Cost Sharing Grant for our local board of education. I am also very pleased that we expanded opportunities for more access to sustainable geothermal energy.

Most importantly, we did it by working together – without gimmicks or partisan politics. We prioritized education and seniors, supported nonprofits, and invested in public safety.

I would love to hear from you if you have any questions on any of our initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Enjoy,

BIG WINS FOR WINDHAM

- Cut Your Electric Bill
- Large Increase for Special Education
- \$250 Tax Credit for Working Families
- Made Childcare More Affordable and Accessible



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SUSAN JOHNSON

PROUDLY SERVING WINDHAM

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025



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A BALANCED BUDGET AND OUR SECOND-LARGEST SURPLUS IN STATE HISTORY

THANKS TO SOUND BUDGETING AND THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WE:

- Delivered Single Greatest Investment in Children in Connecticut's History
- Made Historic Investments in Special Education

WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:

- Created a \$250 Refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to Help Working Families Keep More of Their Income
- Supported Childcare Providers
- Helped Families Save For College
- Expanded Capital for Special Education Infrastructure
- Invested in Our Workforce and Residents

PROTECTING THE CONSUMER

- Required businesses, including landlords and car salesmen, to advertise all-in pricing and cracked down on hidden fees across industries.
- Forced social media companies to have policies on cyberbullying, stopped ads targeting minors online, and banned the sale of your sensitive data without your consent.
- Cracked down on predatory towing - protecting renters and shoppers - through greater transparency before, during, and after a car is towed and made it easier to retrieve your car and at lower cost.

TAKING PUBLIC SAFETY SERIOUSLY

- Prohibited abusers from accessing the location of shelters and temporary housing under the state's freedom of information laws.
- Helped victims of domestic violence protect their GPS data from their abuser.
- Stopped the weaponization of our legal system by using defamation lawsuits to silence victims. Communications that detail sexual discrimination, harassment or assault will now be kept confidential in civil court.
- Prohibited various forms of discrimination based on someone's status as a sexual assault or human trafficking victim.

MEETING YOUR MEDICAL NEEDS

- Provided Medicaid increases for providers and increased funding to our Generations Family Health Center for the first time in years. Increased rates will reach thousands of residents in our region. This investment represents their first meaningful rate increase outside of binding arbitration in years.
- Continued services to support children's mental health - including funding our Urgent Crisis Centers.
- Increased funding for group and nursing homes - helping to settle a labor strike.



SUPPORTING OUR KIDS & STUDENTS

- Required school and public libraries to have a policy and a review committee made up of parents, teachers, staff, and students to deal with controversial materials.
- By 2027, families earning up to \$100,000 will be able to receive free childcare, while families earning more will pay no more than 7% of their income for childcare.
- Authorized \$80 million to help childcare providers expand and upgrade their facilities.
- Rejected attempts to cut education funding - ensuring no school district receives less from the state than the year before.
- Created the new "finish line" scholarship program to help students attending free community college to finish their bachelor's degree.
- Made it easier for college graduates to qualify for state loan forgiveness programs.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

- Improved access to capital and job creation among our veterans by prioritizing disabled veteran entrepreneurs in the Small Business Express loan program.
- Increased staffing in the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance, addressing backlogs and improving assistance with benefits claims and initiated a study of "benefits claim sharks" to examine the prevalence of contracts that exploit veterans seeking assistance with benefits.
- Provided no-cost driver's license renewals for veterans, and required the DMV to issue vouchers for veterans whose licenses are close to their expiration date.
- Ensured education stability for military-connected students by allowing children to remain enrolled in the same school district after relocation and facilitating special education evaluations and record transfers.