

Dear Neighbor,

The 2025 legislative session was full of big ideas, bipartisan work, compromise, and—most importantly—solutions.

Unlike Washington, D.C., here in Connecticut we don’t draw lines in the sand—we collaborate, work across the aisle, and get stuff done.

This year we focused on the most important issues facing our community, from electric bills and the state budget to special education, early childhood, and climate change.

I hope you find this newsletter informative, and that you’ll reach out with questions or ideas!

All my best,

*John Michael Parker*



## WORKING FOR YOU

As the Chair of the Environment Committee and a member of the Education and Public Health Committees, I worked tirelessly with advocates, experts, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support and protect our state’s families, communities, and future. In spite of federal division, I’m proud of what we in Connecticut have accomplished together.



## STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN-MICHAEL PARKER

PROUDLY SERVING DURHAM AND MADISON

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**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 25**

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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2025

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**JOHN-MICHAEL PARKER**  
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOHN-MICHAEL PARKER

CAPITOL UPDATE 2025

BIG WINS FOR

OUR STATE

- Cuts to your electric bill
- Millions for special education
- \$250 tax credit for working families
- Workforce growth, support, and accessibility



SAFER ROADS

We expanded the work zone speed camera program and increased the penalties for reckless driving or failing to yield to a pedestrian.

FIRST RESPONDERS

We expanded our “Fallen Hero Fund” to cover the family of all first responders who are killed in the line of duty so that they can receive cash benefits and health insurance coverage.

GUN SAFETY

We ensured gun manufacturers take reasonable steps to curb illegal activity when doing business in Connecticut and regulated gun industry ads that promote illegal sales.

CHILDCARE

We authorized \$80 million to help childcare providers expand and upgrade their facilities and established the Early Childhood Education Endowment, an investable trust fund that will create universal access to childcare.

STUDENTS

We rejected attempts to cut education funding and required school and public libraries to have a review committee made up of parents, teachers, staff, and students to deal with controversial materials.



A BALANCED BUDGET

AND OUR

SECOND-LARGEST

SURPLUS IN STATE HISTORY

IN 2025 WE MANAGED TO PASS A BUDGET THAT IS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE WHILE STILL MAKING KEY INVESTMENTS IN WHAT MATTERS MOST. I’M PROUD TO SHARE THAT WE:

- Established \$780 million in energy savings over the next few years, meaning lower electric bills and a smarter grid.
- Created a \$500 refundable tax credit for home daycare owners.
- Approved \$30 million annually for a new Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant.
- Piloted a new program to help small businesses and entrepreneurs get affordable access to advanced technologies and hands-on training.
- Took steps towards lowering the cost of prescription drugs.



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Set new state climate goals for greenhouse gas reduction and encouraged nature-based solutions for reaching goals.
- Supported clean energy jobs through tax incentives.
- Regulated the use of rodenticides and banned dangerous neonicotinoids on grass and turf.
- Established an extended producer responsibility program around the collection and recycling of batteries to reduce soil and water contamination, minimize landfill waste, and prevent batteries from exploding in waste management facilities.
- Encouraged heat pump deployment through strategic planning and local school building projects.