



Dear Neighbors,

I wanted to take a moment to provide you with a brief summary of the 2022 legislative session and the work we've been doing to support East Hartford and Manchester.

As global economic uncertainty leads to higher inflation and added stress in our communities, we adopted a budget that provides some immediate financial relief and makes strategic long-term investments in Connecticut's future. Enclosed you'll find specific figures to demonstrate the impact of this budget on your household and in our communities. I'm especially proud that this relief was achieved while still paying down our long-term liabilities to the tune of over \$3.6 billion above the annually required contribution. Smart financial controls that we put in place five years ago, and are holding to today to significantly save taxpayers in the long-term.

Another important area of focus was our bipartisan work to address the youth mental health crisis. As our children's mental health care system sees strain like never before, we passed landmark legislation that will provide more resources and interventions for parents and kids.

In addition, we continued to build on recent efforts to revamp the workforce pipeline by providing support to workers looking to find good paying, family-supporting jobs; and remaining responsive to the needs of major employers.

There is much more that we accomplished that simply cannot fit on this page, including investing in community programs and housing, curbing greenhouse emissions, protecting access to comprehensive health care. Many of these were ideas that came from you - the constituents of the 9th assembly district.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to represent our communities at the Capitol. For more information on anything included in this newsletter or if you or your family need assistance, you can check my website or please do not hesitate to contact me by email at Jason.Rojas@cga.ct.gov or by phone at 860-240-8541.

Best,

Jason



STATE REPRESENTATIVE | HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

JASON ROJAS

PROUDLY SERVING EAST HARTFORD, MANCHESTER

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022



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OUR STATE BUDGET

INVESTS IN CT FAMILIES

- ✔ Creates a Child Tax Credit
- ✔ Increases the property tax credit for retirees
- ✔ Increases funding for our schools
- ✔ Invests in non-profit community organizations
- ✔ Cuts motor vehicle taxes
- ✔ Phases out taxes on pensions and annuities
- ✔ Invests in healthcare workers

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

As we continue to navigate an uncertain economic environment, my focus has been on investing in our communities and making Connecticut more affordable for working families and seniors. In addition to funding the initiatives outlined throughout this newsletter, the FY 23 budget included support for ridding our homes and pipes of lead, transitioning to a renewable energy future, building more affordable housing, responding to the increase in crime during the pandemic, and much more. This is truly a budget that I believe meets the moment.

Specifically, for Manchester and East Hartford:

- **\$13,059,779** in total municipal funding for **East Hartford**
- **\$5,972,915** in total municipal funding for **Manchester**
- **\$41,134,504** for **Manchester Schools**
- **\$58,601,580** for **East Hartford Schools**
- **\$5.5 million** for planning and building a **new public library** in Manchester
- **\$100,000** to support the **Pathfinders Association**
- **\$27,811,640** for the renovation of **Keeney Elementary School**
- **\$604,000** to establish and expand health centers in **East Hartford schools**
- **Critical funding** to support youth programs, including **Manchester Youth Service Bureau and East Hartford Youth Services**
- **\$10,000,000** in bonding funds to help with redevelopment of the **Silver Lane corridor in East Hartford**

GROWING OUR ECONOMY & BUILDING OUR WORKFORCE

Connecticut is home to national leaders in manufacturing, aerospace, green technology, insurance, healthcare, and many other growing industries. It is important that we work together – private sector and public sector, workers and business owners – to keep growing our economy, improving our business climate, and ensuring we have the best trained and qualified workers in the country. Here is a summary of some of the important steps we took this year:

- Established JobsCT program – helping companies in target industries earn rebates against insurance premiums and state taxes for creating jobs
- Encouraged small businesses to pay student loan costs for employees
- Expanded the Pipeline for Connecticut's Future program
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- Offered a new paid internship program at DOT
- Sped up and expanded opportunities to participate in the state's brownfield remediation program
- Established student loan reimbursement program for in-demand health care and mental health workers
- Expanded the debt-free community college program to more first-time, part-time students



HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN KIDS' MENTAL HEALTH

This session, one of my priorities was strengthening our children's mental health system. There are few things more difficult for a parent than knowing your child needs help and being unable to find them the care they need. But, for many during the pandemic that is exactly what happened. That's why I am so proud of the work we did this session to address both the immediate and long-term mental health needs of our children. These efforts include:

- Created grant programs for local schools to hire counselors
- Expanded mental health treatment facilities
- Established a state service to provide help to families navigating care for children and adolescents
- Assisted local schools in expanding school-based health centers to also provide mental-health care
- Required health insurance coverage for certain emergency services

IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

As we continue to make this a more equitable state, there are few areas more fundamental than ensuring everyone has access to quality, affordable health care. My commitment to this cause is enduring, because no one should face undue financial hardship to receive the care they need. Here are some of the ways we improved access to quality health care this session:

- Made \$12M available for tobacco prevention and cessation
- Strengthened the state's lead poisoning prevention programs
- Required health insurance coverage of screenings for breast and ovarian cancer
- Increased funding to our specialty care hospitals
- Ensured more psychiatric treatment beds
- Launched a home visit program to support families with newborns
- Extended telehealth options