Dear Neighbor,

2025 was a legislative session devoted to our future - our children.

CT Budget: House OKs spending plan investing in children.

Key spending initiatives include more than \$200 million for a new universal pre-K program, a new tax break for lowincome families, and tens of millions of additional dollars to aid local school districts and special education programs.

- Ch 8 News

Our commitment is reflected in our funding for local schools, a top-to-bottom investment in special education, setting the stage for free pre-k for all, and a \$250 check for parents (based on the Earned Income Tax Credit framework). This newsletter has more details about these important investments, and more.



# CAPITOL 2025 UPDATE 2025



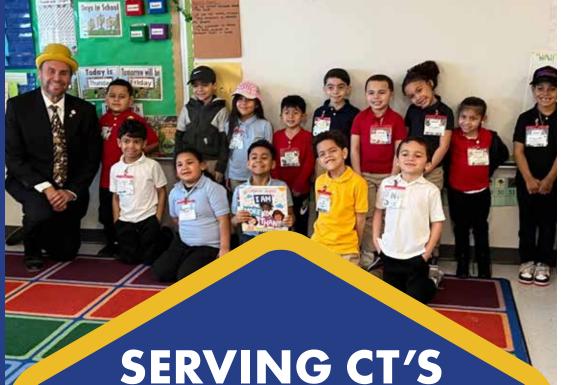
FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE **BOBBY SANCHEZ** 

PROUDLY SERVING NEW BRITAIN



## ADVOCATING FOR CONNECTICUT'S WORKERS

- Expanded coverage under the Firefighters Cancer Relief Program to include skin cancer.
- Expanded our landmark Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to cover non-certified school employees, such as secretaries, nurses, custodians, security officers, and paraeducators.
- Required construction workers to be paid the prevailing wage for off-site fabrication work in plumbing, heating, cooling, pipefitting, ventilation, and exhaust duct systems.



### SERVING CT'S RESIDENTS

### Strengthened our safety net and your access to care:

- Established inflationary funding increases for our nonprofit providers.
- Standardized and professionalized interpreter services for our residents who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing while creating training opportunities and complaint investigation.
- Promoted access to new birthing centers and encouraged more parental involvement in the health of mothers and children.

#### Supported our seniors:

- Ensured insurance coverage of biomarker testing to detect cancer early and improve treatment.
- Required greater consideration of how close your family lives when care homes try to transfer patient.

#### **Protecting our rights**

 Strengthened our TRUST Act by preventing juvenile probation officers, prosecutors, and other state public safety officials from working with ICE. We also gave victims who are unfairly targeted by the Trump administration the ability to sue local police in the event that they helped facilitate their wrongful arrest.

# HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION AND OUR CHILDREN

- \$271 million statewide for Special Education funding.
- Continued services to support children's mental health including funding our Urgent Crisis Centers.
- Ensured parents and local school districts are at the table before students are moved from their school, regardless of what school they attend.
- By 2027, families earning up to \$100,000 will be able to receive childcare at no cost, while families earning more than \$100,000 will pay no more than 7% of their income for childcare.

## REINFORCING OUR BOND WITH PUERTO RICO

- Established a Connecticut-Puerto Rico Trade Commission to advance trade and investment between Connecticut and Puerto Rico, promote business and academic exchanges, and encourage economic support and infrastructure investments.
- Created new commemorative license plates to honor Connecticut Women Veterans, the Boriqueneers, and Purple Heart recipients.

