



Dear Neighbor,

I take serving our community seriously, which is why this session I voted for every Meriden resident.

We made the biggest tax cuts in CT's history to put more money back into your pockets. We established a fully funded, first-of-its-kind mental health program to ensure all our kids are safe and have the resources they need. We also offered additional relief to local businesses and restaurants so they can keep their doors open despite facing numerous challenges throughout the pandemic. Additionally, I helped secure over \$76 million in funding to Meriden to help continue to invest in our city, school system and public safety.

All our efforts this year work to make life easier for you, even in the face of historically high inflation rates. I am proud to make these critical investments in our community while maintaining CT's fiscal responsibility and integrity for the future.

Best,

*Hilda E. Santiago*

## 2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Keeping CT Safe with Juvenile Justice Reform
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**HILDA E. SANTIAGO**

PROUDLY SERVING MERIDEN

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**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2022**

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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE **HILDA E. SANTIAGO**

### GROWING CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY

- Lowered the business tax rate for unemployment insurance, effectively making the federal loan repayment for the coming year on behalf of businesses
- Expanded the successful Manufacturing Pipeline program
- Established the JobsCT program – helping companies in target industries earn rebates against insurance premiums and state taxes for meeting job targets
- Invested in local nonprofits, museums, and other attractions
- Allowed high school graduates to access low-interest loans for attending occupational training programs

### STOPPING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Took action steps to make online dating safer
- Created a grant program to prevent online abuse
- Expanded anti-discrimination provisions to all employers regardless of the number of employees
- Established a protected class for victims of domestic violence

### SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

- Guaranteed CT veterans in-state tuition rates
- Provided funding to local volunteer fire departments who respond to emergencies on certain state highways
- Established a new, local-option property tax exemption equal to 10% of home values for more veterans
- Created new license plates for veterans who served in Afghanistan or Iraq

### RESPONDING TO THE KIDS' MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, especially in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Created new walk-in centers for mental health emergencies
- Initiated a new position at the Healthcare Advocate to help families navigate care for children and adolescents
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Established state oversight and coordination of state response to kids' mental health needs
- Helped school-based health centers develop new mental health programming
- Assisted local schools in expanded mental health staff and access to care
- Provided mental health training to parents, students, and pediatricians



### LARGEST TAX CUTS IN RECENT HISTORY

- More than \$650 million in tax cuts
- Creates a Child Tax Credit (applications being accepted from now through July 31st)
- Cuts property taxes for retirees
- Cuts the car tax
- Extends the gas tax cut
- Extends free bus service
- Ends pension and annuity tax
- Invests in healthcare workers

### MAKING CT MORE EQUITABLE

- Established June 19th as Juneteenth Independence Day
- Required the teaching of Asian American and Pacific Islander studies in public schools
- Increased health care coverage to undocumented immigrants, up to age 12
- Created a Hate Crimes Investigation Unit within the State Police, while also improving data collection, reporting, and information sharing between departments



### MODERNIZING STATE GOVERNMENT

- Revised the absentee voting eligibility status to make it easier for voters to vote absentee if:
  - They are feeling unwell or have a physical disability
  - They are worried about their health, or will be out of town on Election Day
- Authorized cybersecurity upgrades to protect our elections
- Funded a robust contracting standards board for more oversight
- Leveraged new federal funding for community-based programming and substance abuse treatment

### ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

- Expanded screenings for breast and cervical cancer
- Made \$12M available for tobacco prevention and cessation
- Ensured more psychiatric treatment beds
- Allowed pharmacists, in collaboration with doctors, to adjust more medications without requiring as many in-person visits