



On session days, I assist Speaker Ritter with House business on the calendar

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session focused on protecting Connecticut from the wildly chaotic economy being whiplashed daily by the Trump Administration, as well as other big issues like standing up for working families, funding our schools, and the state budget.

I remain filled with deep gratitude and pride to be your State Representative.

All my best,

Hilda E. Santiago



Happy to talk to residents during our town hall events in the district with my legislative delegation colleagues



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HILDA E. SANTIAGO

PROUDLY SERVING MERIDEN

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UPDATE 2026**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

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2026 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

\$224 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR MERIDEN

- **\$224 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR MERIDEN**
- \$90 million in Education Cost Sharing (ECS), Special Education, & Supplemental Education funding for Meriden schools
- \$2 million in Community Investment Funding (CIF) for One-Stop Health & Human Services
- \$5 million in Bonding for new garages and a new training facility for public safety workers
- \$122 million in School Construction funding for Paluski Elementary School

MADE CONNECTICUT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR WORKING FAMILIES:

- Expanded sales tax-free week to include clothing, shoes and backpacks under \$300
- Made basic school supplies tax-free, including backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers and paper
- Provided \$12 million to expand free school breakfasts across the state as well as an increase in supplemental education funding to cities and towns
- Delivered on our promise to support early childhood education by investing \$320 million in the Early Childhood Education Endowment

THIS SESSION WE:

- Created state fines for landlords who don't return your security deposit
- Strengthened laws that require individual meters for separate electric bills at rental units
- Bolstered efforts to connect veterans with employment opportunities – including workplace postings on veterans' benefits and services as well as a reduced bus fare for veterans
- Increased coordination between state agencies & law enforcement in the fight against human trafficking and increased training for officers, crisis hotline operators, and employees of DCF
- Required staff at assisted living agencies to receive annual training on residents' fear of retaliation, so seniors can freely speak up about their care



ENSURING ELECTION INTEGRITY

- Modernized our absentee ballot laws and vote counting procedures
- Created more safeguards to ensure your vote counts and enhanced the transparency of the process
- Protected our elections from corrupt outside forces
- Invested state funds for early voting, universal no-excuse absentee voting, and voter information campaigns

