

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**TRAVIS SIMMS**  
PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK

Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic has produced numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. With the passage of more than 350 bills and resolutions, my colleagues and I worked tirelessly throughout the 2021 General Assembly session to address new challenges and undo the injustices plaguing our state and nation.

This past year has been difficult on our community and I believe the legislation we passed in Hartford will empower everyone in our district. This session I advocated for equitable public health policies, increased access to mental health resources, and additional support for our seniors, schools, and small businesses. I also worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education. I have fought to ensure Norwalk will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through this budget. I am confident that these state investments will help our community recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic.

Please continue reading below for more information on legislative highlights and resources developed this session that will benefit your family, our district, and our state.

Best,



Travis Simms

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**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2021**



Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
Capitol: 860-240-8500 | 800-842-8267  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Simms](https://www.housedems.ct.gov/Simms)

## END OF SESSION UPDATE REP. TRAVIS SIMMS

### FIGHTING FOR WORKING AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

- Strengthened the rights of families who are not biologically related and for parents who have children through the assistance of donors (PA 21-15)
- Eliminated state income taxes on IRA income over time, beginning in the 2023 tax year (SB 1202)
- Increased protections on homes, cars, and bank accounts when someone falls into debt (HB 6466 & HB 6372)
- Required employers to provide a salary range for job openings – making sure you don’t waste your time on jobs that won’t pay the bills, and that your salary negotiations are based on what the job is worth, not what you’ve been paid in the past (PA 21-30)
- Created a new workforce pipeline program for individuals with disabilities (SA 21-10)
- Expanded childcare services for parents who are working on their education (HB 6558)
- Fully funded free community college – meaning students can work on their associate degree without having to pay tuition out of pocket (SB 1202)
- Created an audit of remote learning during COVID-19 to understand its impact on students and the school community (SB 1202)



### HOUSING COSTS AND FAIRNESS

- Championed new zoning reforms to deal with rising housing costs and address affordability, equity and opportunity in our communities (PA 21-29)
- Guaranteed legal representation if you’re facing eviction (PA 21-34)
- New pilot program with resources to move closer to your child’s charter or magnet school (HB 6436)
- Invested resources to clean up and make our public housing more energy efficient (PA 21-48)
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance (SB 891)

### ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE

- Fought for better insurance coverage for breast health (HB 6226)
- Ensured dental coverage for kids through their parents’ plans, up to the age of 26 (SB 1004)
- Set minimum standards for long-term care Insurance (SB 2016)
- Continued coverage for, and access to, telehealth (HB 6470 & PA 21-9)
- Strengthened rights for the deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing (PA 21-72)
- Provided new health care coverage to 40,000 low-income residents and families (SB 1202) [regardless of immigration status (HB 6687)]

### TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY

	LAST YEAR	MOVING FORWARD
Money For Our Schools	\$12,590,479	\$13,178,830
Non-Education Aid	\$3,998,578	\$5,450,493
<b>Total State Funds To Town</b>	<b>\$17,198,617</b>	<b>\$22,310,326</b>



### RACIAL EQUITY AND GENDER EQUALITY

- Prohibited insurance companies from charging more for victims of domestic violence (HB 6590)
- Erased most misdemeanor crimes after 7 years and lesser felonies after 10 (PAs 21-32&33)
- Ended the practice of charging prisoners to use the phone (PA 21-54)
- Banned no-knock warrants (SB 1093)
- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- Approved better rates on student loans for teachers in Alliance Districts (HB 5610)
- Established a commission to study the impact of different racial, ethnic, gender, and socio-economic groups (HB 5614)
- Created a biennial study on how well we’re actually reducing racial and economic segregation in CT (SB 1202)
- Added Native American studies to the public school curriculum (SB 1202)
- Launched a new anti-bias in hiring initiative in public schools (SB 1202)
- CT joined seven states in making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture and protective hairstyle (PA 21-2 “CROWN ACT”)
- Modernized our breastfeeding laws by requiring employers to provide a private area with access to a refrigerator and electrical outlet and provide mothers with some privacy while they express milk (PA 21-27)