

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE STAFSTROM
PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT


Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic has produced numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked to address these new challenges and address the existing injustices by passing over 350 bills and resolutions.

I know the past year has been difficult for each individual and family in our community, and I believe the legislation passed this year will empower everyone in our district. This session I successfully advocated for nation leading criminal justice reform, common sense gun control measures, 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 Bridgeport will see an historic increase in funding in both Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 through this budget. I am confident that these state investments will see our community recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic and help relieve our local property tax burden.

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,



Steve Stafstrom



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PASSING A STATE BUDGET THAT WORKS FOR FAMILIES AND CONNECTICUT

Thanks to the hard work of the Bridgeport delegation, our city will see \$12.4 million of new funding in 2022 and \$13.9 million in 2023. This historic increase in state aid to Bridgeport is critical for offsetting the local property tax burden, funding local services and improving our schools.

Helping families recover and getting people back to work:

- Increased the state’s earned income tax credit - providing tax credits for working families with children
- Expanded workforce training for employers wanting to relocate to Connecticut
- Provided COVID-related relief to businesses in need
- Secured funding for the Connecticut Women’s Business Development Council - providing support and resources for women and minority-owned businesses throughout our state

LEAD THE HOUSE DEBATE ON LEGALIZED ADULT USE CANNABIS

After years of debate and hard-work, we crafted a comprehensive program to legalize cannabis and lift our communities, especially those that have paid the highest price from the War on Drugs.

- Legalized the use and possession of cannabis for adults 21+
 - Retail sales will begin around summer 2022
 - Individuals 21+ can grow up to 3 mature plants in 2023
- Established an equity fund to create economic opportunities and erased past criminal convictions related to cannabis possession.
- Invested in public health, prevention, and mental health and addiction services
- Established a multi-level system to train police officers to recognize impaired drivers (PA 21-1)

Giving Formerly Incarcerated Citizens a Clean Slate

The Clean Slate Act is groundbreaking legislation that will help thousands of formerly incarcerated citizens in Connecticut by clearing their records and paving the way for re-entry to society with access to good paying jobs, education, and quality housing.

Under the bill we have erased most misdemeanor crimes after seven years and most low-level felonies after ten years (PA 21-32 & PA 21-33).

Strengthening Protections for Victim-Survivors of Domestic Violence

I was proud to lead passage of legislation that will strengthen protections for domestic violence victims and survivors.

This bill adds coercive control to domestic violence laws, required the court to sanction a party that files frivolous or fabricated motions, expanded the “best interest of the child” factors, and provided victims easier access to social services (PA 21-78).

Keeping Incarcerated Individuals Connected to Their Loved Ones

Passed legislation to allow families to stay connected to their loved ones in prison for free. Data shows that incarcerated individuals who are able to stay connected to their loved ones are much less likely to recidivate when they are released from prison (PA 21-54).

Continuing the Push to Strengthen Our Gun Laws

In 1999, following the mass shooting at the CT Lottery, Connecticut created the nation’s first “Red Flag” law which allows guns to be seized from an individual who is a danger to themselves or others. This year, we expanded upon the law and made the first major update to our law since we pioneered its use over twenty years ago.

- Prohibited individuals subject to an order from acquiring firearms or ammunition
- Required a finding from a judge that a person no longer poses an imminent threat of danger to themselves or others before their firearms are returned
- Allowed family household members and medical professionals to petition the court for an investigation order (PA 21-67)



AID TO BRIDGEPORT

	FISCAL YEAR 21	FISCAL YEAR 22	FISCAL YEAR 23
EDUCATION AID	\$189,509,379	\$191,113,067	\$192,654,587
NON EDUCATION AID	\$26,825,152	\$37,674,222	\$37,674,222
TOTAL STATE AID	\$216,334,531	\$228,787,289	\$230,328,809