



The 2025 legislative session was a session of big ideas, bipartisan work, compromise, and solutions.

Connecticut is so different from Washington. Instead of drawing lines in the sand, we collaborate and have conversations with our legislative colleagues – and that can be seen in the work we do.

We focused on important issues in 2025: Electric bills, a state budget, millions in funding for Bridgeport schools, special education, early childhood and climate change all received our laser focus.

I remain filled with deep gratitude and pride to be your state representative.

All my best,



CAPITOL UPDATE 2025

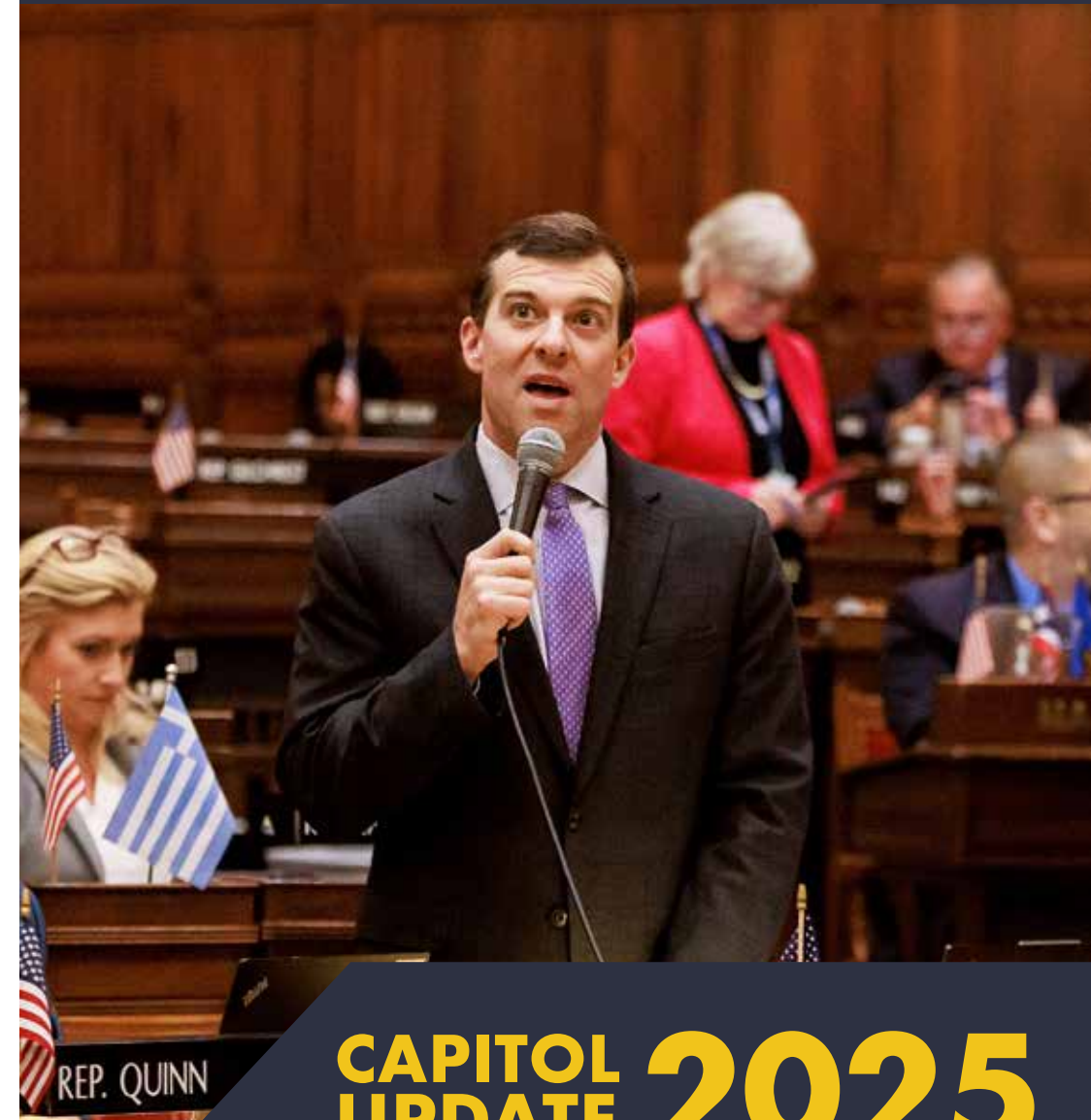
Representative Steve Stafstrom
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

NEW LAWS FOR 2025

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE STAFSTROM

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025

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WINS FOR BRIDGEPORT

- We passed a balanced two-year budget that does not raise taxes and makes the single greatest investment in children in our state’s history. Chiefly, the budget:
- Adds tens of millions of dollars for the City of Bridgeport and our schools
 - Establishes an investible trust to provide sustainable funding for new childcare programs
 - Provides historic new funding for special education
 - Improves access to better health care and nonprofit community providers

Focusing on education funding, we delivered over \$200 million in education aid to Bridgeport. But, I know more needs to be done and that special education costs are crowding Bridgeport’s school budget. After fighting for additional funds for special education services over the past few months, I’m proud to say that Bridgeport will receive approximately \$78 million in bond funding for the construction of an in-district special education program elementary school. These critical funds will be utilized to provide vital assistance and streamline services for our students, and save money for Bridgeport.

The budget also contains funding for a study of the feasibility of relocating the Bridgeport Correctional Center to a to-be-determined location that would create fewer impacts on neighborhoods.

This budget reflects our values and our deep belief that the strongest investment we can make is in the next generation. We’re delivering targeted, meaningful relief and long-term support for working families. For the first time, we’re creating a refundable tax credit of \$250 through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) framework—helping working families keep more of what they earned.

We also passed Public Act 25-90, which establishes an infrastructure district (Park City Landing) in the City of Bridgeport. This was a bipartisan bill that I was pleased to support and will lead to property improvements across the district, including what’s needed for building our soccer stadium.

A BALANCED BUDGET AND OUR SECOND-LARGEST SURPLUS IN STATE HISTORY

THANKS TO SOUND BUDGETING AND THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WE:

- Delivered Single Greatest Investment in Children in Connecticut’s History
- Made Historic Investments in Special Education

WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:

- Established an Enhanced Tax Credit for Families
- Supported Childcare Providers
- Helped Families Save For College
- Expanded Capital for Special Education Infrastructure
- Invested in Our Workforce and Residents



LEADING THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Connecticut continues to be one of the safest states in the nation, and as chair of the Judiciary Committee I’m proud to lead the way.

- Reinforcing Our Gun Laws:
- I am pleased to have led passage of Public Act 25-43, a critical firearm industry responsibility measure. This legislation provides a civil remedy for individuals harmed by the irresponsible actions of gun manufacturers, dealers, and sellers. It also closes a significant loophole in our background check laws and clarifies key language in our statutes related to the unlawful discharge of firearms.
 - This bill extends firearm permit ineligibility in Connecticut to individuals who have committed disqualifying crimes outside of the state.

Strengthening the Trust Act and Standing up for Immigrants: Amid all the hateful rhetoric from Washington, I championed Public Act 25-29, a bill that contains provisions that strengthen Connecticut’s “Trust Act” in order to protect the rights and safety of our state’s immigrant communities.

- Some of the legislation I authored and helped pass will:
- Create more stringent guidelines for the state’s Judicial Selection Commission when appointing judges (PA 25-114)
 - Prevent a bail bondsman from collecting bonds in certain sensitive areas, including medical treatment centers, schools, churches, etc. (PA 25-25)
 - Allow for state legislators to request information in order to ascertain whether or not legislation would affect a certain demographic (PA 25-27)
 - Prohibit health care providers from discriminating against people in the provision of health care services in the state (PA 25-154)
 - Deter street takeovers (PA 25-80)

CRITICAL RELIEF FOR RATEPAYERS

Public Act 25-173 marks a critical step forward in reducing electric bills, delivering Connecticut consumers nearly \$400 million in annual savings, as well as laying the groundwork for longer term reductions in public benefits charges and cuts in supply, delivery, and transmission fees.

The savings achieved in the legislation are in addition to the recent 25% reduction in the public benefits charge that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) approved in the May 2025 rate adjustment mechanism and to the 13% reduction in supply rates on July 1, 2025. I’m proud to have supported this necessary, bipartisan legislation that will bring much-needed relief to ratepayers.