

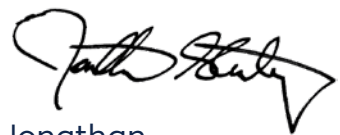
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
**JONATHAN
STEINBERG**
PROUDLY SERVING WESTPORT

Dear Neighbor,

The past year has been the most challenging of my six terms in office. The pandemic necessitated swift and comprehensive responses to so many novel circumstances. It also highlighted long-standing, institutional inequities we can no longer ignore. Despite the limitations of Zoom hearings and other accommodations to the virus, the 2021 session was highly productive, with legislation crafted to meet the current needs and adjust to a “new normal.” We legislators stepped up our game to meet the moment.

As chair of the Public Health Committee, I worked closely with the Lamont administration on pandemic response, from the early, tragic days for residents in our nursing homes right through the ongoing efforts to educate the public on the importance of getting vaccinated and following common sense distancing protocols. Not only did I advocate for equitable public health policies, such as increased access to mental health resources, I also worked to assure additional support for our seniors, schools, and small businesses. As a leading moderate Democrat, I collaborated with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education. I have fought to ensure Westport will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 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.

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.



Jonathan



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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2021**

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■ PUBLIC HEALTH

- Spearheaded bill which recognizes racism as a public health crisis; created Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (SBI)
- Reformed nursing home staffing policies, visitation and supply inventories protocols to be prepared for any future health crisis
- Continued and expanded access to Telehealth services which were critical to so many seniors, young people and those with disabilities
- Extended dental coverage for young adults through their parents' plans up to age 26
- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring manufacturer discounts to go to consumers, not the insurance companies
- Set minimum standards for long-term care insurance to protect seniors
- Increased funding to local Health Districts which played an essential role during the pandemic
- Helped our kids recover from the pandemic:
 - » Expanded youth suicide prevention training
 - » Required understanding of social emotional learning as part of teachers' professional development
 - » Addressed absenteeism in virtual learning
 - » Created more outpatient services for children

■ A GREENER CONNECTICUT

- Created stricter renewable energy standards for heat and electric utilities
- Passed the "Bottle Bill" which strengthens our endangered recycling programs
- Confirmed our commitment to a clean Long Island Sound with a comprehensive plan, balancing ecological and recreational needs
- Empowered towns to better manage stormwater runoff at the local level
- Initiated limitations on the use of the highly-dangerous, "evergreen" class of chemicals: PFAS



■ SUPPORTING FAMILIES

- Eliminated state income taxes on IRA income over time, beginning in 2023
- Strengthened cyber security and identity theft laws
- Expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit
- Enabled towns to offer seniors breaks on their property taxes
- Instituted new electric utility protections for residential consumers:
 - » Eliminated cancellation fees
 - » Required new consumer-friendly notifications
 - » Banned predatory variable rate programs

■ FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY

- Strengthened our domestic violence laws and assured immediate assistance for victims and their families
- Blocked those determined by the courts to be high-risk from having access to guns
- Continued our fight against the inhumane practice of solitary confinement
- Prohibited "pregnancy services centers" which don't provide access to contraception or abortion services from using deceptive advertising
- Banned "no knock" warrants
- Updated our laws on human sex trafficking, making it easier for victims to restart their lives
- Added Native American studies to the public school curriculum so that we acknowledge their role in our state's heritage and culture

■ PRESERVING OUR DEMOCRACY

- Put Early Voting on the statewide ballot in 2022
- Assured referendum on No-Excuse Absentee Ballots in 2024
- Guaranteed two hours off from work to vote in state and federal elections
- Enabled path to having permanent drop boxes for absentee ballots
- Protected voters' personal information

■ STILL FIGHTING - BILLS FOR NEXT SESSION

- Death with Dignity: passed the Public Health Committee after a decade of trying but blocked in the Judiciary Committee - we have momentum for next year!
- Direct Sales of EVs: Senator Haskell, dedicated Westporters and I led the way to finally pass law to enable direct sales of electric vehicles but never made it to Senate vote
- Eliminating the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products: strove to extend Tobacco 21 ban to include menthol cigarettes and flavored vaping products but scuttled in the Finance Committee