



First-ever "Newington" Day at CCSU Men's Basketball game!



Testifying with Amy Perrotti, Chair of Newington BOE, to support state grant funding of more than \$6 million to renovate John Wallace Middle School.



Congratulating the Newington Club Scouts who crossed over to join their new Troop with Newington Mayor Jon Trister!



Testifying before the Public Health Committee with Newington Town Councilor Mitch Page regarding a bill to help social workers.



Advocating for increased funding to Connecticut State Colleges and Universities to prevent tuition increases.



Joined by my wife Heather and Attorney General William Tong to celebrate Lunar New Year in New Britain!

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY TURCO**  
27th House District | Newington & New Britain



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# GARY TURCO

Dear Neighbors,

It has been a busy legislative session, and I want to update you on some key developments. First, thank you to the thousands of individuals who either filled out my legislative survey or emailed me to share their thoughts on changes to state laws. Your correspondence helped me prioritize what to advocate for this session to ensure I am best representing the 27th district.

Those priorities have included:

- Maintaining state aid to Newington and New Britain that helps support our schools, seniors, and other necessary services.
- Increasing state funding for social services and nonprofits that care for our vulnerable neighbors such as individuals with disabilities, mental health concerns or addictions, and the homeless.
- Preventing tuition increases at our state public colleges and universities and cuts to student services.
- Keeping Connecticut affordable by pushing back on electric, insurance, and housing price increases and better regulating industries to protect consumers.

I will continue to advocate in these areas and more to ensure that Newington and New Britain remain great communities.



**SIGN UP!**

[Gary.Turco@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Gary.Turco@cga.ct.gov)

[facebook.com/StateRepTurco](https://facebook.com/StateRepTurco)

[housedems.ct.gov/Turco](https://housedems.ct.gov/Turco)

860-240-8735

@StateRepTurco

## SUPPORTING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



Rep. Turco standing with Rep. Farrar welcoming Brian “Bubba” Whalen, Frank Demaio and Kent Stoddard from the Newington Board of Fire Commissioners to testify in support of HB 5281.

Our fire, police, EMS, and 9-11 dispatchers do an outstanding job keeping us safe every day. As a member of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I am constantly exploring ways to support their work through better compensation or new resources to assist in their jobs.

These several bills I am supporting make a difference in supporting our first responders and making our communities safer.

- **HB 5281 - A Personal Income Tax Deduction For Stipends Paid To Volunteer Firefighting Or Emergency Medical Services Personnel** - To allow a personal income tax deduction for a stipend paid by a municipality to a volunteer first responder.
- **SB 337 - Street Takeovers And The Illegal Use Of Certain Vehicles** - Strengthens laws to deter street takeovers by increasing penalties and supporting the enforcement of municipal and state laws against the illegal use of ATVs and dirt bikes.
- **HB 5279 - Authority To Declare That A Firefighter Or Police Officer Died In The Line Of Duty** - Allows chief to declare that a police officer or uniformed paid or volunteer firefighter died in the line of duty if the death was caused by a cardiac event, stroke, or pulmonary embolism so their family can receive benefits.
- **SB 421/422 - Law Enforcement / Firefighter Recruitment And Retention** - To provide resources such as improved compensation and incentives and to enhance recruitment and retention.

## ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Together, with my legislative colleagues we are working on several areas of legislation in a bipartisan effort that I believe will greatly benefit the communities of Newington, New Britain, and all over the state. These bills aim to make strong structural policy changes to improve services now and invest in our future.

### Seniors:

**HB 5001 - Supporting Connecticut Seniors And The Improvement Of Nursing And Home-Based Care.** Our elderly residents need support and access to resources that will provide them with the best quality of life possible.

The bill will require additional training of home care workers, create a more efficient process for accessing Medicaid, and expand the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

### Children and Families:

**HB 5002 - Early Childhood Care And Education.**

Child care plays a crucial role in nurturing the growth and well-being of our children while also strengthening the economy by supporting parents and guardians. By improving its accessibility and affordability, we are investing in our community’s future and providing relief to individuals striving to balance work and family life.

This bill maximizes our public and private investment in early childhood care and education, develops a strategic plan and funding priorities for the next ten years, and creates a pilot program that creates a partnership between employers, employees, and the state government in providing child care services.

### Protecting the Environment and Growing our Economy:

**HB 5004 - Implementation of Certain Climate Change Measures.**

Sustainability is not only the right thing to do but also the smart, economically competitive thing to do.

The legislation updates the Global Warming Solutions Act to make Connecticut’s greenhouse gas emissions targets are more in line with other states in the region and creates incentives for businesses that engage in clean economy sectors or employ environmental sustainability.



Rep. Turco reading to 2nd Grader’s at Smith Elementary; participating in Read Across America Week.

## PRIORITIZING EDUCATION

Our educational system was severely challenged by the pandemic and the consequences are still felt by our students, teachers, and staff. The state received billions in federal aid in the last few years to assist in providing additional school services. Those federal dollars have almost been completely expended, but the need is still great.

I have advocated for additional state support in numerous areas including supporting the following legislation:

**HB 5347 - State Grant Commitments For School Building Projects And Revisions To The School Building Projects Statutes** - Includes state funding to assist with the renovations of John Wallace Middle School in Newington and Smith Elementary School in New Britain.

**HB 5212 - Education Funding** - Increase state funding to municipalities to be used for public education. This includes large increases in additional aid for Newington and New Britain.

**HB 5008/HB 5510 - Funding For School Breakfast And Lunch** - Ensure every child has access to nutritious and healthy meals at no cost so they can properly concentrate and learn in the classroom and reduce stigma and bullying.

**HB 5213 - Disconnected Youth** - Improve school district data and practices to identify and support at-risk students and to establish partnerships focused on them.

**HB 5348 - Paraeducators** - Provide assistance to assist with health benefits, minimum salary requirements, and professional development.