

# REMEMBERING BILLY CIOTTO

Like many of you in Newington, I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of former State Senator Billy Ciotto, who represented Newington for over ten years.

Senator Ciotto was a mentor and trusted advisor to me and a giant in our community. I will never forget what he taught me and I will work hard to live up to his example.

All who knew him were lucky, and for those who never had the chance to meet him, you should know that he helped make our communities the great places they are today. May he rest in peace.



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## Gary Turco

27th House District | Newington



## MID-SESSION UPDATE

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Gary Turco

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and optimistic about our future.

It has been over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in Connecticut, and I know that we've lost many loved ones and made many sacrifices as a community. While we still have a long road ahead, we make progress every day by vaccinating more people, rebuilding our economy, and helping those hardest hit by this crisis.

This year's legislative session, which ends on June 9th, has been unlike any other due to the complications caused by the pandemic. Despite the challenges, I am working hard to represent your families and ensure Newington has a strong voice at the Capitol.

I want to thank the countless number of Newington residents who have contacted me during the session with their opinions and suggestions on legislation, as well as those who testified or lobbied in support of issues to help our entire community.

Please contact me if you are still having trouble scheduling your vaccine or need an advocate when dealing with a state department or an agency. My personal cell phone is 860-335-6122.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Newington at the State Capitol. I look forward to continuing our conversations as we move our state forward.

At your service,



## Anna Reynolds School Funding

Funding for over 50% of the Anna Reynolds Elementary School renovation project is making its way through the legislative process. House Bill 6617, which provides over \$20 million in funding for the project, has already passed through the Education Committee. I am advocating strongly for the funding to pass the Finance Committee and ultimately be signed into law.

These funds are vital to our community as the Anna Reynolds School is in desperate need of this renovation. The project cannot be delayed any longer.



**REPRESENTATIVE TURCO**  
ANNOUNCES THE MARCH  
**NEWINGTON**  
**COMMUNITY CHAMPION**

**JAN KRITZMAN**

Jan is a Newington resident and advocate who has fought tirelessly for legislation mandating that insurance companies cover the cost of mammograms, ultrasounds and MRI screenings for those with dense breast tissue.

## Supporting Women's Health

I am continuing efforts with Newington resident, Jan Kritzman and numerous other advocates to support additional legislation to mandate insurance coverage with no out-of-pocket cost for breast cancer detection tests such as mammograms, ultrasounds, and MRIs.

While we have made incredible progress in recent years, there's still much more work to be done. I am proud to report that House Bill 6626, which continues the effort, passed out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee and is awaiting the next stage in the legislative process.

## State Budget Update

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, which along with the Finance Committee is tasked with reviewing the state budget proposal, I am pleased to see that currently, Connecticut is on track to finish this fiscal year with a \$200+ million surplus. We also have more than \$3 billion in our rainy day fund.

We do have challenges to address, such as the long-standing debt that is being paid down, but which remains a heavy strain on our budget and limits our ability to offer additional tax relief. We also need real property tax reform and a long-term sustainable funding plan to renovate and repair our out-dated and crumbling infrastructure. However, the state has made significant reforms and is on a much better path in numerous areas, as is evident recently by Moody's Investors Services upgrading Connecticut's credit rating. This is the first credit rating increase for our state in more than twenty years. This rating upgrade is excellent news for Connecticut and sends a clear message that we are on the right track and making incredible progress.

While all of this news is encouraging, I am still very aware of the struggles that many people in our community are facing and I will continue to be vigilant as the budget process continues into the spring. My goal is to consistently improve our state government by increasing efficiencies, reducing waste, making smart investments that support our workforce and businesses, and creating new wealth and opportunities for all residents and reduce the cost of living.



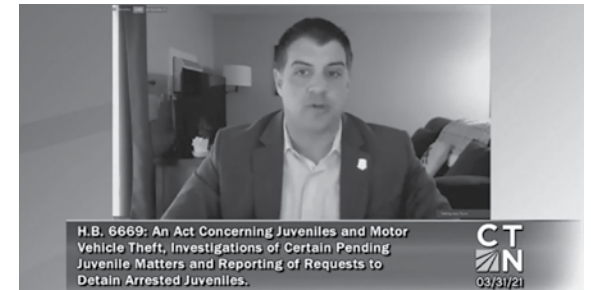
**Gary.Turco@cga.ct.gov**  
**www.housedems.ct.gov/Turco**  
**www.facebook.com/StateRepTurco**



## Veterans' Advisory Committee

One of the highest honors of serving Newington is representing the many veterans who served our nation. I've created the first Newington Veterans' Advisory Committee to gather veterans and anyone interested in helping veterans to help advise me on state policy and funding proposals.

The group has been meeting monthly. We have been fortunate to have great guests like the Adjunct General of Connecticut, Francis Evon, and the Director of the VA Medical Center, Al Montoya. Please contact me directly if you are interested in joining the conversation.



## Reducing Car Break-ins and Thefts

While car break-ins and thefts had decreased in 2019, we have experienced a large increase since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020. I am advocating for changes in laws and policies, as well as dedicated funding to mitigate the issue. By partnering with community non-profits, law enforcement, and the court system, legislation has been introduced to increase accountability and improve rehabilitation efforts. I testified in strong support of HB 6669 as an advocate for all of the victims of these crimes throughout the community. Please remember the messages from law enforcement to lock your cars and do not leave anything valuable inside as over 90% of these crimes are committed under those circumstances.