



Participating in a press conference supporting school meals legislation.



Speaking with a Newington Girl Scouts troop that was visiting the Capitol.



Joined the Asian Pacific American Coalition of Connecticut (APAC) to celebrate the Lunar New Year!



Marching in Greater Hartford's St. Patrick's Day parade with Mayor Trister and town residents.



Visiting a day program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Newington with Sen. Lesser.



Hosted office hours with Mayor Sanchez and local officials to hear directly from New Britain residents.

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



2026 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

GARY TURCO

Dear Neighbors,

It has been a busy legislative session, and I want to take a moment to share some key updates. First, thank you to everyone who completed my legislative survey or emailed me to share your thoughts on proposed changes to state laws and the budget. Your input has been invaluable in helping me focus on the issues that matter most and ensure I'm effectively representing the needs of Newington and New Britain.

Based on your feedback, my top priorities this session have included:

- Tackling Connecticut's affordability crisis by addressing rising costs for electricity, insurance, and housing, and passing additional tax relief.
- Advocating for increased state aid for Newington and New Britain to strengthen our schools, support seniors, and maintain essential town services.
- Expanding funding for social service programs that care for our most vulnerable residents, including individuals with disabilities, those facing mental health or substance use challenges, and people experiencing homelessness.
- Mitigating the impact of federal cuts on the programs Connecticut residents rely on.

I will continue to advocate in these areas and many more to ensure that Newington and New Britain are great communities in which to live, work, and retire.



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PROVIDING FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL



No child should have to learn while hungry. That is why I'm advocating for a bill that ensures every child has access to the nutrition they need to thrive. (H.B. 5144)

- Helps reduce food insecurity and improve student performance and well-being
- Provides state funding to school districts to cover the gap between federal reimbursement and the full cost of meals
- Provides free breakfast to all and free lunch to eligible students

PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM MEDICAL CREDIT CARD DEBT



I am working to protect residents from predatory lending practices that can leave families in long-term debt after receiving necessary treatment. (H.B. 5127)

- Prohibits unsolicited advertising or promoting medical credit cards in places that patients receive care.
- Bans health care institutions from receiving financial incentives from signing up patients for these financial products
- Prevents charges to medical credit cards before services are provided or without clear consent

ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Together, with my legislative colleagues we are working on several areas of legislation in a bi-partisan effort that I believe will greatly benefit the communities of Newington, New Britain, and all over the state.

H.B. 5004 – An Act Concerning Child Welfare Accountability and Transparency

- Strengthens child welfare oversight and accountability
- Supports caregivers with grants and services
- Expands training and support for DCF staff
- Increases public transparency through reporting and dashboards
- Creates new review and oversight measures to better protect children and families.

S.B. 478 – An Act Concerning Consumer Safeguards for Long-Term Care Policies and Administration of the Connecticut Partnership for Long-Term Care

- Limits excessive premium increases
- Requires insurers to offer policyholders more affordable options
- Gives the Attorney General stronger enforcement authority against violations

S.B. 3 – An Act Concerning Health Care Affordability

- Creates new tools to make health coverage more affordable by establishing a Connecticut Affordable Health Care Trust Fund
- Creates the Connecticut Option program to help eligible residents access lower-cost insurance
- Expands hospital financial assistance for uninsured and low-income patients
- Protects surviving spouses from certain medical debt
- Strengthens oversight of insurance denials and prior authorization delays.

H.B. 5134 – An Act Establishing a Refundable Child Tax Credit.

- Creates a refundable tax credit of up to \$600 per child for eligible families
- Helps offset the cost of raising children and provides immediate financial relief.

SHIELDING MINORS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA HARMS



I am fighting to ensure that social media platforms do not negatively impact the mental health and safety of our young people. (H.B. 5037)

- Limits algorithm-driven content feeds unless parental consent is obtained
- Requires daily mental health warnings about the risks of social media use for young users
- Limits the notifications minors can receive
- Establishes safer default settings, including limits on screen time and interactions with strangers

SUPPORTING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



I am dedicated to making sure both career and volunteer first responders receive the resources they deserve in honor of their service and sacrifice. (H.B. 5046)

- Expands tuition waivers at Connecticut public colleges and universities
- Establishes mortgage assistance programs to help first responders purchase homes in the communities they serve
- Establishes a \$1,000 volunteer firefighter tax credit, starting in 2027