

SCENES FROM SESSION



It was a pleasure to welcome Rev. Melanie Enfield from the Newington Church of Christ Congregational, who led our Chamber in prayer before we began our work on May 26.

As Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee, I was proud to lead the debate on HB 5895. This Bill establishes a task force to study the amount of student loan debt of students and graduates in the state in order to create an effective program that addresses this issue.



Puppy Day is always one of the highlights of the legislative session. Thank you to the CT Humane Society for all you do to help care and find forever homes for so many animals in Newington and around the state.

It was terrific to be joined by my friend and Newington resident Terri LaPenta-Duffek at a press conference in support of early voting and no excuse absentee voting in Connecticut.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Gary Turco

27th House District | Newington



SUMMER UPDATE

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Gary Turco

Dear Neighbor,

Summer is officially here and with Connecticut reopened, it is time to take advantage of all our community and state have to offer. Whether it is having a backyard barbecue with family, taking a stroll around Mill Pond Park, or heading down to the shore, I hope you have a very safe and healthy summer with your loved ones.

Now that the legislative session has ended, you will receive a mailer later this summer that outlines the numerous tax cuts, vital funding for services to support Newington, and investments to help make our state an even greater place to live. Please let me know if you have any additional ideas for state policy that may not have passed this year, and we can start preparing together for the 2022 session. Your ideas helped me pass new laws this session that will benefit people across the state.

I hope to see you around town this summer and, if possible, without a mask this time. If there is anything I can assist you with related to state government, please call me on my personal cell phone at 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,

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Congratulations to our Newington Graduates

I'd like to offer my sincere congratulations to all of our students in Newington who are graduating this year as part of the Class of 2021.

The last couple school years have not been easy, but your hard work, determination, and resilience has made our community proud. All my best to you in your future endeavors.



Summer Fun in Connecticut

What's the best way to really experience Connecticut? Zip lining through treetops? Finding your moment of zen at a luxurious spa? Or would you rather take a trip back into history, or savor New England's best seafood at a real roadside clam shack? With so many attractions and activities in our state, Connecticut offers a complete experience in a compact package. Whether you're here looking for things to do, or just to discover something new, we've got experiences perfectly designed for everyone from families to foodies. Visit CTvisit.com for summer fun ideas!

Reducing Car Break-ins and Thefts

I have previously mentioned my work on reducing car break-ins and thefts in our community. I'm pleased to report that two bills have passed that help address this critical issue.

The first is SB 1093 which:

- Makes it a crime to entice a minor into committing a crime. We've heard that some adults may be recruiting minors to steal cars for them. This law takes a clear stand against this abhorrent behavior.
- Requires the Judicial Branch to study ways to decrease time between a child's arrest and court appearance, as well as ways to reduce juvenile recidivism. In reducing juvenile crime, it is essential to make sure minors face consequences, or are given the necessary services, as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the justice system is not working quickly enough today.

We also passed HB 6505, to help provide additional tools for law enforcement to stop repeat juvenile offenders in order to keep our communities safe.

- This legislation will collect data from the Judicial Branch on all juvenile detention requests from the police and report this data to the General Assembly. This aims to improve the detention process and ensure it is working properly to keep the community safer from crime



Expanding Telehealth

Throughout the pandemic, the state issued emergency orders to expand telehealth services. This offered significant relief to our most vulnerable residents and allowed flexibility for patients and providers. Recently, I was proud to support HB 6470 to maintain this impactful access to health care services and extend access to HUSKY Health participants.



Making Voting Easier

Voting is the foundation of democracy, but Connecticut's outdated and restrictive voting laws have left too many behind. Early voting offers a safe, flexible and convenient way to vote. I was proud to vote for HJ 59, which is the first step towards a constitutional question on allowing in-person early voting appearing on the 2022 general election ballot. I was also proud to vote for HB 6205 which updates the language in existing statutes to allow voters to more easily access absentee ballots. I believe these measures will catch us up to many other states that have had these options for years.