

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**TONI WALKER**  
PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

Dear Neighbor,

These are unprecedented times. The coronavirus pandemic created numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. But throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I stayed focused and worked to address the first-of-a-kind issues as well as existing injustices by passing over 350 bills and resolutions that focused heavily on equity.

I know the past year has been uniquely difficult for each individual and family in our community, which is why the totality of legislation passed in Hartford will ultimately benefit everyone in our district. This session I advocated for equitable public health policies, increased access to mental health resources, and additional support for our seniors, schools, and small businesses. I also worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education – while providing a surplus in funds for our state. I fought and secured increased funding for New Haven in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through this budget. I am confident that these state and local investments will help our community to both recover, thrive and plan for the future as we move out of this pandemic.

Best,

Toni Walker



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**KEY STATE FUNDING FOR NEW HAVEN**

New Haven can expect to receive over \$329 million in education funding over the next two years and a \$7.3 million increase for the biennium. Additionally, the city is expected to receive over \$182 million in Tiered PILOT funds from this budget. This is a significant increase based on legislation we passed last year to fully fund the Tiered PILOT program. In total, the town can expect to receive \$279,452,701 in state aid for Fiscal Year 22 - a \$52 million increase - and \$281,838,159 for Fiscal Year 23 - a \$54 million increase.

**LEGALIZED ADULT USE CANNABIS**

After years of debate and hard-work, we crafted a comprehensive program to legalize cannabis and lift our communities, especially those that have paid the highest price for marijuana possession and use.

- Legalized the use and possession of cannabis for adults 21+
  - » Retail sales will begin around summer 2022
- Established an equity fund, criminal justice reforms, and economic opportunities to address the devastation of the War on Drugs and erased marijuana possession convictions going back 20 years. Invested in public health, prevention, and mental health and addiction services
- Created protections to limit exposure and access to children and established protections and benefits for cities like New Haven (SB 1201)

**FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS**

- Ended the practice of charging prisoners to call their families while incarcerated (PA 21-54)
- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- Put community violence prevention programs on a path to sustainable funding and growth in our state - to serve more victims of gun violence and their families (PA 21-36)
- Ended prison gerrymandering - the practice of counting prisoners as if they were registered voters when determining what districts our elected officials represent (PA 21-13)
- Restored voting rights for individuals in community facilities or on parole (SB 1202)
- Passed legislation so that voters get to decide in 2022 if we should have early, in-person voting and in 2024 you'll decide if every registered voter in CT should be able to vote by absentee ballot (RA 21-1 and RA 21-2)
- Passed groundbreaking Clean Slate legislation that will help thousands of formerly incarcerated citizens by clearing their records and paving the way for re-entry with access to good paying jobs, education, and quality housing (PA 21-32 & PA 21-33)

**SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS**

- Created New Utility Protections for Residential Customers (HB 6526)
  - » Ended cancellation fees by electric companies, created consumer-friendly notifications and banned unpredictable variable rates
- Required insurance companies to provide an explanation of what is actually covered (PA 21-22)
- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring manufacturing discounts go to the consumer and not the insurance company (PA 21-14)

**Taking Care of CT's Restaurants**

- Created a tax-free day for restaurants (SB 1202)
- Continued alcohol to-go and delivery sales by local bars and restaurants (PA 21-37)
- Cut permit costs for nonprofit and private clubs (like the Army Navy Club and VFW) (PA 21-10)
- Cut red tape and made outdoor dining a permanent option for bars and restaurants (SB 1202)

**SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES**

- Expanded worker's comp benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and health care providers who were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic (SB 660)
- Increased the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to 31% so that residents can keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets (SB 1202)
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance (SB 891)
- Increased funding for youth suicide prevention training and more outpatient services to help our children recover from the pandemic as well as passed legislation requiring social emotional learning to be part of teachers' professional development (PA 21-46)

**AID TO NEW HAVEN 2022-23**

	<b>FISCAL YEAR 22</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR 23</b>
EDUCATION AID	\$165,735,873	\$168,121,331
NON EDUCATION AID	\$113,716,828	\$113,716,828
<b>TOTAL FUNDING FOR NEW HAVEN</b>	<b>\$279,452,701</b>	<b>\$281,838,159</b>

