

Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor to serve as your state representative and work on your behalf in Hartford. I am proud to share some historic highlights from the 2022 legislative session.

Historic like more than \$650 million in tax cuts. Historic like our investment in the mental health of our children. Historic like a state budget that pays off millions in pension debt and continues our record budget reserves while investing in New Haven schools, mental health, public safety and programs that work - all while honoring the spending cap.

That's not to say we aren't facing challenges. As chair of the Appropriations Committee, it was my top priority to bring relief to our city and state as we continue to grow from the many difficulties that the pandemic has caused and to fight for our beloved community here in New Haven.

I hope you find the information enclosed in this newsletter useful. If you have any questions, please reach out and I am always happy to assist.

All my best,



INVESTING IN NEW HAVEN

I am proud to share the millions of dollars in funding I was able to bring home to New Haven. This funding will be used to:

- Invest in our local community centers
- Provide support to our homeless shelters
- Assist seniors and senior activity programs
- Provide additional money for after-school programs to engage children in positive activities
- Preserve our beautiful East Rock, West Rock and Lighthouse Parks
- Make our neighborhoods safer by funding additional police officers



Representative Toni E. Walker
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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

CAPITOL UPDATE 2022





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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TONI E. WALKER PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

CONTACT ME ANY TIME:

-  860-240-8585
-  Toni.Walker@cga.ct.gov
-  www.housedems.ct.gov/Walker
-  www.facebook.com/RepWalker



STATE REPRESENTATIVE TONIE WALKER CAPITOL UPDATE 2022

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Rising Prices
- Bolstering Reproductive Freedoms
- Increasing Funding to Local Law Enforcement to Protect our City
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES



OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

\$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✔ Creates a Child Tax Payment
- ✔ Cuts property taxes for retirees
- ✔ Cuts the car tax
- ✔ Extends the gas tax cut
- ✔ Extends free bus service
- ✔ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✔ Includes \$27,242,011 in funding for New Haven organizations



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansions of school-based health centers and the services they provide
- Created new walk-ins for mental health emergencies
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Assisted local schools in expanded mental health staff and access to care



GROWING CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMY

- Lowered the business tax rate for unemployment insurance, effectively making the federal loan repayment for the coming year on behalf of businesses
- Made direct investments in community nonprofits
- Helped community providers keep up with inflation
- Created additional student loan assistance programs

EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

- Expanded scholarships for minority teachers
- Ensured more districts will meet eligibility requirements for the federal School Breakfast Program
- Doubled grants to school districts for bilingual education
- Increased funding for infant and toddler care programs
- Increased pay to childcare workers to attract and retain more educators
- Expanded successful Birth to Three Program
- Assisted local childcare facilities with renovation costs
- Approved state tax credit for childcare
- Expanded the debt-free community college program to more first-time, part-time students

