



Dear Neighbor,

Across New Haven and communities like ours, people are working harder than ever just to keep up, and I know many are feeling anxious about what lies ahead. With rising costs, housing insecurity, and attacks on working families, this is already a difficult time. Unfortunately, recent decisions in Washington, from budget cuts to harmful policy changes, are about to make things even harder.

These federal actions will have real consequences here at home: for working families, for seniors, for our schools, and for the diverse communities that make New Haven the vibrant, resilient city it is. While I cannot change what Congress does, I can promise you this: I will continue to do everything in my power to protect the services people rely on, fight for fair opportunities, and push back against policies that harm our communities. As House Chair of the Appropriations Committee, I've worked to ensure our state budget reflects those values from funding education, housing, healthcare, and supporting programs that lift people up. But I know this is only part of the fight. I remain fully committed to standing with you, advocating for you, and using every tool I have to push back against the forces that seek to divide and diminish us. In the face of these challenges, I will not back down because our community deserves nothing less.

The following updates reflect what we were able to accomplish this legislative session. These investments and policies may not have solved every challenge, but they are meaningful steps to stabilize and strengthen our communities through these turbulent times. While we face challenges beyond Connecticut's control, I'll keep fighting to make sure New Haven families have the resources and protections they should not have to fight for.

Thank you for your trust. I am honored to serve you.

Toni Walker

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TONI E. WALKER

PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025

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STANDING UP FOR NEW HAVEN: SECURING CRITICAL INVESTMENTS FOR OUR CITY

- Secured over \$300 million in state aid for New Haven’s schools, infrastructure, and property tax relief, an increase of more than \$10 million from last year.
- Delivered over \$5 million to support New Haven’s nonprofits and community organizations.
- Increased funding for youth services and violence prevention programs.
- Protected critical funding for New Haven’s arts and cultural institutions.
- Secured state funding to support the opening of a new charter school in New Haven.
- Protected fair rent commissions to fight egregious rent hikes and keep housing more affordable.
- Strengthened enforcement against wage theft to protect vulnerable workers.
- Preserved funding for 24/7 mobile psychiatric crisis response serving New Haven residents.

DELIVERING ECONOMIC RELIEF FOR WORKING FAMILIES

While Washington fuels economic uncertainty, we focused on practical solutions to help working people make ends meet.

- Created a refundable \$250 tax credit for working families through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- Provided \$500 tax credits for home childcare providers to sustain this vital workforce.
- Made it easier for first-time homebuyers to save with new tax-free savings accounts.
- Prohibited landlords from using private data to manipulate rent prices.
- Expanded access to payment plans for unpaid traffic tickets to help prevent spirals of debt.
- Protected families from utility overcharges by capping certain infrastructure costs and removing hidden subsidies from electric bills.
- Increased rental voucher support for families in the Open Choice school program.
- Closed corporate tax loopholes to ensure big businesses pay their fair share.
- Created new tools for municipalities to offer property tax relief to homeowners.

CENTERING ON KIDS & FUTURE GENERATIONS

Connecticut continues to invest in the next generation, from early childhood through college.

- Protected access to affordable childcare and early education with long-term funding commitments.
- Provided resources to help more students access higher education through scholarships and loan forgiveness.
- Strengthened education stability for military-connected students.
- Continued efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism and increase access to mental health services for children.
- Prohibited harmful practices like handcuffing children under 14.



INVESTING IN STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

- Reduced red tape for converting vacant commercial properties to housing.
- Required developers to complete projects on time to protect communities.
- Expanded property tax exemptions for veterans and Gold Star families.
- Supported local job growth through investments in infrastructure and small business technology access.
- Created a Connecticut–Puerto Rico Trade Commission to strengthen economic ties and expand opportunities.

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION & CHILDCARE

We’ve prioritized investments in services that working people depend on, from healthcare to education to early childhood care.

- Increased Medicaid provider rates for the first time in years, helping health centers serve over 440,000 residents.
- Expanded funding for nonprofits, mental health services, and mobile crisis response.
- Established the Early Childhood Education Endowment to move toward universal childcare, capping costs for families and improving provider pay.
- Protected education funding for all school districts and provided grants for tutoring, AP fees, and attendance support.
- Ensured continued investments in special education, including new grants to help local schools serve more students closer to home.
- Improved access to interpreter services for people who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing.

