

END OF SESSION UPDATE FROM  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# KERRY WOOD

PROUDLY SERVING NEWINGTON,  
ROCKY HILL & WETHERSFIELD

CHAIR OF THE INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic has produced numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked to address these new challenges through constant communication and outreach in our districts. As a result, I am proud of the successes from this past legislative session and I want to thank you for your work in getting Connecticut to this point.

I fought to ensure Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield will see an increase in both educational and municipal funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through a responsible bipartisan budget. I am confident that these investments will help our community recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic.

I hope to see you at upcoming listening sessions, which I hold monthly throughout the district. I am your representative at the State Capitol. I am able to do my job best with input from you.

Best,



Kerry Wood



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE | CHAIR OF THE INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

## KERRY WOOD

PROUDLY SERVING NEWINGTON, ROCKY HILL & WETHERSFIELD



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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2021

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE KERRY WOOD

PROUDLY SERVING NEWINGTON, ROCKY HILL  
& WETHERSFIELD



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## END OF SESSION UPDATE FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE KERRY WOOD

### LEADING THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE

In January, I was pleased to be appointed chair of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. As chair, improving our health care system was my top priority. I was proud to lead passage of several legislative items which I have highlighted below.

- Ensured dental coverage for kids through their parents' plans, up to the age of 26 (SB 1004)
- Set minimum standards for long-term care insurance (PA 21-150)
- Continued coverage for, and access to, telehealth (HB 6470 & PA 21-9)
- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring manufacturing discounts go to the consumer and not the insurance company (PA 21-14)

### JUMPSTARTING CT'S ECONOMY

- 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)
- Created a new workforce pipeline program for individuals with disabilities (SA 21-10)
- Cut unemployment insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs (PA 21-5 & SB 1202)
- Paid down pension debt and put savings into the Rainy Day Fund

## A BUDGET THAT WORKS FOR FAMILIES

This session, we passed a budget that significantly increases state funding to Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. These increases will go a long way in funding local services and improving our schools.

- Our 2022-2023 Biennium budget:
- Rejects tax hikes on capital gains, home heating oil, and health insurance plans
  - Expands state income tax exemptions for seniors by including IRAs
  - Expands workforce training so that we can get people back to work
  - Fully funds the Medicare Savings Program and reduces copays for homecare services



## BUDGET SUMMARY

- ✔ BIPARTISAN
- ✔ NO TAX INCREASES
- ✔ TAX CUTS FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS
- ✔ \$3.5 BILLION RAINY DAY FUND
- ✔ FULLY FUNDS TOWNS
- ✔ RESTORES THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET

## SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

"Improving the quality of life for our seniors is extremely important to me. I know about the challenges and concerns that you face, and I will continue to advocate for your needs and be your champion in Hartford." – Rep. Kerry Wood

- Increased eligibility for seniors to qualify for property tax breaks (HB 6458 & PA 21-84)
- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring by loved ones for nursing home residents (PA 21-55)
- Strengthened rights for residents of long-term care facilities (PA 21-55)
- Fully funded the renters rebate program for seniors



### PUTTING CT FAMILIES FIRST

- Expanded access to affordable child care under the Care4Kids program for parents who are working on their education (PA 21-171)
- Improved Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) assessments and are working towards better statewide standards (PA 21-46)
- Ensured our kids will recover from this pandemic through expanding youth suicide prevention training, creating more outpatient services for kids and requiring social emotional learning as part of professional development for teachers (PA 21-46)