

EQUITABLE CONNECTICUT

- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- CT joined seven states in making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture and protective hairstyle (PA 21-2 "CROWN ACT")
- Legalized Adult Use of Cannabis (SB 1201)
- Diversified our juries (HB 6548)
- Erased most misdemeanor crimes after 7 years and lesser felonies after 10 (PAs 21-32&33)
- Ended the practice of charging prisoners to use the phone (PA 21-54)
- Continued our fight against the inhumane practice of solitary confinement (SB 1059) *Vetoed
- Banned no-knock warrants (SB 1093)
- Put community violence prevention programs on a path to sustainable funding and growth in our state (PA 21-36)
- Established a commission to study the impact of different racial, ethnic, gender, and socio-economic groups (HB 5614)
- Created a biennial study on how well we're actually reducing racial and economic segregation in CT (SB 1202)
- Added Native American studies to the public school curriculum (SB 1202)
- Pushed to close a loophole in the custodial interference statute that can prevent a child from having access to both custodial parents during the pendency of a child custody case (HB 5354 - Lucian's Law)
- House Democrats fought for tougher anti-discrimination protections around loans, mortgages, and other banking services (HB 6495)

GENDER EQUALITY

- Prohibited insurance companies from charging more for victims of domestic violence (HB 6590)
- Blocked individuals who a court determines as high-risk from getting their hands on a gun (PA 21-67)
- Pushed to require all state agency forms, applications, and methods of identification to be updated with a nonbinary gender option (HB 5654)
- Strengthened laws on sex trafficking, making it easier for victims to restart their lives with a clean record (HB 6657)
- Cracked down on online harassment with tougher penalties (PA 21-56)
- Modernized our breastfeeding laws by requiring employers to provide a private area with access to a refrigerator and electrical outlet and to provide mothers with some privacy while they express milk (PA 21-27).
- Required employers to provide a salary range for job openings – making sure you don't waste your time on jobs that won't pay the bills; and that your salary negotiations are based on what the job is worth, not what you've been paid in the past (PA 21-30)
- Prohibited pregnancy services centers who do not provide access to contraception or abortions from using deceptive advertising (PA 21-17)
- Improved sexual misconduct reporting, data collection, and response on CT college campuses (PA 21-81)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **DAVID MICHEL** PROUDLY SERVING STAMFORD

CAPITOL UPDATE 2021

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Dear Neighbor,

I hope you and your family are well. Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked to address long existing challenges and injustices that were emphasized by the pandemic and as a result of what happened to George Floyd.

This session, we passed over 350 bills and resolutions. Legislation was passed to help our communities and I believe it will empower everyone in our district. This session I strongly supported and worked hard on healthcare reform, environmental justice, housing reform, election reform, climate action, labor protections and additional support for our seniors, schools, and small businesses. Some of my focus was on a state single-payer healthcare system; to improve air quality in vulnerable communities and the rest of the state; to establish a right to counsel; to ban solitary confinement from our prison system; strengthening animal cruelty statutes; and more. I have fought to ensure Stamford will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through the budget.

As we work to help our communities recover from the pandemic, we now face existential issues with regards to climate change. The rising waters and increased extreme weather patterns are threatening our physical and human infrastructure, and we need to take collective, immediate action on the state and municipal levels. It is my goal to introduce germane legislation next year.

Please continue reading for more information on legislative highlights and resources developed this session that will benefit your family, our district, and our state.

Best,

David



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID MICHEL

CAPITOL UPDATE 2021



ELECTION REFORM FOR ALL OF US

- Voters will 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 (PA 21-1 and PA 21-2)
- 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)
- Guaranteed two hours off from work to vote in state and federal elections (SB 1202)
- Paved the way for permanent drop boxes for absentee ballots (SB 1202)
- Protected voters' personal information (SB 1202)
- Fought to require housing authorities to provide prospective tenants with voter registration applications (HB 6408)

A GREENER CONNECTICUT

- Fought hard for Environmental Justice; and better air quality for our most vulnerable communities (HB 6551)
- Raised bottle deposits to 10 cents, applied deposits to more products and provided more money to towns and redemption centers to ensure these products don't wind up as litter or in a landfill (PA 21-58)
- Regulated the harmful chemical "PFAS" (SB 837)
- Empowered towns to better manage storm water on the local level (HB 6441)
- Improved clean-up procedures and notifications when there's a sewage spill (PA 21-42)
- Created higher renewable energy standards for heat and electric utilities (HB 6527)
- Helped approve more anaerobic digesters on farms to address storm water runoff and food waste (PA 21-16) [Anaerobic digesters produce methane energy from organic material]



CITY BUDGET STATE AID

	FISCAL YEAR 22	FISCAL YEAR 23
EDUCATION COST SHARING	\$13,590,585	\$14,780,084
OTHER	\$5,305,411	\$9,282,197
TOTAL STATE AID	\$18,895,996	\$24,062,281

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Provided new health care coverage to 40,000 low-income residents and families (SB 1202) [regardless of immigration status (HB 6687)]
- Pushed to establish a state single-payer universal healthcare program (SB 1090)
- Continued coverage for, and access to, telehealth (HB 6470 & PA 21-9)
- Limited over-prescription of dangerous drugs and established task forces on mental health and support services (HB 6588), and improved mental health first-aid training for paramedics (SB 102)
- Prohibited pregnancy services centers who do not provide access to contraception or abortions from using deceptive advertising (PA 21-17)
- Cut the sales tax on breast feeding supplies (SB1202) and fought for better insurance coverage for breast health (HB 6226)
- The House approved lower costs, and greater access, for epi-pens (HD 6587)
- Provided better training and tools for police to respond to opioid overdoses (HB 1011)
- Expanded workers' comp benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and front-line health care providers (SB 660)
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies, supply inventories in response to COVID-19 (SB 1030)
- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring for nursing home residents (PA 21-55) and created a statewide policy on visitation (21-71)
- Increased funding to local health departments (SB 1202)
- Strengthened rights for the deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing (PA 21-72)
- Ensured more reliable tests for blood oxygen levels and prohibited insurance companies from making coverage and benefit decisions solely on these tests (SB 1008)
- Ensured our kids recover from the pandemic (21-46)

SUPPORTING WORKERS

- Provided legal representation if you're facing eviction (PA 21-34)
- Repealed the poverty tax to stop the state from taking back cash and medical assistance when individuals fight their way out of poverty (PA 21-3/SB 1202)
- Provided certain low-wage workers who were laid off during the pandemic first dibs on getting their jobs back (SB 658)
- Expanded childcare services for parents who are working on their education (HB 6558)
- Fully funded free community college for students working on their associate degrees (SB 1202)
- Provided more low-income families a break on their state income tax through the Earned Income Tax Credit (SB 1202)
- Created a new workforce pipeline program for individuals with disabilities (SA 21-10)
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance (SB 891)
- Created an Unemployed Workers' Advocate to assist out-of-work residents with accessing benefits and getting back to work
- Streamlined workforce initiatives under a new Office of Workforce Strategy and made it easier for residents to know what CT colleges they can easily get into, and what certificate programs are worth taking (SB 1202)