

## FIGHTING FOR HEALTH CARE

Our state remains a safe haven for an individual's right to choose. We set the standard in the nation on reproductive rights by bolstering and establishing protections for both those seeking abortions and those who provide such services. The new law:

- Expands **eligibility to perform abortion care** to include advanced nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants.
- **Protects medical privacy** by preventing the disclosure of medical information related to reproductive healthcare that is legal in Connecticut
- **Protects individuals from extradition** to other states for seeking, providing, or assisting others in obtaining reproductive healthcare that is legal in Connecticut (PA 22-19)

The General Assembly also expanded **health insurance coverage for Breast and Ovarian Cancer screenings** to include **mammograms, MRIs, ultrasounds, genetic testing** and requires **coverage for certain breast cancer treatment procedures** including breast biopsies, certain prophylactic mastectomies and breast reconstruction surgeries. (PA 22 - 90)

## STANDING UP FOR WORKERS

It remains a priority for me to help expand opportunities and protection for workers in Connecticut. I am proud to have advocated for new laws that:

- Allow high school graduates **to access low-interest loans for attending occupational training programs** (PA 22-41)
- Establish **student loan reimbursement programs** for in-demand health care and mental health workers (PA 22-118)
- **Expand the debt-free community college** program to more first-time, part-time students (PA 22-118)
- **Toughen the penalty for public contractors** who underpay or withhold wages and benefits, create a public registry of them, and establish a process for revoking the licenses of repeat offenders (PA 22-17)
- Expand **access to special relief funding for specific front-line workers who had to work during COVID and become ill** as a result (PA 22-118)
- Protect the rights of employees by **prohibiting employers from requiring their employees to attend meetings solely to listen to the employer's views on politics or religion** (PA 22-24)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**DAVID MICHEL**

PROUDLY SERVING STAMFORD

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**CAPITOL UPDATE 2022**

Representative David Michel  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

## CAPITOL UPDATE 2022 FROM REP. DAVID MICHEL

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

It was a fast-paced and productive session, where we had historic wins investing in children's mental health, defending reproductive rights, and delivering major tax relief for residents, as well as many other initiatives that will enhance our community and state. We upheld our commitment to creating a cleaner environment by investing in electric vehicle infrastructure and protecting endangered species and setting a goal of reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions from electricity by 2040.

As the chair of the Animal Advocacy Caucus, I am pleased to share that An Act Concerning the Tethering and Sheltering of Dogs became law this session - it requires that dogs are to be given shelter in bad weather conditions, as well as water if the dog is tethered outside.

I am honored to serve as your state representative. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you need assistance in anyway or if you would like to discuss the issues that matter to you.

Best,

*D. Michel*



- 860-240-8585
- David.Michele@ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Michel
- facebook.com/RepDavidMichel



## MAKING CT MORE EQUITABLE

One of my top priorities is to see that we pass laws in Connecticut that make our state more just and equitable. The legislature passed legislation to:

- Require the teaching of Asian American and Pacific Islander studies in public schools (PA 22-80)
- Establish June 19th as Juneteenth Independence Day. This new state holiday will forever celebrate the independence of African Americans freed from slavery (PA 22-128)
- Require the state to assess and address student food insecurity at the state's public colleges and universities (PA 22-101)
- Allow for a permanent option for having remote public meetings to help residents more easily access their elected officials (PA 22-3)
- Establish a framework to control personal data, including the right to access, correct, delete and obtain a copy of personal data (PA 22-15)

## MIDDLE & WORKING CLASS RELIEF

Our state budget provides **\$650 million** in tax relief for residents throughout our state. Some of the highlights of the state budget:

- Increases **the property tax credit from \$200 to \$300 and expands eligibility to all homeowners**
- Eliminates **the pension and annuity income taxes for a majority of retirees**
- Establishes a **CT Child Tax Credit** which provides middle and working class families with **\$250 per child, for up to 3 children**. Apply at <https://egov.ct.gov/drschildrebateform> by July 31, 2022
- Extends **the 25 cent gas tax suspension until December 1, 2022**
- Eliminates **the sales and use tax for private water company customers** (PA 22-118)

## STATE MONEY FOR STAMFORD

### TOWN AID

2022 ..... \$12,240,900  
2023 ..... \$12,386,845

### EDUCATION FUNDING

2022 ..... \$15,066,128  
2023 ..... \$16,281,159

In addition to the **significant state funding for town aid and education funding**, Stamford is receiving **\$6.77 million in state bond money**. This funding will be **critical in enhancing recreational and enrichment opportunities** for our youngest residents and families to grow and thrive. All these projects will add to our **community's vibrancy and safety**:

- **\$2.5 million for the Stamford Housing Development Fund**
- **\$2 million for Stamford High School to upgrade and add to its sports fields**
- **\$1 million for Terry Conners Ice Rink improvements.**
- **\$950,000 for the Palace Theatre**
- **\$250,000 for Toquam Magnet Elementary School for the construction of a kindergarten playscape**
- **\$70,000 for the Boys and Girls Club for security fencing around Yerwood Center**



## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

**Children's behavioral health needs have increased in severity**, believed to have been worsened by the pandemic. Although schools have reopened for in-person learning, our students are still grappling with the social and emotional consequences. The General Assembly has passed **House Bill 5001** and **Senate Bill 2** to **build a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable behavioral health system** which:

- Expand **Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS)** to hire and train personnel to extend the geographic reach and hours of operation
- Make **Connecticut home to more doctors and providers** by appropriating funds to expand staffing for children needing mental health care
- Support **more school-based care** by establishing a grant program for mental health services for children and adolescents
- Address **the need for expanded inpatient services** for children by increasing the number of available beds in hospitals
- Institute **the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Hotline**

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is real. To **cut our carbon footprint**, increase our reliance on **clean energy sources**, and **protect the health of residents**, the General Assembly enacted policies to help achieve a cleaner environment for all residents, which:

- Set a goal of **reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions** from electricity supplied to you by 2040 (PA 22-5)
- Expand financing to **develop zero emission vehicle infrastructure**, build more solar power and fuel cells, and reinforce our electric grid against the effects of climate change (PA 22-6 & PA 22-14)
- Support **developing carbon-neutral plans for new transportation projects** (PA 22-118)
- Establish the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species, expand **sophisticated testing of shellfish**, invest in **repopulating native salmon and eel populations** (PA 22-118)
- Make it easier for **renters and condo owners to install electric chargers** (PA 22-25)
- Exempt **electric charging stations from property tax assessments** (PA 22-25)
- Incentivize school districts to **use electric school buses** (PA 22-25)