



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This year we chose not to reopen the budget, and instead redistributed federal dollars, took up policy measures that make existing programs work more effectively, and used surplus dollars to pay down debt.

Our budget decision was driven by a proposed executive budget with cuts and severe enforcement of 'guardrails' imposed in 2017. So, we kept higher ed going, added modest dollars to some nonprofits, and focused on policy. If you'd like more information on 'guardrails', please reach out.

To do: First, the problem of 'nips' remains. Nips cannot currently be recycled. New Haven sold more than any other city. In addition to clutter, they may harm our wildlife, our soil, and our water as they degrade. Second to do is the issue of housing measures like transit-oriented development that didn't make it.

I was reminded again how many good people keep our community going. We are blessed.

Thank you!

FUNDING INCREASES TO NEW HAVEN

	FY 2024	FY 2025
CITY FUNDING	\$132,057,536	\$133,159,018 (+\$1,101,482)
EDUCATION FUNDING	\$165,306,789	\$169,238,796 (+\$3,932,007)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAT DILLON

PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



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AGING IN PLACE

Beginning January 1, 2025, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is required to maintain a home care provider registry for people receiving Medicaid home- and community-based services in order to help connect them with qualified home care providers that meet certain criteria (e.g., language proficiency) and “age in place” at home. The legislation also requires home care workers to wear an identification badge with their name and picture during client appointments. (PA 24-39)



PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY & BIOSCIENCE

- Allowed telehealth to continue for in-state and out-of-state residents without letting the practice sunset (PA 24-110)
- Putting patients first: (PA 24-19)
- Allowed pharmacists to give opioid disposal systems when dispensing opioids
- Banned paperwork and payment requirements for receiving critical ambulance rides

MEDICAID COVERAGE OF BIOMARKER TESTING

Biomarker testing is a step towards more personalized medicine, and this year we expanded it to those on Medicaid. The bill's coverage requirements apply to the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for biomarkers. This can benefit oncology patients and we hope those with ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other conditions. (PA 24-59)



PRESERVING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

- Added federal dollars to offset draconian cuts
- Expanded employer-based student loan repayment tax credits and reduced rates for state-backed loans for in-demand occupations (PA 24-52)
- Modified the automatic admissions program so students will be automatically admitted to certain public and private universities based on GPA, not class rank (PA 24-47)

IN THE NEWS

- Celebrated Three Kings Day at Casa Otonal
- Spoke with medical residents at Yale; we discussed the legislative process and physician advocacy
- Spoke on a panel at African American Women's Summit at Q House
- Attended the Latino Legislative Summit
- Spoke at National Pizza Day at Ernie's
- Celebrated Hon. Constance Baker Motley stamp at Q House
- Spoke at groundbreaking for West River housing
- Attended the bill signing for Paid Sick Days law
- Hosted 100 Black Women forum at the state capitol
- Walked the picket line at UNH
- Tossed lettuce at opening day of Edgewood Market



YOUTH PROGRAMS

- \$1 million funded for Youth at Work program
- \$10.9 million for youth violence intervention programming

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

“Disconnected youth” are people ages 14-26 who are neither employed nor enrolled in school. This year we required the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network (P20 WIN) to develop a plan to establish a statewide data intermediary to build and maintain the infrastructure needed to share data among nonprofit organizations serving disconnected youth.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLEAN ENERGY

Environmental Justice:

This year we clarified New Haven's status as an environmental justice community by extending our classification as distressed for five years. We had been denied some benefits such as a solar program due to bureaucratic confusion. This is a win for now, but City Hall and advocates will have to monitor this to make sure the state follows the law and includes New Haven on its maps.

PFAS:

We further extended bans on products containing PFAS beyond firefighting foam to include several consumer products. (PA 24-59)

Clean Energy - Solar:

Expedited permitting for solar canopies and lifted caps on new solar production (PA 24-31)



HEALTHY BABIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Good nutrition is critical for pregnant women and growing children, but during the pandemic, WIC and farmers' market participation dropped. A later study revealed that only 46.2% of those eligible for WIC benefits in Connecticut were enrolled. SNAP, which serves a larger population, is also under enrolled.

Child and Family Nutrition, which I co-sponsored, will improve coordination across state agencies and streamline access to programs, encouraging farmers' markets to participate in these programs. Also provides local markets with scanners to make it easier for local vendors to accept nutrition vouchers (PA 24-82)

EMPLOYEE SAFETY AND HEALTH

Sick Days:

We expanded the state's Paid Sick Leave law by covering more private sector employees, and phasing in coverage of private sector employers from 2025 to 2027. (PA 24-8)

Health Worker and Patient Safety:

This year we addressed the safety of health care workers, particularly those employed by home health care and home health aide agencies. Agencies will collect certain information about clients and the service location during intake and provide it to the employees assigned to the client. A two-year grant program will help home health agencies provide safety escorts and purchase technology for staff safety checks. (PA 24-19)