

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE **TAMMY EXUM**

PROUDLY SERVING  
WEST HARTFORD, AVON, AND FARMINGTON

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 and the existing injustices by passing over 350 bills and resolutions.

I know the past year has been difficult for individuals and families in our community, and I believe the legislation passed in Hartford will empower us throughout our district. This session I advocated for equitable public health policies, increased access to mental health resources, and additional support for our seniors, schools, and small businesses. I also worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education. I've worked hard and advocated to ensure West Hartford, Avon, and Farmington will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through this budget. I am confident that these state investments will help our community recover and thrive as we move through this pandemic.

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

Best,



Tammy Rush Exum



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PROUDLY SERVING  
WEST HARTFORD, AVON, AND FARMINGTON

**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2021**



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## CREATING EQUITY

- Addressed age discrimination in the workplace – limited the need for your age and other dates on job applications (PA 21-69)
- Joined seven states in making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture and protective hairstyle (PA 21-2 “CROWN ACT”)
- Modernized our breastfeeding laws and cut the sales tax on breastfeeding supplies (PA 21-27 and SB 1202)
- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- Prohibited insurance companies from charging more for victims of domestic violence (HB 6590)
- Created a new workforce pipeline program for individuals with disabilities (SA 21-10)
- Strengthened the rights of families who are not biologically related and for parents who have children through the assistance of donors (PA 21-15)



## RESPONDING TO COVID-19

- Cut unemployment insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs and paying directly into the fund (PA 21-5 & SB 1202)
- Ensured towns can continue to hold virtual meetings into 2022 and cut red tape to make outdoor dining a permanent option for our local bars and restaurants (SB 1202)
- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring for nursing home residents (PA 21-55) and created a statewide policy on visitation (21-71)
- Continued coverage for, and access to, telehealth (HB 6470 & PA 21-9)
- Increased funding to local health departments (SB 1202)

## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK FOR ALL

- 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 (RA 21-1 and RA 21-2)
- 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)
- Restored voting rights for individuals in community facilities or on parole (SB 1202)

## DISTRICT BUDGET SUMMARY

|  | FY 22               | FY 23               |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| LoCIP<br>(Local Capital Improvement Project) | \$679,330           | \$679,330           |
| Town Aid Road                                | \$1,373,862         | \$1,373,862         |
| Grants For Municipal Projects                | \$1,613,030         | \$1,613,030         |
| Education Cost Sharing                       | \$23,307,981        | \$23,673,243        |
| <b>Total State Funds To Town</b>             | <b>\$31,033,847</b> | <b>\$33,648,987</b> |



## SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

- Fully funded free community college – meaning students can work on their associate degree without having to pay tuition out of pocket (SB 1202)
- Provided more low-income families a break on their state income tax through the Earned Income Tax Credit (SB 1202)
- Strengthened domestic violence laws by allowing victims subject to coercive control by a family or household member to be eligible for civil restraining orders (PA 21-78)
- Eliminated state income taxes on IRA income over time, beginning in the 2023 tax year (SB 1202)
- Put community violence prevention programs on a path to sustainable funding and growth in our state – to serve more victims of gun violence and their families (PA 21-36)
- Raised awareness of child sex abuse (PA 21-64) and required comprehensive background checks for athletic leagues and youth camps (HB 6417)
- Ensured our kids recover from this pandemic by requiring social emotional learning as part of professional development for teachers, expanding youth suicide prevention training, creating more outpatient services for kids, and ending lunch shaming when kids fall behind in paying for their school lunches (PA 21-46)