

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KATE FARRAR**  
END OF SESSION UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic produced numerous challenges and exacerbated existing inequities throughout our community and state. During the 2021 session, my colleagues and I addressed these issues and injustices with the passage of over 350 bills and resolutions.

I know the past year has been difficult for each individual and family in our community. As my first legislative session, I advocated for policies that support a fair economic recovery, affordable and accessible health care, racial equity, as well as ways to lift up our own local businesses and seniors. I also worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will provide tax relief to working families while investing in our infrastructure, nonprofits, and our future workforce. I fought to ensure West Hartford will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 in this budget. I am confident that these state investments will help our community recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic.

Please continue reading below about several legislative highlights that will benefit your family, our district, and our state. As always, if I can be of assistance to you and your family, please reach out to me at 860-240-8585 or email me at Kate.Farrar@cga.ct.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state representative.

Sincerely,



Kate Farrar

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KATE FARRAR**  
PROUDLY SERVING WEST HARTFORD



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UPDATE 2021**

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PROUDLY SERVING WEST HARTFORD



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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**KATE FARRAR**

### AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE

- **Getting Connecticut Covered:** We passed a state budget that establishes the “Covered Connecticut” initiative to provide health insurance to 40,000 additional low-income expectant mothers and families.
- **Making Health Care a Human Right:** Access to healthcare is a right that should not be defined by immigration status. I championed a bill that was passed to expand HUSKY healthcare coverage, regardless of immigration status, to children 8 and under, pregnant women, and women who have just given birth.
- **Preserving Access to Telehealth:** Throughout the pandemic, we’ve seen not only the benefits but the critical need for telehealth services for both patients and providers. I voted to extend this safe and comprehensive access to healthcare.

### ADVANCING EQUITY

- **Ending Hair Discrimination:** CT joined seven states in making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture and protective hairstyle.
- **Giving Formerly Incarcerated Persons a Path Forward:** Even after someone has repaid their debt to society, they are left with a criminal record that carries a lasting impact making it harder to find a job, secure housing, go to school, or even obtain a license. To give people the clean slate needed to move on with their lives, we passed legislation that allows for automatic erasure and anti-discrimination for certain low-level crimes.
- **Creating a More Representative State Government:** Our democracy is stronger when it reflects the people, which is why I introduced and passed a bill to grow more diverse representation on our state boards and commissions.

### BUILDING A FAIR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- **Tax Relief for Working Families:** The state budget I voted for will help low-income families recover from the ongoing pandemic by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit. It also eliminates state income taxes on IRA income over time starting in 2023 and creates the Child Care Tax Credit for working families.
- **Helping Business and Workers:** The state budget also cuts unemployment insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs. Additionally, we enacted a bill that provides certain low-wage workers who were laid off during the pandemic priority in getting their jobs back.
- **Supporting Women in the Workforce:** We passed legislation to close the gender wage gap by requiring salary range transparency for vacant positions. We also developed more affordable childcare options – an essential need for working women – by providing a childcare subsidy for parents in job training and education programs and increased financial support for low-income parents.



TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY		
	LAST YEAR	MOVING FORWARD
Property Tax Grants	\$899,435	\$1,567,745
Money For Our Schools	\$21,880,498	\$22,245,760
<b>ADDITIONAL FUNDING:</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	
Senior Jobs Bank	\$20,000	
Playhouse on Park	\$30,000	

## LIFTING UP OUR COMMUNITY

### EXPANDING FOOD SECURITY



I worked with our town of West Hartford and Foodshare to launch a new mobile food distribution site in the 20th district. The mobile site distributes fresh food for those in need every other Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Faxon Branch Library.

### SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS



I proudly introduced and passed legislation to make the food truck health permitting process easier and more cost effective. This will help our local food truck park Gastropark on New Park Avenue continue to thrive and support these mobile entrepreneurs across the state.

### BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS



The best ideas for legislation come from residents just like you. I worked with 20th district resident Jason Chang and Senator Derek Slap to pass a bill that builds a model curriculum for K-8th grade to be inclusive of Asian American Pacific Islander studies, Native American studies, and LGBTQIA studies.

### BRINGING CRITICAL FUNDING TO ELMWOOD



I, along with my fellow West Hartford legislators, successfully advocated for \$2.5 million of state funds to acquire the St. Brigid campus property for a future Elmwood Community Center. This is a once-in-a generation opportunity for our vibrant and diverse community.

To stay in the loop on what I am doing in our community, sign up for my email updates at [www.housedems.ct.gov/Farrar](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Farrar).