

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAIME FOSTER

Dear Neighbor,

I'm honored to serve as your state representative, and I thank you for all the sacrifices you made this year to flatten the curve. I know the past year and a half has brought each of you different challenges. Together, we are making it through.

Session was a busy one as we finalized over 350 bills and resolutions. My areas of focus included advocating for seniors and children in our district, promoting public health, fighting for farmers, and bringing much needed relief to our neighbors with crumbling foundations.

I want to thank everyone who reached out to me over the session with your concerns and opinions about legislation. I listened to your concerns, and that helped me frame my approach to debate on the floor. If you have questions on any of these items, or I can be of help to you, please reach out anytime.

Respectfully,



Jaime S. Foster, PhD, RD



Rep. Foster recognized the Ellington Farmers Market for matching the most SNAP dollars of any suburban market.



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JAIIME FOSTER
PROUDLY SERVING EAST WINDSOR & ELLINGTON

CAPITOL UPDATE 2021



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SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH

- Increased privileges for Physician Assistants (PAs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to give home health orders, which is important because many PAs and APRNs are primary care providers (PA 21-185)
- Extended telehealth options for two years (PA 21-133)
- Required a study of the disparate impact of COVID-19 (SA 21-37)
- Expanded newborn baby screenings (PA 21-121)
- Expanded the organizations that provide mental health first aid (PA 21-134)
- Created pilot programs to prevent and combat community opioid addiction (PA 21-108)

STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

- Expanded municipal options for property tax abatements for seniors (PA 21-84)
- Expanded the senior farmers market vouchers which now can be used to purchase eggs, in addition to fruits and vegetables (PA 21-155)
- Required background checks at homemaker-companion agencies (PA 21-37)
- Strengthened rights for residents of long-term care facilities (PA 21-55)

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

- Required low-carbon heating oil blend to be used in the state (PA 21-181)
- Raised Virtual Net Metering cap and created a study of solar energy storage goals (PA 21-80)
- Banned auto-renewed contracts from third party electrical utilities to protect consumers from expensive hidden price hikes (PA 21-117)

BUDGET 2022-2023

I successfully fought to secure more state funding for our schools, small businesses, roads, and non-profits. These additional state funds, along with federal funds coming from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), will help our towns balance local budgets and hold the line on property taxes.

- Maintained historic Rainy-Day Fund (\$3.5 billion)
- Paid down legacy pension debt
- Provided tax breaks for seniors through the Earned Income Tax Credit
- Supported non-profits
- Defeated the “mansion tax”
- Rejected tax hikes on gasoline and insurance policies



CRUMBLING FOUNDATIONS

As **co-chair** of the bipartisan Crumbling Foundation Caucus, I am proud to have worked to secure an additional **\$100,000,000** in state bonding, pass legislation to eliminate the expiration date of the Connecticut Foundation Solutions Indemnity Company to assist property owners with crumbling foundations and study crumbling foundations in non-residential buildings.

CHAMPIONING AGRICULTURE

- Accelerated permitting for more anaerobic digesters on farms that address storm water runoff and food waste (PA 21-16)
- Prevented increased trucking fees and transportation costs for dairy farms (PA 21-177)
- Directed more money to farmers markets (PA 21-2)

NO TAX INCREASES & NEW TAX RELIEF

	FISCAL YEAR 22	FISCAL YEAR 23
EAST WINDSOR	\$ 6,887,387	\$ 6,888,067
ELLINGTON	\$ 10,650,767	\$ 10,736,607

These totals include all state funds paid directly to the town or school district.

I secured **\$1.2 million** in funding for East Windsor including \$560,000 for the park improvement projects and \$750,000 for the Chestnut Brook Culvert Replacement Project.

FIGHTING FOR OUR CHILDREN

- Improved child safety through background check requirements at camps and with coaches (PA 21-82)
- Established numerous children's mental health initiatives including a youth suicide prevention program and a collection of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) data (PA 21-46)
- Eliminated fees for children and families in the Birth to 3 system (PA 21-172)
- Allowed children, stepchildren and other dependent children to retain dental and vision insurance coverage under their parents' insurance policies until they attain the age of 26 or obtain substitute coverage through an employer (PA 21-149)

OTHER IMPORTANT INITIATIVES

- Strengthened contracting standards for home improvements (PA 21-37, PA 21-197)
- Explained in statute the definition of coercive control for victims and survivors of domestic violence (PA 21-78)
- Prohibited the use of PFAS in food packaging and firefighter foam (PA 21-191)
- Strengthened our laws on cyber-security and identity and data theft (PA 21-59 & PA 21-119)
- Created a workforce development pipeline for those with disabilities. (SA 21-10)
- Expanded the data privacy breach notification statute to protect consumers (PA 21-119)
- Cracked down on online harassment with tougher penalties (PA 21-56)
- Expanded options for tax exemptions for municipal volunteers such as fire and ambulance personnel (PA 21-83)

