



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

During this legislative session, I was proud to champion legislation that strengthened protections and opportunities for healthcare workers, educators, tradespeople, veterans, first responders, small businesses, and working families.

We passed legislation to lower public benefits charges on electric bills and overhauled Connecticut's outdated net metering program, allowing residents to keep and use more of the energy they produce instead of selling it back to the grid. We also secured additional education, municipal, and community funding to help reduce pressure on local property taxes.

I also worked to deliver meaningful investments for Plainville, Farmington, and Southington, including funding for schools, public safety, healthcare, workforce development, and local community projects.

This newsletter highlights some of the legislation we passed and the investments we delivered during the 2026 legislative session.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. As always, if my office can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Rep. Rebecca Martinez

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Secured over \$5.4 million in education funding and municipal aid for Plainville, Farmington, and Southington, helping reduce pressure on local property taxpayers.
- Increased the state's reimbursement for the Plainville Middle School project, saving local taxpayers approximately \$6.1 million.
- Delivered \$800,000 for a new fire apparatus for the Plainville Fire Department.
- Secured \$80,000 for the Plainville High School Trade Academy.
- Supported \$50,000 to restore Southington's Veterans Memorial.
- Secured a \$20 million investment through the UConn 2000 Program to recruit top researchers, expand medical and scientific research, create jobs, and drive innovation in Connecticut.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
REBECCA MARTINEZ

PROUDLY SERVING PLAINVILLE, SOUTHTON, FARMINGTON

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

Representative Rebecca Martinez
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL UPDATE 2026



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
REBECCA MARTINEZ
PROUDLY SERVING PLAINVILLE, SOUTHTON, FARMINGTON

- 📞 860-240-8585
- ✉ Rebecca.Martinez@cga.ct.gov
- 🌐 housedems.ct.gov/Martinez
- 📘 facebook.com/StateRepMartinez



CREATING A MORE AFFORDABLE CONNECTICUT

- Free school breakfasts for all Connecticut students.
- Expanded Sales Tax-Free Week by making basic school supplies tax-free and including clothing, shoes, and backpacks under \$300.
- Passed legislation that helped lower public benefits charges on electric bills.
- Modernized Connecticut's net metering program, allowing residents with solar to keep and use more of the energy they produce.
- Created a Family Caregiver Tax Credit for residents caring for a loved one.
- Required the state to review and negotiate lower prescription drug prices.
- Approved new technology to help towns conduct property assessments, saving municipalities time and money.
- Invested \$300 million in the Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund to expand access to free and affordable childcare.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

- Banned surveillance pricing by large retailers and delivery apps.
- Required used car warranties to last longer and cover more repairs.
- Cracked down on digital ticket scalping and increased price transparency.
- Required car dealerships to advertise the full purchase price, including conveyance fees.

SUPPORTING CT'S WORKFORCE

Education

- Started the Connecticut Graduate Loan Program to help aspiring nurses, teachers, and social workers.
- Prevented colleges and universities from reducing financial aid when students receive scholarships or federal grants.
- Created a tuition assistance program for in-state first responders.

Workforce Development

- Made it easier for towns to create retention-based retirement plans for their employees.
- Established an externship program for technical high school teachers to gain hands-on industry experience.
- Created a State Workforce Navigator to coordinate workforce needs among state agencies, the private sector, and adult education programs.
- Established statewide training programs for certified nursing assistants.

Workforce Protections

- Laid the groundwork for giving visiting nurses the info they need when they're treating patients with a history of violence.
- Helped paraeducators who are laid off over the summer to collect unemployment.
- Made sure subcontractors get paid when work is completed by increasing the responsibility of contractors who originally take on the work.



As Founder and Co-Chair of the newly formed Blue Collar Caucus, Rep. Martinez speaks in support HB 5003, a workforce development and protection bill.



Members of the Blue Collar Caucus celebrate the passage of HB 5003

INVESTING IN SMALL BUSINESSES

- Helped small businesses offer healthcare by creating a tax credit for employers who contribute toward employees' individual health insurance.
- Supported small businesses and biotech companies through a new research and development tax credit to encourage growth and job creation.
- Designated a state official to work directly with, and assist, small and mid-sized businesses.
- Started the Connecticut AI Academy, providing free online courses and AI best practices for businesses and residents.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

- Created a dental care program providing eligible veterans with up to \$3,000 annually.
- Provided free Connecticut transit bus passes for eligible veterans.
- Waived fees for veterans' driver's licenses and identification cards and extended vehicle registration deadlines for veterans relocating to Connecticut.
- Strengthened protections against scammers falsely claiming to be accredited veterans' claims agents or attorneys.

KEEPING OUR ROADS SAFE

- Clarified Connecticut's distracted driving law to address modern technology.
- Increased penalties for driving offenses in work zones.
- Clarified legal muffler and exhaust requirements.
- Required Uber and Lyft to strengthen rider and driver safety measures, including more frequent criminal background checks.