

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEPHEN MESKERS
PROUDLY SERVING THE TOWN OF GREENWICH

Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic has produced numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked to address the challenges by passing over 350 bills and resolutions.

I know the past year has been difficult for everyone in our community, and I believe the measures passed in Hartford will empower us to move forward with renewed energy and optimism. 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 have fought to ensure Greenwich will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through this budget. I am confident that these state investments will see our community recover and thrive.

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

Best,



Rep. Stephen Meskers



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CAPITOL UPDATE 2021



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN MESKERS

A VOICE FOR THE CONSUMER

- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring manufacturing discounts go to the consumer and not the insurance company
- Strengthened contracting standards for home improvements
- Allowed for gym membership cancellation via email
- Required most businesses to accept cash
- Required more companies to protect your personal data and kept genetic test results out of the hands of insurance companies
- Protected organ donors from higher insurance costs
- Required insurance companies to provide an explanation of what is actually covered
- Banned insurance companies from denying travel insurance if a relative or companion dies by suicide
- Strengthened our laws on cyber security and identity and data theft
- Banned the charging of extra graduation fees at CT colleges and universities
- Obtained low-income residents and towns representation on the state's energy conservation board
- New Utility Protections for Residential Customers:
 - No more cancellation fees by electric companies
 - Consumer-friendly notifications
 - Banned unpredictable variable rates



A GREENER CT

- Required more biodiesel in home heating oil and greater transparency for consumers
- Created a competitive program for fuel cell projects that favors CT-made equipment and will redevelop brownfields and landfills
- Created higher renewable energy standards for heat and electric utilities
- Helped approve more anaerobic digesters on farms to address storm water runoff and food waste
- Balanced ecological and recreational needs while updating our plan for Long Island Sound
- Raised bottle deposits to 10 cents, applied deposits to more products and provided more money to towns and redemption centers to ensure these products don't wind up as litter or in a landfill
- Regulated the harmful chemical "PFAS"
- Improved clean-up procedures and notifications when there is a sewage spill
- Empowered towns to better manage storm water on the local level

THE FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- Strengthened our domestic violence laws and ensured immediate cash assistance for victims and their families
- Blocked individuals determined by a court to be high-risk gun owners
- Strengthened laws on sex trafficking
- Cracked down on online harassment
- Modernized our breastfeeding laws
- Prohibited insurance companies from charging more for victims of domestic violence
- Repealed an old law on the books that kept adoptees born before 1983 from getting a copy of their original birth certificate
- Required employers to provide salary ranges for job openings
- Prohibited pregnancy services centers that do not provide access to contraception or abortions from using deceptive advertising
- Improved sexual misconduct reporting, data collection, and response on CT college campuses
- Ensured domestic workers get upfront info on the terms of their employment and established a new education and training program
- Cut the sales tax on breast feeding supplies



GROWING CT'S ECONOMY

Taking Care of CT's Restaurants:

- Created a tax-free day for restaurants
- Continued alcohol to-go and delivery sales by local bars and restaurants
- Approved self-pour beer and wine machines at CT bars
- Cut permit costs for nonprofit and private clubs
- Cut red tape and made outdoor dining a permanent option for bars and restaurants

Leading the country with Equitable Broadband:

- Assessment of state-wide access to the Web
- Grants to cities and towns for broadband projects
- State-level industry regulation
- Required internet providers to cover part of the state's costs
- Expanding the hemp industry in CT through licensed medical marijuana providers
- Fair reimbursements to mom and pop outdoor equipment dealers that perform warranty maintenance
- Allowed 16-year-olds to be eligible for more jobs at CT amusement parks
- Centralized state GIS mapping (the zoning and geographic maps of our towns) to help development, local government, and planning
- House Democrats fought to expand the Small Business Express Program to help more local businesses grow and expand minority, women, veteran, and disabled-owned businesses