

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **MANNY SANCHEZ**

PROUDLY SERVING NEW BRITAIN/NEWINGTON

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 each individual and family in our community, and I believe the legislation passed in Hartford will empower everyone in 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 have fought to ensure New Britain and Newington 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 as we move out of this pandemic.

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,



Manny Sanchez

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MANNY SANCHEZ
PROUDLY SERVING NEW BRITAIN/NEWINGTON



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NEW BRITAIN/NEWINGTON

CAPITOL UPDATE 2021



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE MANNY SANCHEZ

PUTTING WORKING AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES FIRST

- Provided new health care coverage to 40,000 low-income residents and families (SB 1202) [regardless of immigration status (HB 6687)]
- House Democrats fought for voter registration and unbiased voter info for public housing tenants (HB 6408)
- Provided legal representation if you're facing eviction (PA 21-34)
- Strengthened the rights of families who are not biologically related and for parents who have children through the assistance of donors (PA 21-15)
- Increased protections on homes, cars, and bank accounts when someone falls into debt (HB 6466 & HB 6372)
- House Democrats fought for tougher anti-discrimination protections around loans, mortgages, and other banking services (HB 6495)
- Better rates on student loans for teachers in Alliance Districts (HB 5610)
- House Democrats fought to create a tax-free savings account for first-time homebuyers (HB 5027)
- Created a new workforce pipeline program for individuals with disabilities (SA 21-10)
- Expanded childcare services for parents who are working on their education (HB 6558)
- Fully funded free community college – meaning students can work on their associate degree without having to pay tuition out of pocket (SB 1202)
- Waived application fees to apply to CT colleges and universities on a special day each year (SB 1202)
- Provided more low-income families a break on their state income tax through the Earned Income Tax Credit (SB 1202)
- Eliminated state income taxes on IRA income over time, beginning in the 2023 tax year (SB 1202)



STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

- Required background checks at homemaker-companion agencies (PA 21-37)
- Created automated prescription and syringe dispensers at licensed facilities (SB 895)
- Allowed towns to offer more seniors a break on their property taxes (HB 6458 & PA 21-84)
- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring by loved ones for nursing home residents (PA 21-55)
- Strengthened rights for residents of long-term care facilities (PA 21-55)
- Fought age discrimination in the workplace – limited the need for your age and other dates on job applications (PA 21-69)
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies and supply inventories in response to COVID-19 (SB 1030)

A VOICE FOR THE CONSUMER

- Strengthened contracting standards for home improvements (PA 21-37, SB 266)
- Required insurance companies to provide an explanation of what is actually covered (PA 21-22)
- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring manufacturing discounts go to the consumer and not the insurance company (PA 21-14)
- Strengthened our laws on cyber security and Identity and data theft (PA 21-59, HB 6607)
- Banned the charging of extra graduation fees at CT colleges and universities (HB 6402)

New Utility Protections for Residential Customers (HB 6526)

- No more cancellation fees by electric companies
- Consumer-friendly notifications
- Banned unpredictable variable rates

TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY 22	FY 23
Education cost sharing	\$109,549,334	\$113,820,062.39
PILOT	\$7,017,497	\$13,367,278.95
Total State Funds To Town	\$123,273,343	\$133,934,910.54



RESPONDING TO COVID

- 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)
- Continued coverage and access to telehealth (HB 6470)
- Ensured legal representation if you're facing eviction (PA 21-34)
- Provided certain low-wage workers who were laid off during the pandemic first dibs on getting their jobs back (SB 658)
- Expanded workers' comp benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and front-line health care providers who were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic (SB 660)
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies and supply inventories in response to COVID-19 (SB 1030)
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance (SB 891)
- Increased funding to local health departments (SB 1202)
- House Democrats fought to create an Unemployment Workers' Advocate to assist out-of-work residents with accessing benefits and getting back to work (HB 6344)
- Streamlined workforce initiatives under a new Office of Workforce Strategy and made it easier for residents to know what CT colleges they can easily get into, and what certificate programs are worth taking (SB 1202)