

PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety concerns have touched every community in our state. Last year, Tolland witnessed violent attempted burglaries and a dangerous car chase around our town green involving juveniles and young adults. I co-sponsored and voted in favor of **HB 5417 “An Act Concerning Juvenile Justice and Services, Firearms Background Checks, and Larceny of a Motor Vehicle.”** Reforms in the legislation include expedited arraignment and services for juvenile offenders, electronic monitoring in certain circumstances, expansion of the special juvenile probation and serious crime docket, and funding for juvenile crime reduction programs.

Catalytic converter theft quadrupled nationwide in 2020. Communities across Connecticut reported incidents of theft from school bus lots, car dealerships, and parked cars. Replacing the part and repairing the damage can cost thousands of dollars depending on the size of the vehicle. I voted for **SB 256 “An Act Concerning the Purchase or Receipt of Catalytic Converters by Motor Vehicle Recyclers, Scrap Metal Processor and Junk Dealers.”** The bill generally prohibits motor vehicle recyclers from receiving a catalytic converter unless it is attached to the motor vehicle, and prohibits selling a catalytic converter unless it’s affixed with a stock number. Additionally, record keeping requirements are expanded under this legislation.



Before the start of the legislative session in February, I joined my colleagues and crime victims from around the state at a press conference to call for juvenile justice reforms.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TAMMY NUCCIO 2022 Legislative Update

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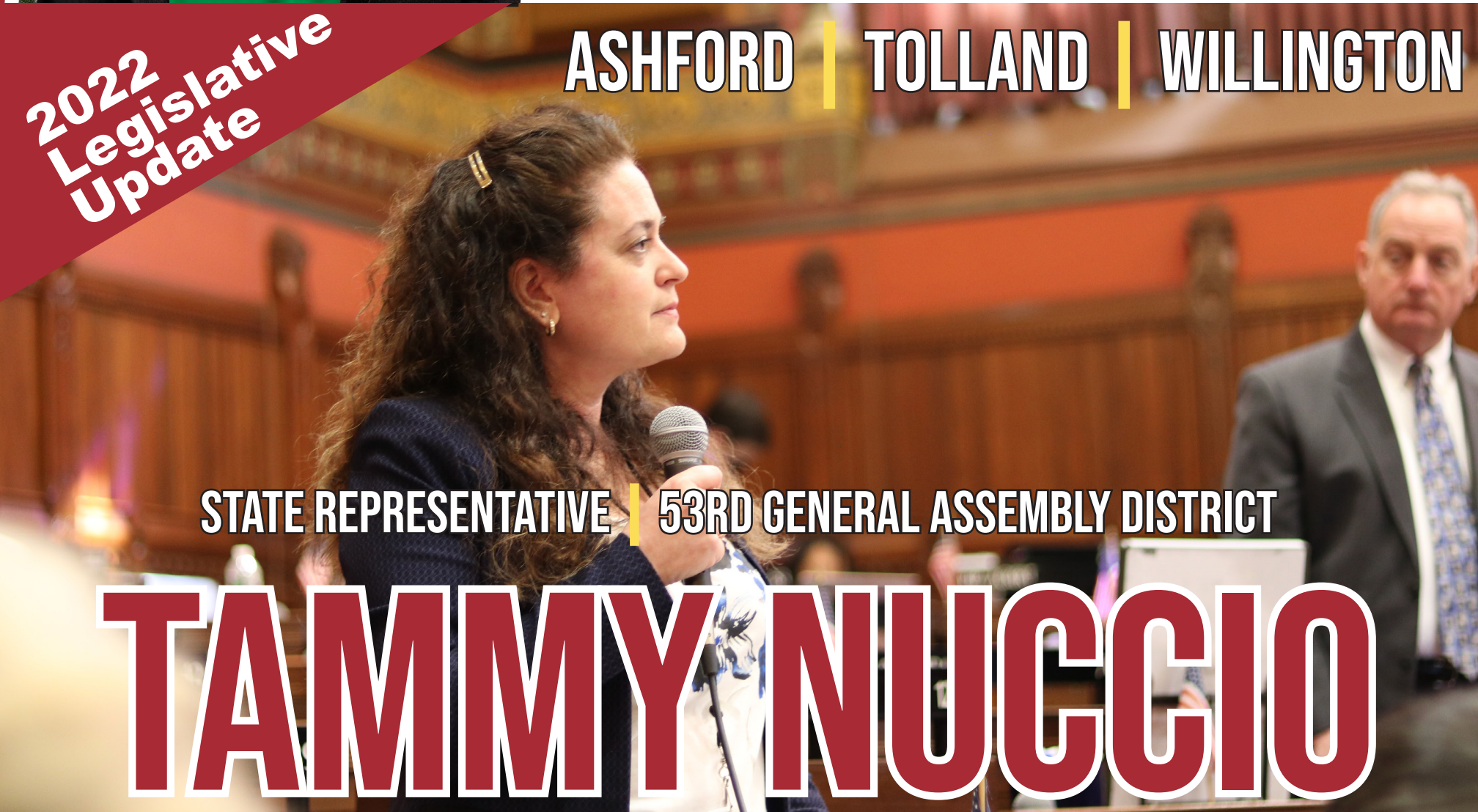


2022
Legislative
Update

ASHFORD | TOLLAND | WILLINGTON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | 53RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

TAMMY NUCCIO





Speaking with a constituent at a Coffee Hour in Tolland



CT Humane Society "Puppy Day" at the Capitol



Speaking at "When Women Lead" hosted by the CT Business and Industry Association

HOW CAN I HELP?

As always, if you need help working with state agencies, or have questions or concerns about your state government please contact me at:

TAMMY.NUCCIO@HOUSEGOP.CT.GOV

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SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

We have seen a dramatic increase in the rates of youth depression, suicide, and substance abuse, exposing the shortfalls with our state's mental health infrastructure. Emergency rooms have been inundated with patients awaiting placement into inpatient psychiatric beds and schools have faced a shortage of mental health professionals.

Last fall, I was selected to be part of a bipartisan working group charged with crafting legislation to address the immediate and long-term needs of our state's mental health system. I helped craft and strongly advocated for **HB 5001 "An Act Concerning Children's Mental Health."** This wide-ranging legislation aims to tackle the youth mental health crisis by growing the behavioral health workforce, expanding treatment facilities, and increasing insurance coverage for mental health services. Additionally, the legislation will fund a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis lifeline.



(above) Speaking in favor of HB 5001 in the House of Representatives.

(above, right) Speaking at a bipartisan press conference supporting mental health legislation.

STATE BUDGET RECAP

Connecticut families are being squeezed by high taxes and inflated prices on everything from gas to groceries. This session, the legislature missed an opportunity to put in place the structural changes necessary to position us for the future. In an unusual move, the budget, implementer, bonding and school construction bills were combined into one large, omnibus bill. That package increases spending by 6.4% - an additional \$1.4 billion and offers meager tax cuts and one-time relief.

INFLATION IS HERE, RELIEF MUST BE TOO

Republicans offered an alternative \$1.2 billion tax relief package, double the governor's tax relief, which would have provided more substantial broad-based relief. The proposal included reducing the income tax from 5% to 4% for middle- and low-income filers, reducing the sales tax to 5.99%, extending the gas tax holiday and adding diesel, repealing the highway use tax, restoring the property tax credit, and replenishing the unemployment insurance trust fund, among other changes. Ultimately, the amendment failed on a party line vote.

I voted NO on the state budget proposal because I believe we missed an opportunity to provide Connecticut residents with substantial tax relief and can't support this level of increased spending when so many are hurting.

TOBACCO & HEALTH TRUST FUND

Connecticut receives \$130 million a year from a 1999 Tobacco lawsuit settlement. Historically, the state has spent less than \$30 million on smoking cessation programs and has held these dollars in an "off budget" account. Throughout the session, I advocated for using the funds as intended and in a transparent and open way to support smoking cessation programs. After raising questions during the budget debate, funds were brought "on budget" for smoking cessation as part of an amendment to make technical fixes to the budget. I will continue to advocate for the recommended minimum spending for educating our youth on the dangers of smoking.

ADDRESSING HIGH GAS PRICES

In March, I called for the suspension of the gross receipts tax on gasoline. We reached a compromise with the governor and suspend the 25 cent per gallon excise tax by passing **HB 5501 "An Act Suspending Certain Gas Taxes and Sales and Use Taxes on Certain Clothing and Allocating Funds for Free Public Bus Services."**

COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Connecticut experienced over 1,500 confirmed drug overdoses in 2021, an increase over previous years. I supported **HB 5430 "An Act Concerning Opioids."** The legislation will allow for mobile treatment programs, add more non-opioid treatments to the list of options practitioners must provide their patients, and amend the definition of "drug paraphernalia" to allow individuals to use fentanyl test strips. Republicans offered an amendment, which received unanimous support, that will implement a peer navigator program to assist those in recovery.

SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

HB 5420 "An Act Concerning Mental Health Needs of and Services for Police Officers, Certain Requirements Regarding Police Training and Certain Reports," provides protections for officers who seek mental health services and enhances officer training for incidents involving individuals with mental or physical disabilities. I voted in favor of this legislation and support the efforts of our police officers to protect themselves and the people they serve. During debate on the legislation, Republicans offered an amendment to revise the controversial 2020 police accountability law. It would have restored a limited version of qualified immunity for law enforcement, while still ensuring citizens' constitutional rights are always protected, and would have revised the statewide pursuit policy among other changes. While the amendment failed, it attracted bipartisan support with 13 Democrats joining Republicans voting in favor.

THE CAP ON COTTAGE FOODS

I voted in favor of **SB 187 "An Act Concerning Cottage Food Operations."** The legislation increases the revenue cap for cottage food producers from \$25,000 to \$50,000, effective October 1st. As defined by the Department of Consumer Protection, "Cottage food is prepared food perceived to be low-risk for food-related injury or illness that can be prepared in a home environment without some of the controls used for a traditional ready-to-eat food such as those foods sold in a restaurant or grocery store." For more information about the state's cottage food regulations visit the DCP website at www.portal.ct.gov/cottagefood.

(right) Asking questions during the late evening debate on the state budget.

