

# The 2021 State Budget

Despite limited public input during a virtual legislative session, Connecticut residents still used their voices to speak out against proposed taxes on fuel and consumer goods. Ultimately, the budget that passed did not include the TCI gas tax, it boosted aid for towns in the 53rd District, and made critical investments in our long-term care, domestic violence prevention and youth mental health services. But with much of this budget being balanced by Connecticut's \$3 billion in federal aid, our state still faces structural deficits in the near future. I will continue to advocate for fiscal responsibility and government efficiency as we make adjustments to the budget in 2022 to better serve families and communities, businesses and workers alike.



# Legislating During COVID



One of the biggest challenges of the 2021 legislative session lay in Connecticut's response to the statewide disruption of our economy and public safety during the pandemic. While the State Capitol remained closed to the public, I made sure to keep communications ongoing with our municipal leaders, law enforcement, businesses and residents in the 53rd District. Whether through preserving insurance benefits for telehealth appointments, expanding PTSD coverage for our first responders and health care workers, or removing COVID-related tax penalties for Main Street businesses, I've been focused on the needs of our state's small towns in the greater recovery effort.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Tammy Nuccio

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If you have questions or opinions about state issues, or if I can be of service in any way, please feel free to contact me directly.



Sincerely,



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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## My 2021 Legislative Priorities



**PROMOTE** greater access to physical and mental health care services

**ORGANIZE** to stop new taxes, like the TCI gas tax

**IMPROVE** tax relief for seniors, allowing them to stay in their home

**WORK** to preserve local control of our zoning

**EXPAND** successful prevention-based opioid treatment pilot programs to serve more residents

**INCENTIVIZE** young people to invest in Connecticut through tax relief for new homeowners

**MINIMIZE** COVID-related unemployment taxes for our small businesses

### TCI: Another Gas Tax?

With gas prices on the rise nationwide in 2021, a bill proposed by members of the General Assembly and unsuccessfully backed by the Governor would likely have pushed them even higher. The 'Transportation and Climate Initiative' (TCI), conceived by a group of East Coast Governors and climate policymakers, would have effectively driven up the price of gas for Connecticut families and businesses in order to fund the deployment of new rapid transit and electric vehicles. Residents across the 53rd District contacted me with their concerns about the impact of the plan's proposed carbon fee on their transportation and grocery costs, and I made sure those concerns were heard loud and clear when the plan was ultimately shelved.



### AN ACT CONCERNING CRUMBLING FOUNDATIONS | HB-6646

This new law makes the captive insurance company established in 2019 permanent, ensuring that more property owners impacted by crumbling foundations receive the financial assistance they deserve. Members of the bipartisan Crumbling Foundations Caucus also worked closely to update quality standards for quarries, preventing future foundations from being built with the same structural flaws. Finally, the law establishes additional reporting on the status of compromised foundations in non-residential properties like businesses and school buildings.



### AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES | HB-6588

This law prohibits health care providers from being required to prescribe more than the physician-recommended dose of prescription drugs, reducing the potential for substance misuse or abuse. I worked hard alongside my colleagues on the Insurance Committee to explore incentives for more mental health care providers to participate in health insurance networks, making these services more affordable for our residents.



### AN ACT EXPANDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS | SB-660

Lawmakers came together this year to fix an oversight in a 2019 public act that expanded PTSD coverage for certain first responders but excluded others, including emergency dispatchers, EMS and DOC personnel. Additionally, we fought to make sure nurses, doctors and other health personnel were covered for any post-traumatic stress they suffered as a result of the pandemic.



### AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER SAVINGS ACCOUNT | HB-5027

I co-sponsored legislation that would allow individuals or couples to establish a new First-Time Homebuyer Savings Account with any in-state or out-of-state bank. Contributions would be tax-deductible up to \$2,500 for single filers and \$5,000 for those filing jointly. Although it did not receive a vote in the Senate, its passage in the House is a positive sign for a concept that has already been enacted in thirteen other states.

