



## *Legislative Wrap Up – 2026 Victories & More work to do*

This year state officials battled the clock to fill the budget holes the federal government has cruelly created. This year's short session ended on May 6<sup>th</sup> and was a tight race to make sure that our communities have what they need to survive another year under the Trump regime.

### **DEMOCRACY**

**SB 397 AAC Democracy and Government Accountability passed** and will allow residents to sue federal law enforcement, like ICE, in state court. It also designates churches, schools, and hospitals as protected areas requiring a judicial warrant to enter. ICE agents and all federal law enforcement at all levels will now be required to show their badges and be banned from wearing masks.

This policy provides a clear way in Connecticut to hold government officials accountable if our constitutional rights are violated, protects sensitive places from civil immigration enforcement, and sets limits on license plate reader (ALPR) surveillance.

**HB 5001: Implementation of No Excuse Absentee Voting passed.** In 2024, Connecticut voters passed the Constitutional amendment to implement “no-excuse” absentee voting. This session, HB 5001 is the implementation bill for this voting reform. This bill also includes a ban on ICE at polling places, which is a huge victory.

### **HEALTHCARE**

**HB 5127: Medical credit cards passed.** This bill is cause for celebration, as it passed through both chambers! This bill restricts medical providers from promoting, soliciting, or assisting patients in acquiring medical credit cards, which often feature high-interest, deferred-interest models. This is a major consumer protection and healthcare victory for Connecticut.

**SB 3 AAC Health Care Affordability ended up being rolled into the budget** with many protections we've been fighting for, including extending some state subsidies that make insurance affordable, adjusting fiscal guardrails, and a feasibility study, due in January, for a Connecticut Option. We remain watchful and continue to fight for full coverage and access to quality health care for all people.

### **PRIVATE EQUITY (PE)**

**We are just starting to scratch the surface on how evil PE is, and how it is extracting resources from communities to enrich the few.** As we learned at CCAG's legislative forum on Private Equity, this insidious form of investment is impacting many sectors of life from healthcare to education, housing and more. CCAG and our allies will continue to work on this issue during the summer and fall so be sure to watch your inbox for more actions coming later this year. The following are a few PE bills that passed.

**SB 196 passed and is a solid step to banning hospital sale-leasebacks,** in which hospital campuses are sold by Private Equity - which keeps the sale profits - and leases it back, leading to higher costs for hospitals and profits for PE.

**SB 125 AA Restricting Private Equity Ownership of Nursing Homes passed.** Some of our most vulnerable have been suffering inferior conditions and poor patient outcomes in private-equity-owned nursing homes due to perverse financial incentives even when compared to other for-profit facilities. This bill requires transparency in ownership of nursing homes to better assess accountability.

## CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

**[HB 5340](#) AAC Renewable Power Generation passed.** This bill will expand access to solar power and help stabilize ratepayer costs. It includes clean and affordable energy that cuts pollution, strong residential solar programs, plug-in solar and real ways to lower our energy bills.

**[HB 5334](#) AAC Riparian Areas passed.** This bill will create greater protection for vegetated areas adjacent to Connecticut's watercourses. In the face of increasing heavy rainfall and severe storms, riparian buffers have been proven in other states to help reduce flooding and erosion, while protecting public drinking water supplies and filtering out some of our worst toxins.

**[SB 457](#) AAC the State's Bottle Bill passed** and introduces criminal charges for redeeming out-of-state bottles to tackle redemption fraud. Anyone who redeems more than 40,000 out-of-state bottles in a year will face up to five years in prison.

**Insuring Connecticut's Resiliency Policy received some significant support** this year and we are now seeing the political will to make this happen. We need to hold climate chaos profiteers—property and casualty insurers that cover fossil fuel infrastructure while the climate crisis gets worse—accountable. We will continue to work toward creating a dedicated funding stream for resilience through a 5% surcharge on property and casualty insurance policies that cover fossil fuel infrastructure in Connecticut.

Right now, Connecticut families are paying for climate damage twice: first when storms hit—through destroyed homes, flooded streets, lost wages, and broken infrastructure—and then again when insurance companies raise rates, deny claims, or pull out of communities. All while insurers continue to profit from underwriting and investing in fossil fuel projects that increase climate risk. It is time to Make Polluters Pay.

## ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**[HB 5003](#) AAC Workforce Development & Conditions passed.** This bill is intended to create safer and more equitable work environments and support the needs of several employee groups across Connecticut. The policy makes targeted, meaningful investments in the people who keep our communities strong. From first responders and veterans to nurses, teachers, and blue-collar workers.

## MORE WORK TO DO

While we had significant victories this session, we are also laying the groundwork for the long-term fight. Federal budgets are certain to continue cutting crucial services and community support programs.

Connecticut has the means as one of the richest states in the country. No one should go without food, healthcare or continue to live in a dangerous climate or toxic environment while the rich get massive federal tax cuts. Because of your support we can all continue to work toward a more just and equitable future for all.

**These are just a few highlights.**

**Sign up for our email and follow our social pages to stay updated on this campaign! For more information and upcoming action on this or our other work, please visit our website, join our email list, or contact:**

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