



This session, you made the fight to end cancer, as we know it, for everyone a top priority. Thank you to all who dedicated their time and energy to advocating in Connecticut.

Our main state priorities this year were to address the impact of federal changes to health care access, including protecting state funding for mission critical programs. All our budget priorities were included at full funding levels, unchanged from the biennium budget that was passed last year:

- Tobacco control funding - \$12 million
- Medicaid cessation services - \$3.4 million
- Breast and cervical cancer screening program - \$2.56 million
- HPV vaccination program - \$11 million
- Lung Cancer Screening Referral Program - \$479,000

Additional budget highlights include:

- Universal school breakfasts and reduced cost lunches
- A \$2,000 caregiver tax credit

Medicaid/HR 1 mitigation

Last October, the Legislature created a \$500 million Emergency Fund to address the federal cuts to Medicaid, expiring subsidies and loss of SNAP benefits. Approx \$180 million was earmarked from that fund to cover the loss of subsidies for 2026. The budget revision included an additional \$50 million to that fund, increasing the remaining total to \$380 million to be allocated before 12/31.

Not only did we keep critical funding, but we were also successful in killing very bad bills including:

Tobacco Bars—There was a bill that was proposing to allow cigar shops to allow on-premises cigar smoking as well as sell alcohol which was killed and did not reach the floor for a vote.

Additionally, we killed provisions in another bill that would have established an e-cigarette/vapor product registry that would have allowed all products included to be legally sold in CT.

The 2027 legislative session will see a tidal wave of change as many of our legislative champions announced retirements, including the Senate President (46 years in the Legislature), House chair of Human Services, Public Health Committee Clerk (36 years), and many more rank and file.

Be proud of the impact that we've had on this session, but we know our work continues. We will keep you informed about what is next.

Sincerely,

Bryte Johnson
Government Relations Director

