

# Senator Chris Murphy 2016 Accomplishments



## Passed the bipartisan Mental Health Reform Act

Murphy drafted and introduced the bill last year following a listening tour and dozens of roundtables. He built a bipartisan coalition of supporters and worked tirelessly to build support and pass it through Congress. It was signed into law by President Obama on December 13, 2016. It is the most comprehensive piece of mental health legislation in a generation.



## Led a 15 hour filibuster against gun violence

Following the worst mass shooting in U.S. history in Orlando, FL, Murphy led a group of 40 Senators and held the Senate floor for 15 hours to force votes on legislation to implement comprehensive background checks and ensure that those on the terrorist watch list do not get guns.



## Secured \$1 billion to combat the opioid epidemic

Murphy held numerous roundtables with law enforcement, health-care providers and families struggling with addiction. He worked to pass both the Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act, which allocates \$1 billion over the next two years to help states address the epidemic of opioid and heroin addiction.



## Secured major grants for infrastructure & job training

Murphy helped the city of New Haven secure a \$20 million TIGER grant to develop the Route 34 connector and Downtown Crossing. He helped bring back multiple grants for job training across the state and made it possible for cities like Hartford and Bridgeport to hire and train new police and firefighters.



## Passed the Countering Disinformation & Propaganda Act

Murphy worked with Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) to author and pass the Countering Disinformation & Propaganda Act, which works to protect U.S. national security, combat harmful propaganda from nations like Russia, China and others, and support media freedom abroad.



## Delivered big wins for Connecticut defense manufacturers

Murphy fought for major federal funding for Connecticut manufacturers like Electric Boat, Sikorsky, Pratt & Whitney and their thousands of suppliers across the state. Murphy voted to authorize \$6.9 billion for Virginia-class and Columbia-class submarines, \$8 billion for 63 Joint Strike Fighters, \$437 million for CH-53K helicopters and \$929 million for 36 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters - powering tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs across the state.

## Murphy Provisions Signed into Law in 2016

- > The Mental Health Reform Act
- > The Countering Disinformation and Propaganda Act
- > The Judicial Redress Act
- > Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act
- > World War II Merchant Mariners Service Act
- > Returning the Old Stonington Wharf to the Town of Stonington



**126** Miles walked across Connecticut listening to constituents this summer

**120,544**

Letters written to constituents



## Additional Legislative Highlights

### Encouraged Executive Actions to Combat Gun Violence

In January, President Obama announced a number of new executive actions to curb gun violence, expand background checks, and promote the use of smart gun technology, after Murphy led a letter with 25 Senators urging him to take such steps.

### Secured big wins for the Coast Guard and Southeastern Connecticut

Senator Murphy was instrumental in ensuring that the Coast Guard band would remain in New London. Murphy worked to secure the first-ever federal funding for the new Coast Guard museum and helped secure a commitment from the U.S. Navy to invest \$5.4 million in the design and replacement of Pier 32 at SUBASE New London.

### Led the Vote to Block Military Equipment Sale to Saudi Arabia

In September, Murphy forced a vote on blocking a \$1.15 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia while U.S. support continues to facilitate the Saudi campaign against civilians in Yemen. It was the first time in recent history the Senate debated whether continued sales to Saudi Arabia serve America's national interests.

### Passed Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Act in the Senate

The provision, authored by Murphy, would create a U.S. National Park Service protective designation for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook; it passed the Senate unanimously in July as an amendment to an energy policy bill.

### Secured Major Wins for Connecticut in the Appropriations Committee

As a member of the Appropriations committee, Murphy fought for an additional \$1.14 billion over the President's budget request for critical defense programs supported by Connecticut manufacturers, secured \$6 million for the Small Air Terminal at Bradley Airport, and helped ensure a significant increase in money for Amtrak with the first-ever dedicated funding source for the Northeast Corridor. He also fought for important investments in aquaculture at Milford Labs, new supports for beginning farmer programs, and funding for the New Haven harbor deepening project.

### Led Investigation into Negligence and Abuse at Homes for Developmentally Disabled

In May, HHS released a long-awaited report that Murphy instigated in 2013, on the care of individuals with developmental disabilities; new legislation based on these findings will be introduced in 2017 to protect residents of group homes.

### Made Gains in K-12 Education

Building on the 2015 reauthorization of ESEA, in 2016 Murphy led the effort to protect the civil rights purpose of federal education policy by ensuring that federal Title I funding for low-income students could not be used by states to backfill funding gaps.

### Advanced the Lifetime Income Disclosure Act (LIDA)

Murphy's bipartisan bill, passed unanimously by the Senate Finance Committee in September, would help Americans plan in advance to help ensure they do not outlive their retirements savings.