

**2022**

**SENATOR CHRIS MURPHY**  
**A YEAR IN REVIEW**



## 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 proved to be the year of getting things done and delivering for Connecticut. In addition to passing the first significant anti-gun violence legislation in three decades with bipartisan support, Congress passed bills to lower the cost of prescription drugs for seniors, combat the climate crisis, bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S., protect the integrity of our elections, close loopholes in our country's missing persons systems, and support our veterans. The year, however, was not without its challenges, and Senator Chris Murphy worked tirelessly to center the priorities of Connecticut families in Washington. The following report outlines the efforts Chris led in the U.S. Senate and the work he did for Connecticut residents this past year.

### 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



Traveled across the state, hosting **125 town halls, roundtables, listening sessions and events** with Connecticut residents.



Introduced or cosponsored over **120 pieces of legislation, including bills and resolutions**, and **passed 12 bills into law**.



Completed his **6th Walk Across Connecticut**: four days, 65 miles, and 13 towns, talking to hundreds of people along the way.



Responded and reached out to Connecticut residents through over **518,432 calls, emails, and letters**.



**Returned \$2,071,815 to constituents**, including owed Social Security payments, veterans' benefits, tax refunds, and other savings from federal agencies.



**Helped over 7,382 Connecticut residents** work through federal issues and get their owed benefits - including COVID-19 relief support through stimulus checks and PPP loans.

# FIRST GUN SAFETY BILL IN 30 YEARS



Since the horrific day in Newtown a decade ago, when twenty children and six teachers were shot and killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Chris has spent every single day working side by side with advocates and families pushing Congress to pass common sense legislation to reduce the threat of gun violence in our communities.

For years, the anti-gun violence movement was met with obstacles and frustration, but this year, Congress finally broke the 30-year logjam. Following the horrific shootings in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas, Chris brought together a group of lawmakers from both sides of the aisle and passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. The bill strengthens background checks and keeps guns out of the hands of dangerous people, while making historic investments in mental health and much-needed support services for students. This legislation would not have been possible without the people who marched, protested, wrote letters, and refused to take no for an answer. This legislation will save countless lives, and it's only the beginning of what the anti-gun violence movement can and will accomplish.

*The Washington Post*

**Senate passes bipartisan gun violence bill, marking breakthrough**

## **BSCA Provisions To Keep Communities Safe:**

**Support for Red Flag Laws:** Created a new \$750 million funding pool to help states create and administer red flag laws with due process protections to keep deadly weapons out of the hands of an individual whom a court has determined to be a danger to themselves or others.

**Closed the 'Boyfriend Loophole':** Prohibits criminals convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as part of a current or recent former dating relationship from purchasing or possessing firearms for five years after their first offense.

**Defined Federally Licensed Firearms Dealer:** Clarified which sellers need to register, conduct background checks, and keep appropriate records. Increases the number of gun sales subject to the background checks system.

**Under-21 Enhanced Review Process:** Requires more thorough background checks for buyers under 21, including contacts with local law enforcement and state databases for juvenile criminal records and mental health history.

**Penalties for Straw Purchasing:** Created federal straw purchasing and trafficking criminal offenses, allowing prosecutors to target dangerous illegal gunrunners and stop the flow of illegal guns into our cities.



# HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH ON CLIMATE CHANGE



## CT Senators laud ‘fundamental shift in power’ in D.C.

In 2022, Congress was finally able to overcome the power of the fossil fuel lobby and pass the single largest investment in climate and energy in U.S. history. The Inflation Reduction Act will enable our country to tackle the climate crisis and put us on track to cut emissions in half by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050—all while creating millions of jobs and making sure big corporations and the wealthy finally pay their fair share. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that in addition to reducing energy costs, this legislation will save us \$1.9 trillion by 2050.

Through tax credits, rebates, and grants, the Inflation Reduction Act will help Connecticut families save on their monthly utility bills, make repairs around their homes, and buy energy efficient appliances. This could save households up to \$1,800 a year. The legislation will also create new clean energy jobs in Connecticut by investing \$630 million in clean power generation and storage, and providing tax credits to generate jobs in solar, wind, storage, and other clean energy industries.

Connecticut’s coastline and our state’s access to Long Island Sound are invaluable assets to both the economy and culture of Connecticut. Chris pushed to include \$2.6 billion in the Inflation Reduction Act for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This money will fund efforts to conserve, restore, and protect Connecticut’s coastline. This funding will also go to support nature-based and living shorelines projects, like those funded through the Living Shorelines Act Chris introduced in 2021.

# FINALLY, LOWER PRESCRIPTION COSTS

The Inflation Reduction Act also shifted power from Big Pharma back to the people by finally lowering the cost of prescription drugs and cutting health care costs for millions of Americans. Specifically, the bill:

- ✓ Caps Medicare copays for each covered insulin product at **\$35** per month for nearly **14,400** Connecticut residents.
- ✓ Ensures approved vaccines under Medicare Part D are free, helping nearly **57,400** Connecticut residents.
- ✓ Extends lower premiums for the individual health insurance market for three years, saving roughly **98,000** Connecticut residents hundreds of dollars per person in 2023.
- ✓ Increases financial assistance to help hundreds of low income Connecticut residents afford prescription medications.
- ✓ Caps annual out-of-pocket costs at **\$2,000** for Medicare beneficiaries.



# BIG EXPANSION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE

As a member of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Chris is committed to improving our nation's broken mental health system, protecting reproductive freedom, providing ongoing COVID-19 pandemic relief, and preventing future pandemics.

*Hartford Courant*

**Federal law expands access to mental health care for young people.**

As the United States grapples with a mental health crisis, Chris knows that too many children and adults struggle to access timely, high-quality mental health services. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which Chris wrote and passed, includes up to \$12.2 billion to expand mental health programs and improve access to care. These investments include:

Expanding an existing Medicaid program to all states to increase access to community-based behavioral health services.

**\$80 million** in grants to help pediatric primary care providers access mental health specialists' expertise through telehealth.

**\$60 million** for mental health training for primary care clinicians who treat children and youth.

**\$250 million** to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Community Mental Health Block Grant program.

**\$150 million** to support implementation of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

**\$40 million** to improve treatment and services for children, adolescents, and families who have experienced traumatic events.

**\$120 million** to prepare and train community members and first responders on how to appropriately and safely respond to individuals with mental disorders.

**\$240 million** to SAMHSA's Project AWARE to increase awareness of mental health issues among youth, provide training for school personnel to detect and respond to mental health issues, and connect youth and their families to needed services.

## COVID-19: SUPPORTING MENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on Americans' mental health, especially young people, which is part of the reason Chris introduced another piece of legislation, the Mental Health Reform Reauthorization Act. The legislation builds upon his work in 2016 to expand and improve mental health care programs, and supports his ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with federal parity laws. Several of the bill's provisions were included in the 2023 government funding bill.

In 2022, he also introduced and passed the Parity Implementation Assistance Act to strengthen oversight and enforcement of these laws, and put forward new legislation to give the U.S. Department of Labor the authority to assess civil penalties for violations of mental health parity requirements. Chris also led several of his colleagues in passing legislation to close a significant gap in health insurance coverage for mental health and substance use disorders treatment for firefighters, police, public school teachers, and city and state workers.

**NEWS8**  
wtnh.com

**Connecticut receives \$32 million federal grant to improve public health workforce**

As the country put the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, Chris is committed to ensuring the U.S. learns from its mistakes and is better prepared for future pandemics. Chris introduced legislation to crack down on counterfeit medical devices and improve health equity, which passed as part of the 2023 government funding bill.







# PROTECTING CONNECTICUT AFTER DOBBS

2022 was a devastating year for reproductive rights as states across the country passed dangerous abortion bans and restrictions following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, robbing women of their constitutional right to make decisions about their own bodies. Connecticut's commitment to being a safe haven for reproductive rights is more important now than ever. Chris strongly believes abortion is a core health service and is working hard to ensure women - no matter where they live - have access to abortions and contraception. In addition to pushing the Biden Administration to develop a national plan to defend reproductive rights, Chris is a proud co-sponsor of the Women's Health Protection Act, which would guarantee equal access to abortion, and the Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act, which would protect the rights of Americans to cross state lines to receive reproductive health care.

Chris was proud to cast a historic vote to confirm Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson to the highest court in the land. Jackson, the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, brings extensive legal experience as a public defender and on the federal bench, and her commitment to fair and equal justice makes her presence on the court crucial at this moment in history.

# SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY



**Fearing possible 2024 election threats, Chris Murphy helped craft bipartisan bill to avert Jan. 6 repeat**



With states across the country passing laws to make it more difficult to vote and election-deniers running for every office from school board to Governor, Chris knows protecting our democracy is more important than ever. This year, he worked across the aisle to pass bipartisan reforms to the Electoral Count Act to ensure that the electoral votes tallied by Congress accurately reflect each state's vote for President. These reforms will guard against any future attempts to ignore the will of the people and steal an election. He also continued to push for legislation to create a code of ethics for Supreme Court Justices given revelations regarding the political activities of current Justices and their spouses.

# STANDING UP TO RIGHT-WING BULLIES

Chris is deeply concerned about the rise in hateful rhetoric and attacks on the LGBTQ community. In April, he went to the Senate floor to defend LGBTQ youth against attacks from Republican legislators at the federal and state level. He also pushed the Biden Administration to take additional action to support LGBTQ youth and their families by holding public events, publishing resources, and providing updates to Congress about what the Department of Education is doing to address the most recent attacks on LGBTQ students' rights.

Chris believes every person has the right to marry who they love and proudly voted in favor of the Respect for Marriage Act to protect federal marriage equality for same-sex and interracial couples.

## Hartford Courant

### **U.S. Sen. Murphy, Hartford Mayor Bronin unite to condemn legislative 'campaign of bullying' of trans and nonbinary youth**

Chris knows that America is a nation of immigrants, and he supports efforts to create pathways to citizenship and protect Dreamers. As Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, he prioritized investments to make our border policy more effective and humane, including first-time funding for child welfare professionals at border facilities and increased funding for non-profit organizations that provide food, shelter, and medical care for immigrant families. Chris also provided \$200 million for two permanent border facilities to ensure that children and families are safely processed rather than housed under bridges and tents in perilous conditions.

# JUSTICE FOR THE SMOLINSKI FAMILY



**FOX61**

## Connecticut lawmakers say 'Billy's Law' could help families across the nation

Shortly after being elected to Congress, Chris met Janice and Bill Smolinski. Their 31-year-old son, Billy, disappeared in 2004, and Chris was outraged to learn they had spent years running into roadblock after roadblock in the search for their son. Inspired by their determination to fix a broken system, Chris, then a congressman, worked closely with the Smolinskis to introduce the Help Find the Missing Act, or "Billy's Law," in 2009. The legislation aimed to close loopholes in America's missing persons system by streamlining the reporting process and ensuring that law enforcement databases are more accessible and comprehensive. Chris has reintroduced Billy's Law every Congress since then, and this year, with the help of Billy's family, the family of Gabby Petito, and countless others, it finally passed both houses of Congress and was signed into law by President Biden. This commonsense, bipartisan legislation will help ensure that the tens of thousands of American families whose loved ones go missing each year do not experience the same hurdles that the Smolinskis faced.

# CONNECTICUT MANUFACTURING COMEBACK

Chris knows the manufacturing industry in Connecticut is the engine that keeps the state's economy running, and he's focused on helping bring more jobs back to the U.S. and ensuring that more people are buying American. Since President Biden came into office, Congress has passed numerous pieces of legislation that have already created 8,400 new manufacturing jobs in Connecticut.



In 2022, Chris helped pass the CHIPS and Science Act, an important piece of legislation that will ensure the U.S. remains a leader in critical technologies. The bill invests \$52 billion in U.S. companies to support the production of semiconductor chips and nearly \$200 billion in research, development, and commercialization. Not only will this funding support Connecticut's tech companies and research institutions, including the University of Connecticut and Yale, it will also help create and maintain good-paying jobs, make America more competitive in the global economy, and strengthen national security.

Chris supported hundreds of millions of dollars in increased federal funding to expand Connecticut's defense industrial and manufacturing base. These additional funds supported workforce development, joint private-public research, and thousands of high-skilled engineering and manufacturing jobs across CT.



## **PROTECTING UKRAINE**

Chris has long been an advocate for a strong U.S. partnership with Ukraine, traveling to the country to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy just one month before Vladimir Putin launched his brutal and unprovoked invasion. Chris supported President Biden's decision to swiftly impose unprecedented sanctions on Russia, voted in favor of ratifying Finland and Sweden's membership in NATO to further isolate Putin, and has pushed for investments in European energy security to wean our partners from their dependence on Russian oil and natural gas. He voted to send \$112.3 billion in aid to Ukraine, and called on the U.S. to redirect missile defense systems from Saudi Arabia to Ukraine. Chris has been a vocal defender of sustaining U.S. financial support for the Ukrainian people and has worked tirelessly to ensure Ukrainians fleeing the violence can find refuge in the U.S. Over the last ten months, Chris has met regularly with Connecticut's Ukrainian and Polish communities to hear their concerns and share information about the ongoing conflict.

*The Day*

**Sen. Murphy: Why Ukraine matters in Connecticut**

# A LEADER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

## FP It's Time to Rethink the U.S.-Saudi Relationship

By Chris Murphy, a U.S. senator from Connecticut

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and chairman of the Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, Chris has been a leading voice for progressive foreign policy that centers democracy and human rights. He believes a strong military is the foundation of our national security, but maintains that many 21st-century threats cannot be addressed through military solutions, so Congress must increase its investment in U.S. diplomatic, economic, and technological power.

Chris believes that the U.S. has to do more than just talk the talk on human rights, and that's why he has led efforts to ensure human rights are the center of U.S. foreign policy. Ahead of President Biden's meeting with the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Chris wrote a powerful op-ed, calling on the U.S. to push Saudi Arabia to make real commitments to improve its human rights record. He also urged the Administration to withhold aid to Egypt conditioned by Congress until the country makes meaningful progress toward improving human rights. Chris also pushed the Pentagon to increase accountability for civilian harm caused by American military operations.

# BUILDING SAFER SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS

As a member of the HELP Committee, Chris is working to ensure every child not only has access to a quality education, but is supported and safe in their school and community. Thanks to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the federal government will invest more than \$2 billion to improve learning conditions and make schools and communities safer, including:

**\$250 million** for community violence intervention and prevention initiatives.

**\$1 billion** to increase the number of qualified mental health service providers in schools, and train a diverse pipeline of school counselors, social workers, and psychologists.

**\$1 billion** through Title IV-A formula grants to states to improve conditions for student learning, including developing positive school climates through evidence-based practices.

**\$50 million** to fund extracurricular, afterschool and summer programs, with a focus of new funding to target programs for older youth.

**\$300 million** through the STOP School Violence Act to institute safety measures in and around schools and support school violence prevention efforts.

Codifies the SchoolSafety.gov clearinghouse, which provides evidence-based resources to improve school safety.

Prohibits the use of any funding within ESEA to train or equip any person with dangerous weapons in schools.

Chris believes that all students benefit from a diverse classroom, but that students of color and those in low-income communities are hurt most by schools that are more segregated today than they were 70 years ago. This year, on the 68th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, Chris reintroduced the Strength in Diversity Act, which would promote diversity in schools through a federal grant program that supports voluntary, community-driven strategies. He also introduced legislation to improve and expand funding opportunities for magnet schools that have the most positive impact on improving diversity and academic performance.





## MASSIVE NEW MONEY FOR ROADS AND RAILS

**\$656,000** to support improvements at the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection State Interagency Coordination Center.

**\$1.025 million** for the City of Hartford for a flood mitigation project.

**\$742,000** for the City of Bridgeport for a community flood scoping project.

**\$708,000** for the Town of Old Lyme for an emergency operations center.

### THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Since Chris helped pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021, millions of dollars have begun flowing into Connecticut to support infrastructure projects, including major improvements to our state's transportation system. The legislation provided more than \$5 billion in guaranteed funding to Connecticut over the next five years, \$30 billion in competitive Northeast Corridor Funding, and over \$45 billion in competitive funding for highways, bridges, transit, and other major infrastructure projects.

Connecticut is already starting to see the money roll in. In 2022, this funding included:

**\$42.4 million** to support transportation improvements in Waterbury, New Britain, and Stamford.

**\$20.4 million** to support the electrification of CT DOT buses across the state.

**\$1 million** to study traffic safety improvements on I-95.

**\$65.2 million** to replace the Connecticut River Bridge.



## A NEW CONNECTICUT MUSEUM

As Chairman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Chris has worked tirelessly for years to get federal funding for the National Coast Guard Museum in New London. This year, he secured \$50 million for the project and construction is finally set to begin in 2023. This crucial project will not only create hundreds of jobs and pump millions into the local economy, but also inspire the next generation to serve. With this museum, the Coast Guard will no longer be the only long-established branch of the armed services without a national museum.

Since he was first elected to Congress, Chris has prioritized Connecticut's veterans, working to reduce veteran homelessness, improve VA medical facilities, and ensure veterans with PTSD have access to mental health care. In July, Chris advocated on the Senate floor for the PACT Act, legislation to expand health care benefits for veterans, after Republicans attempted to block the bill. He then helped pass the groundbreaking legislation which will ensure the brave men and women exposed to toxic chemicals and military burn pits in their service to our country get the benefits and comprehensive health care they earned.

# CONSERVING OPEN SPACES

Chris cares deeply about protecting Connecticut's natural beauty, and started his 2022 Walk Across Connecticut by kayaking down the Housatonic River. After holding a roundtable and meeting with conservation leaders, he and Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-Conn.-05) introduced the Housatonic Wild and Scenic River Act of 2022, which would create a U.S. National Park Service protective designation for 41 miles of the river. The bill passed as part of the 2023 government funding bill, unlocking federal resources to protect the Housatonic and support recreation.

The spending bill also included the reauthorization of the Highlands Conservation Act, which will extend protections and provide \$10 million to conserve 3.5 million acres of land in Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York through 2028.



# GETTING COLLEGE ATHLETES THEIR FAIR SHARE

Chris has long been a champion for the rights of student athletes and continues to be a leader in the movement to reform high school and college sports.

This year, as part of his ongoing efforts to ensure college athletes are treated fairly, Chris hosted the Madness, Inc. Summit in partnership with Senators Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.). This first-of-its-kind virtual event featured panels with current and former athletes who highlighted the gross inequities that exist in a multi-billion dollar industry that doesn't pay the people doing the work. Chris will continue to push for innovative solutions to make sure student athletes can advocate for themselves and are fairly compensated.

## **REFORMING TITLE IX**

Chris knows that gender inequities continue to persist in high school and college athletics. As the country commemorated the 50th anniversary of Title IX, Chris met with female college and high school athletes who described the mistreatment and inequities they still face five decades after Title IX was enacted into law. He then joined Rep. Alma Adams (D-N.C.-12) in introducing the Fair Play for Women Act. The legislation will build on the original promise of Title IX by holding colleges and high schools accountable for ongoing inequitable treatment and ensuring women and girls in sports know their rights under Title IX.




**As US celebrates 50 years of Title IX,  
a new bill aims to improve gender  
equity in sports**



Find out more about Senator Murphy's work and  
get in contact with our office at:

**[WWW.MURPHY.SENATE.GOV](http://WWW.MURPHY.SENATE.GOV)**

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