



2026 CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

SLJ’s 2026 Legislative Agenda was organized into three sections: (1) Build an Equitable Economy, (2) Support Women, Workers & Families, and (3) Ensure Basic Needs are Met for All. There were multiple issue areas included in the three sections- establishing a permanent, fully refundable, statewide child tax credit was SLJ’s number one priority.

Overview: The 2026 Connecticut Legislative Session might have been a short session, but it was jam packed with important bills presented on a multitude of issues. There was increased pressure for CT’s leaders to address the harms being inflicted on our communities due to the recent cuts from the federal government. Additionally, we saw an increased demand for state officials to untie their own hands and make sensible adjustments to the fiscal guardrails, as well as for them to create policies seeking to increase progressive revenue by taxing the state’s wealthiest residents. Even though bills for a child tax credit and creating progressive revenue had robust public hearings with overwhelming support, the legislature did not move forward in passing these policies. SLJ remains steadfast in our dedication to advocating for these policies because they are necessary in ensuring the state’s ability to invest in its residents, communities, and programs.

Build an Equitable Economy

Priority Issue:
Establish a Permanent, Fully Refundable, Statewide Child Tax Credit

Child Tax Credit- What Happened: The session started off strong for the Child Tax Credit (CTC) Coalition, with four different child tax credit bills being introduced. SB 103 was introduced by Senate President Martin Looney (D), SB 76 by Senator Jeff Gordon (R), SB 6 by the Committee on Children, and HB 5134 by our champion, Representative Kate Farrar (D). HB 5134 was co-sponsored by more than 80 other legislators! This year, the Coalition found growing bipartisan support for establishing a CTC and found more legislators recognizing the need to address the crisis of affordability and recognize households with children in the state’s tax code. Although a CTC did not pass this session, the Coalition grew stronger and built momentum for 2027.

Bill Numbers: SB 6, SB 76, SB 103, HB 5134.

- **SB 6** received a public hearing on March 3, 2026. Over 100 testimonies were submitted in support of the bill.

- The original language in SB 6 included a new measure for homeschooling families, which was met with a lot of opposition from the homeschooling community at the public hearing. The language was eventually removed.
- The final version of SB 6, which still included a child tax credit, was never called in the Senate, and therefore **the bill did not move forward for passage.**
- **SB 103** was the only other child tax credit bill that was given a public hearing this session and had 27 co-sponsors.
 - SB 103 was a standalone bill which offered a phase-in style child tax credit that began at \$150/child and phased up to \$600/child for up the three children over the course of three years.
 - The public hearing took place on February 27, 2026.
 - 208 people submitted testimony in support of the bill.
 - Verbal testimony at the public hearing was overwhelmingly in support of the bill.
 - No other action took place after the public hearing, and ultimately **the bill did not move forward for passage.**

Universal No-Cost School Meals

Bill numbers: HB 5144, HB 5214, SB 6, SB 55

- **HB 5144** had over 100 co-sponsors! The public hearing for HB 5144 was on March 5, 2026. Dozens of people submitted written testimony in support of the bill.
- **HB 5214** had a public hearing on February 23, 2026. Again, dozens of people submitted written testimony in support of the bill.
- Around 80 people registered to give supportive verbal testimony for HB 5214.
- The outpouring of support was noted within the news cycle.
- **SB 55** never received a public hearing. Please see the above section on a child tax credit for information on SB 6.
- Although the bills for universal school meals did not move forward to pass, **funding for universal school breakfast was included in the newly approved budget!**

Just Cause Evictions

- SB 257 was introduced with over 70 co-sponsors and was given a public hearing in the Housing Committee on February 24, 2026.
 - 245 written testimonies were submitted in support of SB 257.
 - 546 people registered to give verbal testimony at the public hearing.
- SB 257 was voted out of Committee, but ultimately **the bill did not move forward for passage.**

Create an Equitable State Budget (CT For All Coalition Work)

Bill numbers: SB 1, SB 101, SB 104, SB 510, HB 5133, HB 5139, HB 5185, HB 5187.

- Topics included- adjusting the fiscal constraints, taxing the rich, establishing gains surcharge, and implementing a mansion tax.
- The biggest public hearing for these topics was held on February 27, 2026.
- The bills discussed at this public hearing: SB 101, SB 103, SB 104, HB 5133, HB 5187
- 103 out of the 153 people who registered to testify at the hearing, were affiliated with the CT for All Coalition.
- **None of the bills were voted out of the Committee to move forward for passage**
- SB 510, another bill establishing a capital gains surcharge, received a public hearing in the Finance Committee on March 27, 2026.
 - The bill was voted out of the Committee but ultimately **did not move forward for passage.**
- SB 1 was also included in the public hearing on March 27, 2026.
 - SB 1 was voted out of the Committee and went on to pass the House and Senate with substitute language. It is currently awaiting signage by the Governor.
 - Read more about SB 1 [HERE](#)

Support Women, Workers & Families

Defend Against Attacks on Existing Programs and Expand Worker's Rights

Bill numbers: SB 345, SB 353, SB 355, SB 436, SB 440, HB 5387, HB 5492

- No bills attacking CT's Paid Family & Medical Leave or Paid Sick & Safe Days policies were given public hearings in the Labor Committee during this session.
- Additional bills SLJ testified on in the Labor Committee this session included:
 - SB 345- breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace. (partially in 5003)
 - SB 353- menopause accommodations in the workplace.
 - SB 355- limiting nondisclosure agreements when they are used to silence employees or volunteers from speaking out against harassment, discrimination, retaliation or unlawful conduct.
 - SB 436- predictable scheduling.
 - SB 440- unemployment for striking workers. (in 5003)
 - HB 5387- Expanding wage transparency in job postings. (in 5003)

- HB 5492- limiting noncomplete agreements to protect low-wage workers.
- Multiple labor bills were folded into an omnibus bill [HB 5003](#)- championed by Senator Julie Kushner (D). The bill passed and has been signed by the Governor.
 - The bill is a huge win for labor organizations and workers across the state!
 - The bill includes increased wage transparency laws which require employers to include salary ranges and benefits in public and internal job postings.
- The bill also includes increased accommodations for breastfeeding people in the workplace to be able to pump or nurse.

Ensure Basic Needs are Met for All

Husky 4 Immigrants:

- Although we were unable to expand Husky 4 Immigrants this session, we were able to protect the Husky 4 Immigrant Coalition's previous wins and **preserve funding in the budget for children 15 years and younger and pregnant and postpartum people.**

Reproductive & Gender Affirming Care:

Bill numbers: SB 227, SB 295, HB 5482, HB 5483, HB 5561

- It was a busy session for advocacy related to reproductive and gender affirming care.
 - Win: Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for family planning providers like Planned Parenthoods of Southern New England.
 - Increasing these rates is essential for keeping CT's Planned Parenthood locations open and able to provide essential care.
 - Successfully guarding against attacks on young people accessing pregnancy-related care.
- What we're coming back for:
 - Further bolstering CT's Shield Law to protect providers and patients. Expanding private insurance and Medicaid coverage for
 - contraceptive care and hormone therapy.
 - Guaranteeing equitable access to fertility care.
 - Maintained and increased funding for services and providers.

Defend Against Federal Overreach & Attacks on Civil Rights

Support ACLU Connecticut

Bill numbers: SB 397, HB 5001

- SB 397- Combined several bills into one. **The final bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor!**
 - Bill language included regulations on automatic license plate readers, the right to sue federal agents for civil rights violations, and protections for sensitive locations from federal immigration officials. Read more [HERE](#)
- HB 5001- Universal no-excuse absentee voting was a big priority for our friends at the ACLU CT. The bill passed the House and Senate and is waiting to be signed by the Governor! Read more [HERE](#).