

# The Connecticut General Assembly

## House Democrats



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Contact: Aysha Mahmood  
860-240-8742

### **DE LA CRUZ APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF BIPARTISAN BUDGET**

This afternoon, **State Representative Joe de la Cruz** (D-41) praised passage of the bipartisan state budget ending Connecticut's fiscal crisis and restoring millions of dollars of cuts for Groton and New London.

The budget passed the House in a 126 to 23 vote.

"This budget is a true compromise between Democrats and Republicans," **Rep. Joe de la Cruz** said. "In previously proposed budgets, the cuts to Groton and New London were devastating. Local and higher education schools wouldn't be able to ensure their commitment to their students, towns would lose their ability to function, and job creation efforts would be hindered. But this bipartisan budget restores the millions in potential cuts to Groton and New London without raising income tax rates, sales tax rates, or business tax rates, and additionally invests in our economy to move Connecticut forward."

Under the governor's executive order, Groton stood to lose \$17.5 million dollars in education funding over \$20 million in municipal aid for the 17-18 fiscal year. New London was also set to lose a significant amount of funding in municipal aide, approximately \$8.6 million. However, under this bipartisan budget, all of the education and municipal funding for Groton as well as the municipal aid funding for New London that was set to be cut, has been completely restored.

**Rep. de la Cruz** also noted that this bipartisan budget emphasizes protecting local and higher education systems.

"I was deeply concerned about the cuts UConn Avery Point was facing under previously proposed budgets as the satellite campus plays an important role in the 41<sup>st</sup> District. I am pleased that this bipartisan budget protects Avery Point, restores funding for scholarships for low-and middle-income students such as the Roberta Willis Scholarship program, and additionally maintains a strong level of local education funding to ensure that our schools remain the best in the nation."

The bill will now be sent for the governor's office for approval.

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