

FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE JIM HIMES



"I was lucky enough to grow up attending well-funded schools with dedicated, caring teachers. The difference that head start made in my life has been immeasurable. But children's destinies must not be determined by their ZIP codes. I will continue to fight for full funding for educational programs at every level and for every child and to support teachers who are too often overworked, underpaid, and underappreciated."

Congressman Jim Himes

"Jim Himes has proven himself a friend of Connecticut public education time and time again. He recognizes the importance of what teachers do, and he can be counted on to keep the interests of students and teachers at the forefront when education issues arise in Washington. He is also a regular presence in Connecticut schools, making time to visit and answer questions about his work and encouraging students to prepare themselves for careers in public service."

Jeff Seymour, Monroe teacher



UNITED STATES SENATOR CHRIS MURPHY

"I'm so proud to receive the support of teachers across the state. As a father of two young boys, I know how much teachers make a difference in our kids' lives. Unfortunately, the Trump administration is doing a lot in Washington to make the lives of Connecticut teachers harder. I've stood with local educators to oppose arming teachers in classrooms. As a member of the Senate Education Committee, I've fought against drastic education funding cuts and efforts to weaken union protections. There is a lot of work to do, and I'm glad to know that CEA and teachers across Connecticut are by my side."

Senator Chris Murphy



"Chris Murphy has proven time and time again that he values education and stands with teachers and students. From leading an attempt to make Congress responsive to the need to keep us safe in classrooms, he led a filibuster to promote gun control. He voted no in an attempt to protect us from the devastating and unresponsive policies of DeVos, and he continues to fight against the misuse of public education dollars for corporate profit. With a strong record of fighting for legislation that supports teachers and public education, Senator Murphy deserves the education community's support on Election Day."

Lara White, West Hartford teacher



FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATE JAHANA HAYES

"The qualities that educators hone in the classroom—like patience, compassion and a determination to help others thrive—are needed now more than ever in our government bodies. It's so exciting to see a record number of teachers, equipped with these qualities and with important real-world experience, run for public office this year."

Jahana Hayes



"Who could possibly represent the voice of teachers better than a National Teacher of the Year? Jahana Hayes knows the true hearts of teachers and the challenges we face. Her story is one of survival, grit, and perseverance. Yet, as tough as she is, her students benefited from her caring nature. These are the qualities that are crucial in order to represent the Fifth Congressional District in these tumultuous times. Teachers MUST get out and vote for Jahana Hayes on Election Day!"



Doreen Lopez, Waterbury teacher

JAHANA HAYES PROMISES TO 'SHOW UP' FOR EDUCATORS, STUDENTS

Former national Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes spent a year traveling across the country, advocating on behalf of public education and listening to educators, administrators, community leaders, and others about issues that impact students, families, and communities.

Now running for U.S. representative from Connecticut's Fifth Congressional District, she joins a new wave of teachers making a bid for public office.

"Jahana will fight for public education and collective bargaining and will stand up against those who try to cut funding that hurts students," says CEA President Jeff Leake. "She is exactly who we need in Congress fighting for all of us."

Hayes, whose mother struggled with drug addiction, was raised by her grandmother in a Waterbury housing project and became a mother herself at 17. With encouragement from teachers, she not only raised her daughter but also pursued her dream of earning a master's degree and becoming a teacher. She taught for ten years at Waterbury's John F. Kennedy High School.

"I am lucky to call Jahana my friend, but I am going to be even luckier to call her my representative," says CEA Treasurer Kevin Egan, president of the Waterbury Teachers Association.

"Educators are very excited about electing one of their own to Congress," CEA Vice President Tom Nicholas agrees. "This new trend of teacher activism and the public support behind it is refreshing."

A promise to stand up for teachers, students At a rally in Meriden this summer, Hayes asked, "Who will speak up for students? I will. Who will speak up for union workers? I will. My job is not just to improve the lives of my students and the future of those students but to elevate my profession. Everyone talks about how wonderful teachers are, but when we advocate for ourselves, our profession, and funding for public education," she suggested, we need to take note of who stands with us and who doesn't.

Hayes joins a growing number of educators hitting the campaign trail in response to decreased rights for teachers and decreased funding for public education. She has the endorsement of CEA, the National Education Association (NEA) Fund for Children and Public Education, and AFT.



CEA President Jeff Leake, Fifth Congressional District candidate Jahana Hayes, CEA Treasurer Kevin Egan, and CEA Secretary Stephanie Wanzer.