

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear friend and neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

We worked hard to deliver a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while still providing hundreds of millions in more funding to our local schools, colleges and universities, and services for our most vulnerable residents. As part of our historic tax cuts, families of four who make under \$50,000 annually **will pay no state income taxes**. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

We did it by working together – without the fighting you see in Washington.

I’d love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,

Andre B Baker



BIG WINS FOR BRIDGEPORT

- Invested over \$188 million in public education
- Created a student loan forgiveness program
- Adopted anti-discrimination laws around voting
- Supported workers and small businesses
- Made investments to grow our healthcare workforce



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24
FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANDRE BAKER

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT

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NEW LAWS IN
CONNECTICUT 2023 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ANDRE BAKER

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT



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HELPING KIDS

- Required a state audit of all standardized testing
- Required boards of education to provide translator services and established rights for multilingual learners
- Created reimbursements to schools who purchase local foods for their school meals
- Required high school students to take a financial literacy class before graduating
- Banned child marriages
- Ensured all state buildings have diaper changing tables

PROTECTING RENTERS

- Increased municipal fines to \$2,000 for rental property violations (unsanitary or unsafe living conditions)
- Required landlords to offer walk-throughs prior to signing a lease
- Capped rental application fees at \$50



OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS!

A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:



CUTTING YOUR TAXES

Reduce the tax rates for the first \$10,000 and \$50,000 of income (more for Heads of Households and joint filers) on the state's personal income tax, saving over one million taxpayers around \$300 and \$600 annually.



BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Expanded school-based apprenticeship opportunities in aviation and aerospace, training for future paraeducators, and dual credit/enrollment opportunities.



INVESTING IN STUDENTS

The state and towns across Connecticut took advantage of federal pandemic relief funding and invested in temporary programs to support CT youth, including workforce development.



SAFETY NET SERVICES

Our budget expands Temporary Family Assistance, increases Husky C. Eligibility, provides funds to community action agencies for residents facing immediate economic hardship, supports the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and increases Medicaid rate reimbursements for providers and specialists.



IDD SUPPORTS

Additional services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Services are needed for a variety of people and are typically needed over the course of a lifetime. Providing funding will address these wait lists and pilot new services.

GETTING PEOPLE BACK ON THEIR FEET

- Ensured those leaving prison to have an ID or driver's license
- Made more people convicted of a crime before the age of 21 eligible for parole
- Created reentry success plans for kids getting out of correctional or judicial facilities
- Expanded assistance to refugees



STABILIZE AND LOWER TAXES

- Reformed retirement plans for municipal employees – saving towns hundreds of thousands of dollars annually
- Allowed towns to accept electronic signatures from contractors – helping streamline local government and business permitting
- Provided \$60 million in new funding for town governments
- Secured historic funding for local schools
- Prevented any town from receiving a funding cut to their local schools

