

Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2024 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.

I am proud that we worked hard to preserve our fiscal guardrails while prioritizing seniors, education, families, nonprofits and public safety. We did it by working together – without the fighting you see in Washington. I am especially happy to announce that Glastonbury Little League, an organization close to my heart, will receive funding for the Heroes Field project to update the LED lights at Riverfront Park and to construct a monument honoring our first responders and veterans.

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,

2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals
- Made it easier for out-of-state nurses and social workers to move to and practice in CT
- Streamlined the Secretary of the State procedure for business filings
- Maintained CT's future fiscal integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JILL BARRY

PROUDLY SERVING GLASTONBURY

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



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CT'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Allowed for toxicology reports on patients who are treated for opioid overdoses
- Improved coordination across state agencies and streamlined the process for residents to access nutrition programs - encouraging farmers' markets to participate in these programs
- Allowed telehealth to continue for in-state and out-of-state residents without letting the practice sunset
- Ensured doctors' offices that are group practices have more accessible equipment to assist those with physical disabilities
- Established new Bureau of Services for Persons who are Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing, expanding access to certified interpreters, providing education and training for those interacting with the Deaf community, creating a new, centralized user-friendly website on resources and referrals, and improving the accessibility of television broadcasts

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES

PROTECTING TAX CUTS

- ✓ **\$600 million middle class tax cut**
- ✓ **New supports for the Intellectual or Developmental Disability community**

INVESTS:

- ✓ **\$50 million for nonprofit service providers**
- ✓ **\$21.8 million for early childcare**
- ✓ **MORE FUNDING FOR GLASTONBURY**
- ✓ **\$50K for Glastonbury Little League Hero's Field Project**
- ✓ **\$450K for additional municipal aid**
- ✓ **\$500K for Nye Rd Project**

SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS AND OUR CHILDREN

- Established the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council to review proposed and existing mandates on local boards of education
- Required same day parental notification when a child hurts themselves or others
- Capped the amount of money all districts pay to send kids out of district - saving millions of dollars for local schools
- Made it easier for industry experts to teach in our tech schools
- Expanded eligibility in the fast-track certification program
- Provided help to classroom paraeducators to pay for their health insurance
- Increased coordination to raise private funds for childcare
- Piloted new childcare programming
- Expanded the childcare incubator program

MAKING CT SENIORS A PRIORITY

- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care
- Required home care workers to wear photo-ID badges
- Prevented nursing homes from putting more than two patients in a single room
- Required nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60-90 days' notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees
- Strengthened oversight of negligent nursing homes
- Fast-tracked nursing home transfers and receiverships when homes are closing
- Required health insurance coverage for detecting coronary artery disease

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

- Exempted permanently and totally disabled veterans from paying property tax
- Made it easier for veterans to earn a Q license endorsement to join fire departments
- Expanded eligibility for grants from the Military Relief Fund for families experiencing hardship
- Expanded veterans' driver's license and license plate options to reservists
- Formally recognized Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange
- Established a Fallen Officer Fund to provide families of police officers who died in the line of duty with cash assistance and health care coverage
- Improved the eligibility process for getting benefits to the families of first responders who died in the line of duty
- Toughened penalties for killing a police dog

