



Dear Neighbor,

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

I'm proud to have worked on a budget that delivered historic tax cuts and increased funding for students, families, and our most vulnerable residents, while paying down our long-term debt and unfunded future pension liability.

Most importantly, we did it by working together - without gimmicks or partisan politics. We prioritized public health and safety, protecting consumers, and we supported non-profits.

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

Sincerely,

PROTECTING CT RESIDENTS

- **Enacted Early Voting:** Providing voting opportunities 14 days before Election Day for general elections, 7 days before most primaries, and 4 days before special elections and the Presidential primary
- **Enacted New Gun Violence Prevention Reforms:** Restricted open carry, banned ghost guns, and closed existing loopholes; limited monthly handgun purchases to 3 per 30-day period; expanded our assault weapon ban
- **Protected Reproductive Healthcare:** Allowed pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraceptives and guaranteed their availability in case of an emergency; prohibited insurers from discriminating between patients based on gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or age regarding coverage for infertility treatment; protected pharmacists and health care providers who are licensed in other states from discipline when they provide reproductive health services in our state, and kept healthcare providers from being punished, losing their license, or experiencing insurance hikes because they provided reproductive health care services



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE AIMEE BERGER-GIRVALO

PROUDLY SERVING RIDGEFIELD

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

Representative Aimee Berger-Girvalo
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NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT

2023
2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
AIMEE BERGER-GIRVALO
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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDED THE

LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✔ \$600 million middle class tax cut
- ✔ Increased Earned Income Tax Credit for lower income workers
- ✔ Expanded cuts to retirement savings to **benefit seniors**

WE INVESTED:

- ✔ More funding for K-12 education
- ✔ More funding for higher education
- ✔ More funding for nonprofits
- ✔ More funding for childcare
- ✔ **MORE FUNDING FOR RIDGEFIELD**

STANDING UP FOR CONSUMERS

- Prohibited utility companies from passing off their lobbying and marketing expenses through rate hikes
- Responded to inflation by freezing scheduled increases on the diesel tax - helping lower the cost of groceries and other commodities
- Demanded TV and cable companies give you a prorated refund if you cancel before the end of your billing cycle
- Restricted more types of telemarketing calls, texts, and social media solicitations and limited the hours that telemarketing can take place
- Protected precise geolocation data under our data privacy laws and created more stringent standards for targeted advertising to kids
- Required companies that charge you through an auto-renewal subscription to get your permission before charging you for the next billing cycle

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BILLS WE PASSED

Scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit tinyurl.com/bddrbfpb



IMPROVING HEALTHCARE IN OUR STATE

- Created early detection screening for lung cancer
- Invested in state research and development for endometriosis treatment and prevention
- Required pharmacies to have a plan for unscheduled closings, including a method of notifying customers and using pickup lockers
- Established the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to help providers and patients navigate our insurance system
- Created a statewide Drug Discount Card Program, regulated pharmaceutical sales reps, and banned anticompetitive loopholes in healthcare contracts
- Expanded pharmacy services to include vaccine administration of CDC immunizations, testing for COVID, flu, and HIV, and providing prescriptions for preventative HIV treatment



SUPPORTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

- Expanded eligibility for seniors to participate in adult day services
- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services like primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals
- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed
- Required homemaker companion companies to provide notice to their clients before they abruptly close, and prohibited any increases in rates without at least 60-day notice
- Required a state audit of all standardized testing
- Moved up the eligibility age for starting kindergarten by three months (to align with the majority of states) and will require more play-based learning from pre-K to grade 5
- Required high schoolers to take a financial literacy class before graduating
- Banned child marriages
- Required funds from the state's legal settlement with vape-giant JUUL to go toward helping kids under 21

MAKING CONNECTICUT SAFER

- Made it illegal for adults to solicit photos and videos from kids online, even if they're not explicitly sexual, and formed a special police task force to deal with abuse of kids online
- Protected consumer health data by restricting its access and sale and banned targeted ads near mental health and reproductive health facilities
- Expanded GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders
- Required driver's ed classes to cover driving under the influence of cannabis
- Responded to wrong-way driving with measures including installing at least 120 wrong-way driving systems on our highway exit ramps, installing emergency systems to alert all drivers about the presence of a wrong-way driver at high-risk exits, and testing directional rumble strips to alert drivers that they are driving in the wrong direction
- Required trained EMTs to carry and use EpiPens
- Improved data collection on use of and compliance with police body and dashboard cameras, improved data collection on crimes involving firearms, and updated firearm training requirements