



Dear Neighbor,

It is such a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from an extraordinarily productive 2023 legislative session.

I'm proud to have worked on and supported a bipartisan budget that delivers **historic tax cuts** and **increases funding for our students, families, and most vulnerable residents**, while still **paying off over \$2 billion in unfunded future pension obligations and building our Rainy Day Fund**. Reaching across the aisle, we prioritized education, supported nonprofits, and invested in public safety without the bickering that's become so ingrained in our national politics.

As **co-chair of the Government Administration & Elections Committee and the Reproductive Rights Caucus**, I was proud to lead on some of our most important legislation, including passing **Early Voting**, sending **No-Excuse Absentee Voting** to the voters for approval in 2024, the **Connecticut Voting Rights Act**, and building on our nation-leading 2022 **Reproductive Freedom Defense Act**.

As always, I'd love to hear from you with your questions or comments. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



CAPITOL UPDATE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MATT BLUMENTHAL

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES

HISTORIC TAX CUTS

A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:



CUTTING YOUR TAXES

Our budget includes the **largest Personal Income Tax cut in CT history** by cutting marginal income tax rates, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, capping mill rates, and eliminating even more retirement income taxes.



INDUSTRY GROWTH

Our budget **supports CT's growing industries** such as childcare, manufacturing, adult-use cannabis, and media, film and theater production.



INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

Our budget **invests over \$240M in public education** by stabilizing our state colleges and universities, expanding debt-free community college, fully funding our schools and local boards of education, and increasing scholarships and student debt relief.



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

Our budget **invests over \$30M to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals** by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, increasing Husky C eligibility, and breaking down silos for better coordination and data collection.

2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- \$30,709,480 in total municipal dollars for Stamford next year
- \$17,145,212 in Education Cost Sharing for Stamford next year
- Biggest Income Tax Cut in CT History
- Maintaining Fiscal Discipline
- Eliminating The Retirement Tax
- Strengthening Regulation of Public Utilities by bolstering PURA oversight and prohibiting utilities from passing lobbying and marketing expenses on to ratepayers

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

- **Authored and led passage of Connecticut's first program of Early Voting**, providing 14 days of early voting for general elections, 7 for primaries, and 4 before special elections and presidential primaries.
- **Led passage** of a resolution for a constitutional amendment to allow **No-Excuse Absentee Voting**.
- **Authored and helped lead passage** of the **John R. Lewis Connecticut Voting Rights Act**.
- **Reformed and strengthened** our state's **Freedom of Information Act**.

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS

- Passed nation-leading legislation **protecting data privacy**, including by protecting **consumer health data**, prohibiting **geolocation**, and **regulating targeted advertising to kids**.
- **Increased access to contraception** allowing pharmacists to prescribe and guaranteeing access to birth control and emergency contraception.
- Required state colleges and universities to **provide reproductive health resources to students**.
- **Prohibited insurance discrimination** against fertility patients based on LGBTQ status or age.
- Strengthened our nation-leading **2022 Reproductive Freedom Defense Act** by **protecting healthcare providers** from attacks on their licenses, malpractice insurance, privileges and credentials because they provide reproductive health care.

INCREASING PUBLIC SAFETY

- Formed a special police task force to **protect kids against abuse online**.
- Increased **protections for seniors** against scams.
- Strengthened our **bans on ghost guns and assault weapons**.
- Restricted **open carry and bulk purchases of handguns**.
- Expanded **firearms safe-storage requirements**.
- Boosted access to opioid antagonists like Narcan to **prevent overdose deaths**.