



Dear Neighbor,

It is a privilege and honor 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 delivers historic tax cuts and increased funding for students, families, and our most vulnerable residents, while paying down our long-term debt, including an additional \$2.072 billion in unfunded future pension liability.

Most importantly, we did it by working together - without gimmicks or partisan politics. We prioritized education, supported non-profits, and invested in public safety without the fighting you see in Washington.

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

Sincerely,

State Representative Kevin Brown



NEW LAWS IN CT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN BROWN

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

Representative Kevin Brown
Legislative Office Building, Room 4026
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT 2023 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KEVIN BROWN
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HISTORIC FUNDING FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

- Prevented any town from receiving a funding cut to their local schools (\$6.5 m).
- Continued our commitment to funding local boards of education with an honest ECS formula (\$45 m).
- Invests over \$240 million in public education for the 2024-25 school year:
 - › Capped tuition payments that local districts pay for children attending choice programs.
 - › \$164 million in new funding to local boards of education.
 - › \$9.3 million in new funding for charter schools.
 - › \$53.3 million in new funding for magnet schools.
 - › \$11.4 million new funding for Open Choice.
 - › \$7.2 million in new funding for vocational agriculture programs.

PROTECTING RENTERS

- Increased municipal fines to \$2,000 for rental property violations (unsanitary or unsafe living conditions).
- Capped late charges for past due rent.
- Capped rental application fees at \$50.
- Required a more timely return of security deposits.

BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

- Expanded school-based apprenticeship opportunities in aviation and aerospace, training for future paraeducators, and dual credit/enrollment opportunities.
- Created tax credits and incentives for towns and businesses that build workforce housing, including for teachers, police officers, and firefighters.
- Encouraging careers in our K-12 schools, offering nursing licenses at our colleges, and creating opportunities among our existing personal care attendant workforce.

SUPPORTING WORKERS & SMALL BUSINESSES

- Expanded JobsCT to increase employment and job creation in our state.
- Protected workers whose health benefits are terminated by an employer following a strike or labor dispute.
- Cut the number of reporting requirements for businesses.

SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services including primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals.
- Eliminated even more taxes on retirement. Current law exempts 100% of pension and annuity income from the state's income tax, and we are halfway to phasing out 100% of IRA income for those making \$75,000 or less annually (\$100,000 for joint filers). We extended these exemptions to taxpayers making up to \$100,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers) by phasing-out the deduction between 2.5% and 100%, depending on your income.

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 reducing 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, adult-use cannabis, manufacturing, and media, film, and theater production.



INVESTING IN 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.