

SESSION WRAP-UP

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 – which allowed our diverse caucus to hear different perspectives, compromise, and create better legislation.

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,



BIG WINS FOR GROTON, MYSTIC & STONINGTON

- Historic funding for schools
- Massive deposit into Rainy Day Fund
- Sensible/sustainable budget
- CT a beacon for reproductive healthcare
- Modern voting system with early voting
- Invest in growing healthcare workforce



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE AUNDRÉ BUMGARDNER
PROUDLY SERVING GROTON, MYSTIC & STONINGTON

Assistant Majority Leader & Secretary for the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus (BPRC)
Committee/Subcommittee Member of: Finance, Revenue & Bonding, General Obligation Bonding,
Transportation Bonding, Planning & Development, & Environment

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NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT

2023
2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE AUNDRÉ BUMGARDNER

PROUDLY SERVING GROTON, MYSTIC & STONINGTON



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ENERGY AND SB7 – AN ACT STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR CONNECTICUT'S CONSUMERS OF ENERGY

- Prevents utility companies from recovering certain costs through their rates
- Changes energy statutes to promote a more equitable energy market for consumers
- Requires utility companies to fund nonprofits engaged in energy assistance programs

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS OF OVER \$30 MILLION FOR RESIDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD)

- Moves adults with IDD and kids with autism off waiting lists
- Bolsters work opportunities for individuals with IDD through tax credits, nonprofit grants, and training programs
- Improves statewide coordination of programming for those with IDD and autism while improving special education oversight and transition services through our state Department of Education
- Pilots a hospital-based program to serve more individuals waitlisted for services
- Expands ABLE accounts through tax deductions and incentives for employer-based contributions
- Improves bus stop and bus shelter accessibility and ADA compliance



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, adult-use cannabis, manufacturing, as well as 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.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT & ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

- Allowed permits for factories, waste plants, and other polluters to be denied or have conditions on them when they are proposed in locations that have historically dealt with high levels of pollution
- Established a working group consisting of different members and entities to develop strategies and identify priority areas of the shoreline in order to restore and increase eel grass meadows in the state of CT
- Responded to the municipal solid waste crisis with new funding for facilities and mandatory food scrap diversion at colleges, hospitals, and nursing homes



PROTECTING WILDLIFE

- Protected migratory birds by requiring state-owned and leased buildings to turn off unnecessary outdoor lighting
- Banned hand-harvesting of horseshoe crabs
- Authorized the establishment of a seabird and shorebird protection program which may designate and identify protected areas and makes it an infraction to disturb those areas

