

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear Neighbor:

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 share some highlights.

I'm proud to have worked hard to deliver a budget that contains historic tax cuts while adhering to our fiscal guardrails. We provided hundreds of millions in more funding to our local schools, to seniors, and for our most vulnerable residents. We paid down an additional \$2 billion in pension debt, saving the state \$167.4 million a year. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

I personally led the fight to require the driver's license test to be offered in an additional 26 languages to help many in our community. I introduced and led passage of a restaurant food allergy policy to improve communication. I'm proud to have secured \$100,000 of grant funding for Branford Counseling and Community Services to address the critical needs of Branford residents.

I'd love to hear from you. Please keep in touch!

Sincerely,

Robin Comey



BIG WINS FOR BRANFORD

- Historic funding for schools
- Massive deposit into Rainy Day Fund
- Sensible/sustainable budget
- Eliminated even more taxes on retirement incomes for seniors
- Enacted early voting and a modern voting system
- Growing our healthcare workforce



CAPITOL UPDATE

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBIN COMEY

PROUDLY SERVING BRANFORD

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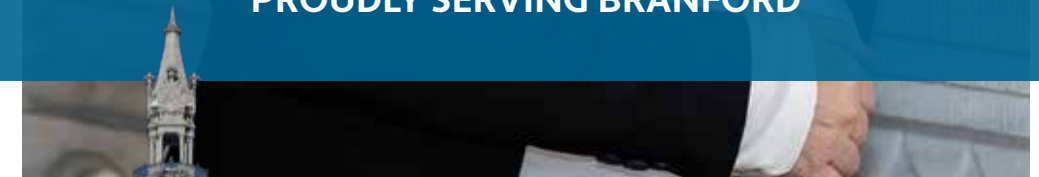
CAPITOL UPDATE

2023



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBIN COMEY

PROUDLY SERVING BRANFORD



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SUPPORTING SENIORS

During session, we successfully passed legislation that protects and supports individuals in the state who are in the twilight years of their life. Below are some of the highlights of the bills on aging we passed this year:

- Strengthened services for people with dementia by expanding eligibility for adult day services, established a new coordinator of state services, expanded Medicaid coverage for certain services, and increased Medicaid reimbursement
- Strengthened assisted living communities' transparency, improved family and patient involvement in nursing home and homemaker companion environments and added protections from abrupt closing and price increases
- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed

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 providing over \$600 million in middle class tax cuts, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, and eliminating even more taxes on retirement income for seniors.



INDUSTRY GROWTH

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



INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

Our budget invests over \$240 million in public education, supports our state colleges and universities, expands debt-free community college, increases funding for our Branford Public Schools, increases scholarships and student debt relief.



SAFETY NET SERVICES

Our budget expands Temporary Family Assistance, increases Husky C eligibility, provides funds to Branford Counseling and Community Services and other 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 \$30 million to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, increasing Husky C eligibility, increasing collaboration between agencies to achieve better coordination and data collection.

EDUCATION

As an Education Committee member, I was proud to deliver significant increased funding for Branford and provide historic investments in schools that enhance Connecticut's top-rated educational system.

- Branford will receive more than \$400k in additional education funding for the upcoming school year (about 13% more than FY 23), with over \$240 million invested in public education statewide for the following year
- Created a higher education student loan forgiveness program and granted free graduate school tuition to eligible veterans and their families
- Required play-based learning & adjusted the kindergarten eligibility age to align with best practices in age-appropriate learning
- Required boards of education to provide translator services and established rights for multilingual learners
- Required high school students to take a financial literacy class before graduating



BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

The 2023 legislative session was incredibly productive, bringing about remarkable advancements in expanding educational opportunities and bolstering our healthcare workforce. We accomplished this by:

- Expanding school-based apprenticeship opportunities in aviation and aerospace and training for future paraeducators
- Encouraging healthcare careers in our K-12 schools, and nurturing a pipeline of nurses and personal care attendants
- Created student loan subsidies for paraeducators and school counselors in our lowest-performing districts, for police officers in distressed municipalities and for emergency medical service personnel