

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear Neighbor:

The 2024 legislative session is in the books and I am proud of what we accomplished.

We focused on big issues in 2024: elder care, protecting health care workers, childcare, early childhood nutrition, climate change, paid time off, targeting street takeovers – and we had to protect the largest and second largest tax cuts in state history.

I remain filled with deep gratitude and pride to be your state representative.

All my best,

Robin Comey



BIG WINS FOR BRANFORD

- Making Seniors a Priority
- Supporting Workers with Paid Sick Leave
- Prioritized Funding for Early Childhood
- Protecting Our Environment
- Secured \$10K in funding to improve Branford Water Quality
- Protecting Democracy

CAPITOL UPDATE

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBIN COMEY

PROUDLY SERVING BRANFORD

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CAPITOL UPDATE **2024** **2025**



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SUPPORTING OUR CLASSROOMS

Education continues to be a high priority for me as your representative. Teachers are the cornerstone of our schools and this year we focused on supporting this workforce.

- Cut certification red tape to make licensing faster and enable teachers to teach more subjects across more grades
- Expanded eligibility in the fast-track certification program
- Made it easier for industry experts to teach in our tech schools
- Provided help to classroom paraeducators to pay for their health insurance

PRIORITIZING FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

This year we focused on consolidating funding streams as well as streamlining teacher certification. We made other advances as well, such as:

- Invested \$43.4 million into early childhood programs
- Expanded Care4Kids eligibility and invested in provider stabilization grants
- Created a streamlined funding system for families and providers
- Increased coordination to raise private funds
- Expanded the childcare incubator program

SUPPORTING WORKERS WITH PAID SICK DAYS

Supported middle-class and working families by granting most full and part-time workers access to paid sick days over a three-year period:

- Use for yourself or to care for a loved one
- Up to 40 hours per year
- Roll over time to the following year

STATE BUDGET

Last year, we passed a bipartisan biennium budget that includes historic tax cuts and investments for our community:

- Largest Income tax cut in state history
- Biggest investment in public education ever
- New supports for the IDD community
- Expansion of debt free community college
- Protected safety net programs

This session, we protected these tax cuts and invested millions of federal funds in:

- Higher Ed - \$160 million with a path to grow to \$200 million
- Early Childcare - \$21.8 million
- Mental Health - \$24 million
- Nonprofits - \$50 million

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

Connecticut is committed to passing laws protecting free and fair elections and respecting human rights and our fundamental freedoms. In 2024, we:

- Banned foreign nationals from making campaign contributions in CT or spending money on behalf of candidates
- Required video monitoring of ballot drop boxes
- Made it a crime to harass election workers

MAKING SENIORS A PRIORITY

Over the past two years we have passed more legislation to benefit seniors than in the past 30 years combined. These are a few highlights from the 2024 session:

- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care
- Required home care workers to wear photo-ID badges
- Created a new registry system to connect patients to home care providers and created a dashboard to help navigate nursing home options
- Prevented nursing homes from putting more than two patients in a single room
- Required nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60-90 days' notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees
- Fast-tracked nursing home transfers and receiverships when homes are closing
- Required health insurance coverage for detecting coronary artery disease
- Strengthened oversight of negligent nursing homes



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

I am committed to supporting environmental policies that improve the health and wellbeing for the residents of our state. In 2024, we passed legislation:

- Banning numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals
- Requiring better notice when herbicides are sprayed along railroads
- Increasing enforcement of boating laws on bodies of water that border our neighboring states
- Our Clean Energy Initiatives included:
 - Expediting permitting for solar canopies and lifted caps on new solar production
 - Increasing hydropower going to our power grid and extended offshore wind procurement