



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

Last year's Biennium Budget laid the foundation for this year's priorities. We focused on big issues in 2024: elder care, protecting healthcare workers, childcare, early childhood nutrition, climate change, paid time off, targeting street takeovers – all while remaining within our fiscal guardrails.

A key piece of legislation leveraged federal ARPA funds for unprecedented investment in major areas: higher education, early childcare, mental health, and nonprofits. Additionally, we closed this fiscal year with a \$270 million operating surplus after depositing \$1.1 billion in the Rainy Day Fund and our pension systems. Connecticut continues to critically invest in common goods while retaining the largest tax cuts in state history.

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.

## 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Providing Quality Care for Seniors
- Maintaining Historic Tax Cuts
- Making Childcare More Affordable and Accessible
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# CHRISTINE CONLEY

PROUDLY SERVING GROTON AND NEW LONDON

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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE CONLEY

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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES

# PROTECTING TAX CUTS

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

## SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

- Exempted permanently and totally disabled veterans from paying property taxes. (PA 24-46)
- Made it easier for veterans to earn a Q license endorsement to join fire departments. (PA 24-14)
- Expanded eligibility for grants from the Military Relief Fund for families experiencing hardship. (PA 24-57)
- Expanded veterans' driver's license and license plate options to reservists. (PA 24-146)
- Formally recognized Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. (SJ 6)

## KEEPING CONNECTICUT HEALTHY

- Allowed telehealth to continue for in-state and out-of-state residents without letting the practice sunset. (PA 24-110)
- Protected home health care workers with funding for safety escorts and technology. (PA 24-19)
- Required railroads to develop annual plans on the impact of pesticides on vegetation management & highlight herbicide use in their operational plans.
- Covered victims of sexual assault under the state's Paid Family & Medical Leave program. (PA 24-5)
- Banned paperwork requirements for receiving critical ambulance rides. (PA 24-19)
- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals. (PA 24-59)

## FUNDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- \$5,000,000 to restore services on the Shoreline East Rail Line.
- \$5,224,415 potential reimbursement to the Town of Groton for the construction of a microgrid at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base.
- \$2,000,000 to the New London Early Child Learning Center at B.P.
- \$2,000,000 for the TVCCA's Groton Early Childhood Education Center.
- \$1,620,000 for the completion of the Lyman Allyn Park.
- \$1,000,000 to New London for Magnet School costs.
- \$63,296 increase to Tri-Share PILOT Program in Eastern Connecticut to cover participating employee's childcare costs.



## INVESTING IN EDUCATION

- Directed the Office of Early Childcare to establish the Tri-Share Child Care Matching Program as a pilot initiative in New London County with childcare expenses for participants split evenly between employee, employer, and the state.
- Established the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council to review proposed and existing mandates on local boards of education. (PA 24-45)
- Required same day parental notification when children hurt themselves or others. (PA 24-93)
- Capped the amount of money all districts pay to send kids out of district – saving millions of dollars for local schools. (PA 24-81)
- Required the State Department of Education to provide school districts an estimate of their next year's funding by the end of the current year, to ensure better budgeting. (PA 24-81)
- Provided help to classroom paraeducators to pay for their health insurance. (PA 24-81)

## CARING FOR SENIORS

- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care. (PA 24-39)
- Created a new registry system to connect patients to home care providers and created a dashboard to help navigate nursing home options. (PA 24-39)
- Required nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60-90 days' notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees. (PA 24-141)
- Created an incentive-based program to improve nursing home care in CT. (PA 24-141)
- Fast-tracked nursing home transfers and receiverships when homes are closing. (PA 24-141)
- Required health insurance coverage for detecting coronary artery disease. (PA 24-19)
- Strengthened oversight of negligent nursing homes. (PA 24-141)