

# 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 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 – without the fighting you see in Washington.

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 TORRINGTON

- ✓ \$91K for Torrington Senior Center over the next two years
- ✓ Over \$400K Town Aid Road
- ✓ An additional \$1M for education
- ✓ \$150K in funds for Warner Theater over the next two years
- ✓ \$1.4M for the Sophia Building Mixed Use Affordable Housing Adaptive Reuse Project
- ✓ \$3M additional for Torrington

# NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE L. COOK

PROUDLY SERVING TORRINGTON

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## EN ESPAÑOL

Escanee el código QR  
o comuníquese con mi  
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boletín en español



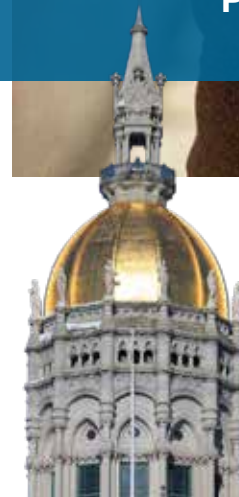
# NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT

2023  
2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**MICHELLE L. COOK**

PROUDLY SERVING TORRINGTON



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## SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Strengthened patients' involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints
- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services including primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals
- Increased funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels
- Required nursing homes to notify the Long-Term Care ombudsman about an involuntary transfer or discharge on the same day the resident is notified
- Required nursing homes to submit annual narrative cost expenditures summaries to DSS
- Required nursing home licensure applicants to disclose any private equity company or real estate investment trust that owns any part of the home and give DPH the owner's audited and certified financial statements
- Requires chronic and convalescent nursing homes that receive Medicaid funding to annually report a profit and loss statement from each related party that receives at least \$30,000 of income from the home
- Requires the DSS commissioner to develop and post online a guidebook that explains in plain language the Medicaid nursing home rate setting process

## IMPROVING HEALTHCARE

- Established the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to help providers and patients navigate our insurance system
- Added more specificity to hospital discharge plans and improved coordination with the patient's pharmacy
- Created early detection screening for lung cancer
- Required newborn screening for cytomegalovirus
- Created mental health toolkits for new parents
- Extended health insurance coverage for newborns from 61 days to 91 days
- Increased telehealth options for issues like follow up appointments

## SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVE

- Granted free graduate school tuition to eligible veterans and their families, as well as active members of the National Guard
- Established funding and benefits for firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer

# 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, and 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.

## EDUCATION

- Improved protocols and supports to enhance classroom safety for educators and students (Public Act 23-167)
- Increased school readiness
- Increased the maximum per child cost of the School Readiness Program from \$9,027 to \$10,500 to enable additional spending on preparing our kids for school
- \$7.2 million in new funding for vocational agriculture programs
- Created student loan subsidies for paraeducators and school counselors in our lowest-performing districts, as well as for police officers in distressed municipalities and also emergency medical service personnel
- Expanded debt-free community college – including subsidies for returning students
- 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

## SUPPORTING WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

- Required full disclosure of hidden fees on small business loans, ensured access to judicial hearings in a dispute, and required any loan offers to be good for at least three days
- Cut the number of reporting requirements for businesses
- Allowed existing cigar bars and clubs in our larger cities to serve alcohol
- Permanently allowed restaurants to sell alcohol for off-site consumption
- Supported CT farm wineries by allowing them to open up to three retail locations
- Cut business taxes to promote expansion of childcare facilities
- Made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects

