

# SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear neighbor,

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

My goal for the session was to ensure we invested in our priorities while preserving tax cuts for families and seniors.

By passing our fiscal stabilization plan we protected the largest and second largest tax cuts in state history and ensured more retirement income would be tax-exempt. We also filled our priority buckets by increasing funding for higher education, early childhood, mental health, and nonprofits.

I am proud of the increases I secured for Torrington's municipal aid, our education, and our local nonprofits.

This newsletter has more details.

Sincerely,



Michelle L. Cook



## BIG WINS FOR TORRINGTON

Grant Type	Last Year	Going Forward
Adult Education	\$173,855	\$178,455
Education Cost Sharing	\$28,934,962	\$30,194,857
Municipal Grants-in-Aid	\$605,345	\$605,345
Local Capital Improvement (LoCIP)	\$277,907	\$429,347
Town Aid Road	\$461,991	\$461,363
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$196,642	\$196,642
Supplemental Revenue Sharing	\$0	\$72,539
Motor Vehicle Tax Reimbursement	\$3,637,348	\$5,155,675
Tiered PILOT	\$1,112,103	\$1,204,119

# NEW LAWS FOR 2024-25

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE L. COOK

PROUDLY SERVING TORRINGTON

Representative Michelle L. Cook  
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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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# NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT 2024 2025



## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE L. COOK

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## MAKING CT SENIORS A PRIORITY

- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care (PA 24-39)
- Required home care workers to wear photo-ID badges (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)
- Prevented nursing homes from putting more than two patients in a single room (PA 24-141)
- 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 24-39)
- 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)

## CT'S HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Cut red tape for operating plasma donation centers (PA 24-7)
- Putting patients first: (PA 24-19)
  - Allowed pharmacists to give opioid disposal systems when dispensing opioids
  - Strengthened hospitals' defenses against cyberattacks
  - Banned paperwork and payment requirements for receiving critical ambulance rides
  - Allowed telehealth to continue for in-state and out-of-state residents without letting the practice sunset (PA 24-110)
- Established new Bureau of Services for Persons who are Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing (PA 24-81)
- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals (PA 24-59)

## PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY

- Banned foreign nationals from making campaign contributions in CT or spending money on behalf of candidates (SB 253)
- Required video monitoring of ballot drop boxes (PA 24-148)
- Made it a crime to harass election workers (PA 24-148)

## IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION

- Expanded state-backed student loans to students under 18 (PA 24-64)
- Invested in nonprofits that assist students with college and financial aid applications (PA 24-117)
- Required CT colleges and universities to disclose to students any reductions in their financial aid when they are awarded a scholarship (PA 24-87)
- Expanded employer-based student loan repayment tax credits and reduced rates for state-backed loans for in-demand occupations (PA 24-52)
- Modified the automatic admissions program so students will be automatically admitted to certain public and private universities based on GPA, not class rank (PA 24-47)



## SUPPORTING SCHOOLS, TEACHERS & STUDENTS

- 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 a child hurts 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)

### Improving Childcare (PAs 24-78 & -91):

- Increased coordination to raise private funds
- Piloted new childcare programming
- Expanded the childcare incubator program
- \$1800 one time pay for early childhood classroom teachers

### Growing our Teacher Workforce (PA 24-41):

- 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

## SUPPORTING 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)



## PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

- Improved the eligibility process for getting benefits to the families of first responders who died in the line of duty (PA 24-16)
- Established a Fallen Officer Fund to provide families of police officers who died in the line of duty with cash assistance and health care coverage (PA 24-27)
- Protected the personal information of special victims like minors and victims of abuse from public disclosures (PA 24-56)
- Toughened penalties for killing a police dog (PA 24-65)
- Protected domestic violence victims from being forced into debt by their abuser (PA 24-77)
- Excluded medical debt from counting against your credit score (PA 24-6)
- Simplifying wheelchair repairs under Medicaid (PA 24-58)
- Streamlined criminal background checks for prospective foster families without compromising thoroughness (PA 24-79)
- Streamlined the SOTS procedure for businesses filings (PA 24-111)
- Expanded small business loan program (PA 24-36)

