

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It remains an honor and a privilege to serve as your state representative. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the highlights from the 2023 legislative session.

This term I am serving as Deputy Majority Leader, member of the Human Services Committee and vice chair of the Appropriations Committee. I am proud to have worked on a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while delivering historic tax cuts, deposits **\$3.3 billion** into the **Rainy Day Fund**, and prepays an additional **\$2 billion** of **unfunded pension liability**, which saves taxpayer money. Putting Connecticut in better fiscal shape has also allowed us to fund aid increases for towns and schools, families, and our most vulnerable residents.

We have continued our work to implement measures from last year's historic **children's mental health** legislation (HB 5001), which I championed. I serve as chair of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee, which we affectionately call the "TCB" committee, since we will be "taking care of business" as it pertains to our continued commitment to build a comprehensive behavioral health system for the children of CT.

We enhanced **voting rights** access and our state's **gun safety laws**. We passed several bills to protect **seniors**, to help **college students** who decide to stay and work in Connecticut, and we passed legislation to protect **workers**, help **small businesses** and enhance **children's health** and **education**.

It's difficult to capture all the good work we accomplished this session, but this newsletter provides some highlights. I would love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this newsletter.

Wishing you a healthy, enjoyable end of summer and great start to the fall season.

Sincerely,



## BIG WINS FOR OUR TOWNS

- ✓ Largest income tax cut in CT History
- ✓ Cut more taxes on retirement income
- ✓ Historic funding for schools
- ✓ Modern voting system with early voting
- ✓ Invests in growing healthcare workforce



# NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE TAMMY EXUM

PROUDLY SERVING WEST HARTFORD AND AVON

Representative Tammy Exum  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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## MAJOR PUBLIC ACTS

Scan the QR Code to  
learn more about the  
2023 laws we passed



# NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT

## 2023 2024



## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE TAMMY EXUM

PROUDLY SERVING WEST HARTFORD AND AVON



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Representative Exum (Vice Chair, Appropriations Committee) pictured along with Rep. Toni Walker (Co-Chair, Appropriations Committee)

## 19TH DISTRICT STATE AID FUNDING

State Grant	Fiscal Year 24	Fiscal Year 25
Pilot	\$ 1,971,304	\$ 1,971,304
Motor Vehicle Tax Cap	\$ 6,177,521	\$ 6,177,521
Town Road Aid	\$ 1,008,128	\$ 1,008,128
Education Cost Sharing	\$ 23,780,247	\$ 25,910,440
Total State Aid	\$ 35,094,202	\$ 37,224,807
Increase from FY 23	\$ 2,117,274	\$ 4,247,879

## GOOD NEWS FOR WEST HARTFORD & AVON

### Local Projects and Organizations Approved for State Funding

#### WEST HARTFORD

Bridge Family Center..... \$110,000  
 Rockledge Golf Club.....\$130,000  
 West Hartford Pride .....\$40,000

#### AVON

Youth Services Bureau.....\$40,000  
 Softball Fields ..... \$200,000  
 Avon Senior Center ..... \$100,000



# 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** and increases the Earned Income Tax Credit



### RETIREE TAX RELIEF

We expanded the exemption on IRA income to taxpayers making up to \$100,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers)



### PAID DOWN DEBT

We also pre-paid an additional estimated **\$2 billion** in unfunded pension liability which will save taxpayers **\$167.4 million** annually



### RAINY DAY FUND

Deposits **\$3.3 billion** into state's Rainy Day Fund, which also helps us keep our AA+ credit rating



### IDD SUPPORTS

Our budget **invests over \$30 million to better serve Intellectual or Developmentally Disabled individuals** by addressing waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities and breaking down barriers for better coordination of services

## PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Passed Vision Zero legislation that I co-introduced allowing automated traffic enforcement and wrong way driving countermeasures; legislation to address bear population management strategies; formed a police task force to deal with the abuse of kids online; expanded GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders; established a regional task force to combat illegal vehicle activities in greater Hartford; worked with other states to regionally address catalytic converter theft and passed common-sense gun control reform including restricting open carry, banning ghost guns, and expanding the assault weapon ban.

## STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

Extended income levels for the exemption of IRA income, pension, and annuities from the state's income tax; strengthened patients' involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints; increased funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels; allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed and established a new coordinator of state services for people with dementia and expanded eligibility for adult day services.

## SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Invests more than **\$240 million** in public education for 2024-25 school year; required more play-based learning for young learners and a financial literacy class for high schoolers; mandated translator services; established rights for multilingual learners and expanded debt free community college.

## PROTECTING CONSUMERS

Required companies that charge you through an auto-renewal subscription to get your permission before charging you for the next billing cycle; restricted more types of telemarketing calls, texts, and social media solicitations; limited the hours that telemarketing can take place and demanded TV and cable companies give you a prorated refund if you cancel before the end of your billing cycle.



## FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Building upon last year's historic HB 5001 that I championed, the legislature passed new laws to address behavioral health services, which creates a mental health toolkit for new parents; provides Medicaid reimbursement for certain mental health evaluations and services at school-based health centers or public schools; hires temporary and part-time employees to collaborate with non-profit organizations to identify and enroll eligible children in the HUSKY Health program; reduces license fees for certain professionals and establishes the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to advocate for and assist mental health care providers.