

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2025 legislative session featured big issues like lowering energy bills, childcare, special education, and the state budget – and we tackled them all.

As a former teacher and board of education member, I know how important it is to invest in the future of our children. That is also why I am very proud of our work this session, which makes historic investment in this area. This includes my continued work in addressing supports for children’s behavioral health.

I was also proud to work as Appropriations Committee vice chair to deliver millions more in funding to help stabilize town budgets and support our local schools, public safety, and economic development.

It continues to be an honor to serve as your state representative. I welcome your questions, ideas and feedback.

Please reach out to me anytime if I can be of assistance to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Tammy Rush Exum



DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER
TAMMY EXUM

PROUDLY SERVING WEST HARTFORD AND AVON

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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OUR SINGLE-GREATEST INVESTMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Established a new Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant program based on school needs to help build local capacity so more students can be served closer to home.
- Ensured our reimbursement grant for high-needs students is funded at its highest level in Connecticut history.
- Increased state funding for local capital improvements related to special education.

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Set new state climate goals for greenhouse gas reduction.
- Supported clean energy jobs through tax incentives.
- Encouraged nature-based solutions for reaching greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Regulated the use of rodenticides and banned fertilizers that contain PFAS.

MAKING SENIORS A PRIORITY

- Lowering prescription drug costs by stopping middlemen from passing on cost increases for profit. Also, guaranteed that rebates from drug manufacturers are passed on to consumers.
- Ensured insurance coverage of biomarker testing to detect cancer early and improve treatment.
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman can now investigate complaints and take disciplinary action.

PROVIDING FOR OUR CHILDREN

- This session I continued my work as tri-chair of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (TCB), and the work continues. We supported children's mental health including funding our Urgent Crisis Centers. We also expanded resources to support policies and recommendations of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Committee (TCB) that includes dedicated Medicaid Funds.

A STATE BUDGET THAT INVESTS IN YOUR PRIORITIES

- Our budget is the single greatest investment in childcare in Connecticut's history.
- We delivered targeted, meaningful tax relief and long-term support for working families.
- Our comprehensive energy reforms will mean lower bills and a smarter grid.

FUNDING FOR 19TH DISTRICT

As vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, working to provide our towns' fair share of funding is always a top priority. This year, we secured:



Education Funding \$26.4 million
(plus \$317,952 for Special Education)

Total State Aid \$38.7 million
(for Fiscal Year 26)

WEST HARTFORD

- **\$600,000** for mobility hubs
- **\$160,000** for West Hartford PRIDE
- **\$150,000** for The Bridge Family Center
- **\$130,316** for Playhouse on Park

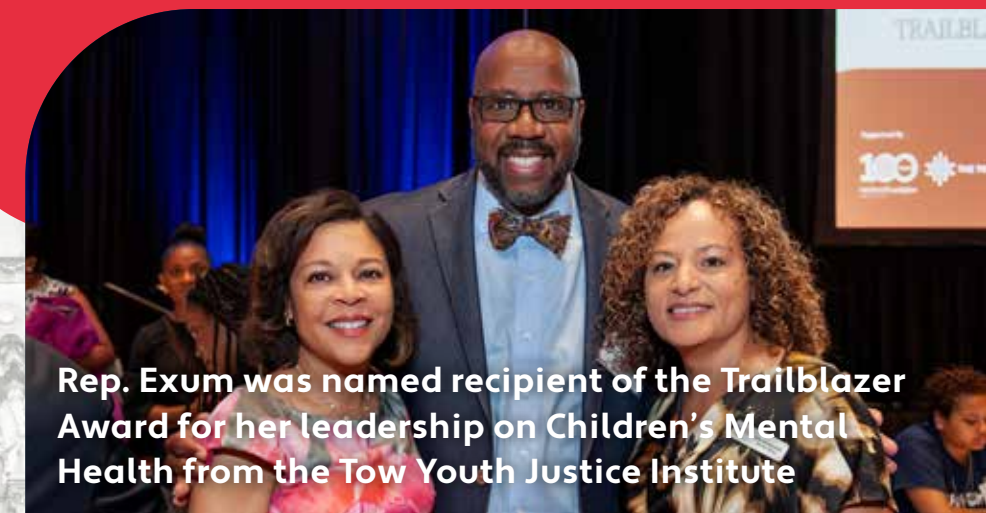
AVON

- **\$514,000** for the Department of Public Works
- **\$330,000** for Mills Pond Pool
- **\$100,000** for the Senior Center in FY 26 & FY 27

SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES

INVESTING IN CHILDCARE

We established the Early Childhood Education Endowment starting with a down payment of nearly \$300 million. By 2027, families earning up to \$100,000 will be able to receive childcare at no cost, while families earning more than \$100,000 will pay no more than 7% of their income for childcare.



Rep. Exum was named recipient of the Trailblazer Award for her leadership on Children's Mental Health from the Tow Youth Justice Institute