

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 priority buckets by increasing funding for higher education, early childhood, mental health, and nonprofits.

This newsletter has more details.

Enjoy,



HARTFORD APPROVED FOR OVER \$16 MILLION IN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association - \$3,092,721 - "Aetna/Comet Diner" - funds will be used to complete remediation, renovate, and reactivate the historic diner, and provide a local community meeting space.

Charter Oak Cultural Center - \$6,500,000 - "Renovation and Restoration of 21 Charter Oak Avenue" - funds will renovate Connecticut's first synagogue at 21 Charter Oak Avenue and historic 25 Charter Oak Avenue. The Charter Oak Cultural Center City School for the Arts will add 8 classrooms and update ADA compliance.

Overlook Development Corporation - \$5,527,250 - "Willow Creek" - funds will provide pre-development, site improvements and infrastructure for connectivity of the streets, utilities, and sidewalks for Willow Creek.

Northeast Neighborhood Partners, Inc. - \$900,000 - "Hartford Workforce Hub" - funds will support the development of the Hartford Workforce Hub in the Swift Factory.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA HALL

PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD]



CAPITOL UPDATE 24

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOSHUA HALL

PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSHUA HALL CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Expanded the small business loan program in lower-income communities and enabled more out-of-state businesses to expand into CT (PA 24-36)
- Established a trade commission with Ireland (PA 24-60)
- Created a fund to improve and manage our small harbors (PA 24-48)
- Made it easier for out-of-state nurses and social workers to move to and practice in CT (PA 24-83 and PA 24-30)

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 Workers with Paid Sick Days (PA 24-8)

Supported middle-class and working families by granting most full and part-time workers access to Paid Sick Days over a three-year period:

- Use for yourself or to care for a loved one
- Up to 40 hours per year
- Roll over time to the following year

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE & CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

- Expanded the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee to establish a gender responsiveness subcommittee and work in conjunction with the Trafficking in Persons Council and the Transforming Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee. We also extended the reentry success plan to include requirements for job readiness and career training programs (PA 24-139)
- Expanded guidelines on the use of police body cameras and required those guidelines to be included in police training (PA 24-15)

TRANSPORTATION

Established a pilot program that provides all Hartford students in K-12 free bus fare (PA 24-20)

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 LOCAL SCHOOLS

- 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)

HONORING 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 24-119)

HOUSING PA 24-143

- Incentivized towns to develop more multi-family housing
- Required 45-day notice of rent increases
- Streamlined the process for converting vacant nursing homes into housing
- Prioritized surplus state-owned land to be used for affordable housing
- Increased the value of state rental vouchers

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES

PROTECTING TAX CUTS

WE PASSED A BIPARTISAN BIENNIAL 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**



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 - available January 2025 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)
- 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)