

Dear Neighbor,

The 2025 legislative session featured big wins like tackling our energy costs, affordable childcare, investments in special education and the state budget - and we did this together in a time of tremendous uncertainty.

Our balanced budget provides a \$250 check for working families under the EITC guidelines and \$300 million to fund the childcare trust fund. We devoted hundreds of millions of dollars to special education, approved comprehensive energy and climate legislation - to reduce electricity costs for businesses and families while lowering our emissions, holding polluters accountable, and restricting the sale of invasive plants, PFAs, neonics, and more.

We did it responsibly and collaboratively with input from you, the public. This newsletter has some of these highlights about the 2025 legislative session. I hope you'll dig in.

Peace,

Anne Hughes



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ANNE HUGHES

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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**CAPITOL
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SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- We established the Early Childhood Education Endowment - an investable trust fund that will create universal access to childcare - 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 at participating centers.
- We authorized \$80 million to help childcare providers expand and upgrade their facilities.
- We rejected attempts to cut education funding - ensuring no school district receives less than the year before from the state.
- We made funding for indoor air quality improvements a permanent part of our state financing for local school construction.
- We increased the state reimbursement grants for school construction projects related to special education and childcare.

STRENGTHENED SAFETY NETS AND ACCESS TO CARE

- Meaningfully lowering the cost of prescription drugs by:
 - » Stopping middlemen (PBMs) from passing along cost increases for their personal profit.
 - » Guaranteed rebates from drug manufacturers are passed along to consumers.
- We strengthened access to care:
 - » Established inflationary increases for our nonprofit providers.
 - » Expanded Medicaid coverage for sickle cell treatment.
 - » Standardized and professionalized interpreter services for our residents who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing while creating training opportunities and complaint investigations.
- We expanded abuse and neglect protections of individuals with developmental disabilities.
- We expanded our landmark Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to cover non-certified school employees, such as secretaries, nurses, custodians, security officers, and paraeducators.

ADDRESSING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CLIMATE CRISIS

- Addressed soil and water contamination through a ban on fertilizers containing PFAs and the establishment of an EPR program for collection/recycling of batteries.
- Expanded the ban on the sale of invasive plants.
- We worked with farmers across the state on a comprehensive farm bill. This includes a 20% refundable business tax credit on investments in farm equipment and infrastructure while more than doubling the local property tax exemption on farm machinery.

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

- Ensured insurance coverage of biomarker testing to detect cancer early and improve treatment.
- Closed a loophole so that all employees at long-term care facilities undergo a background check.
- Required greater consideration of family proximity when care homes transfer patients.
- Created anti-discrimination protections for residents of long-term care facilities and now require their staff to receive anti-discrimination training.

