



Dear Neighbor,

Short sessions move very quickly, but this one proved to be historic in what we were able to accomplish.

Historic like more than \$650 million in tax cuts for CT residents. Historic like our investment in the mental health of our children. Historic like our commitment to growing jobs and our economy as we come back from the pandemic. Historic like a state budget that pays off millions in pension debt and continues our record rainy day fund while investing in Avon and Canton, schools, mental health, public safety and programs that work - all while honoring the spending cap. In addition, I was able to help secure \$100,000 for renovations to Avon's Senior Center and \$550,000 for the Canton Police Department to replace a communications console.

I know that even with all this progress, we still face significant challenges: inflation that hits everyone's wallets, housing prices that price many out of even modest homes, and rising energy costs. That's why I fought hard to provide you with relief: increasing the property tax credit, phasing out taxes on retirement income, creating a childcare rebate, cutting the gas tax and more. I hope you find this newsletter packed with useful information. It is my honor to serve as your state representative.

All my best,

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Keeping CT Safe with Juvenile Justice Reform
- Bolstering Reproductive Freedoms
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ELENI KAVROS DEGRAW

PROUDLY SERVING AVON AND CANTON

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CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022

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CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022



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I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

\$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✓ Created a Child Tax Credit
- ✓ Cut taxes for homeowners
- ✓ Cut the car tax
- ✓ Extended the gas tax cut
- ✓ Ended pension and 401k tax
- ✓ Invested in healthcare workers

RESPONDED TO JUVENILE CRIME

- Invested in Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- Expanded alternatives to incarceration
- Expanded hands-on training for police
- Expanded use of GPS monitoring
- Toughened penalties for vehicle thefts
- Created more crisis training for our police
- Funded state and local task forces to address gun violence and auto thefts
- Addressed catalytic converter theft by making it harder for thieves to sell stolen catalytic converters

EDUCATION & EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

- Increased funding for infant and toddler care programs
- Increased pay to childcare workers to attract and retain more educators
- Expanded successful Birth to Three Program
- Approved state tax credit for childcare

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

- Guaranteed CT veterans in-state tuition rates
- Established a new, local-option property tax exemption equal to 10% of home values for more veterans
- Adopted higher fire department equipment standards, collecting better data on the prevalence of cancer among firefighters, and secured more local funding for firefighters who leave service with a cancer diagnosis
- Provided funding to local volunteer fire departments who respond to emergencies on certain state highways



LEADING OUR KIDS PAST THE PANDEMIC & TO PROMISING FUTURES

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansions of school-based health centers and the services they provide
- Created new walk-ins for mental health emergencies
- Initiated a new position at the Healthcare Advocate to help families navigate care for children and adolescents
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Established state oversight and coordination of state response to kids' mental health needs
- Helped school-based health centers develop new mental health programming
- Provided mental health training to parents, students, and pediatricians

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE & PROTECTING CT'S ENVIRONMENT

- Created a public health reporting system for homeowners with an abundance of salt in their drinking water
- Set a goal of reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions from electricity supplied to you by 2040
- Expanded financing to develop zero emission vehicle infrastructure, build more solar power and fuel cells, and reinforce our electric grid against the effects of climate change
- Explored new waste management programming
- Created new incentives for consumer and commercial electric vehicles