



After finishing my second short session in the legislature, one thing is clear: while the work may be challenging, the work we do as a legislature, with your input, is important and I am grateful for the privilege and honor of serving you.

We worked hard this session to preserve the bipartisan biennium budget we passed in 2023 while providing the biggest investment in public education ever at local schools, colleges, and universities; new supports for the IDD community; protected safety net programs while maintaining the largest income tax cut in state history.

We adhered to our fiscal guardrails, paying down historic amounts on our pension debt to ensure a better future for our state. We did it by working together, across the aisle, without the vitriol you see in Washington, D.C.

I can't fit all our good work in a newsletter, so I hope to see you at an upcoming event. Feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions you may have.

Eleni Kavros DeGraw

2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Providing Quality Care for Seniors
- Maintaining Historic Tax Cuts
- Making Childcare More Affordable and Accessible
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ELENI KAVROS DEGRAW

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2024**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2024**

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BILLS I CHAMPIONED

- AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT SENIORS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF NURSING AND HOME-BASED CARE
- AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS
- AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION
- AN ACT CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR VETERANS WHO HAVE A SERVICE-CONNECTED PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY RATING
- AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Expanded the small business loan program in lower-income communities and enabled more out-of-state businesses to expand into CT
- Made it easier for out-of-state nurses and social workers to move to and practice in CT
- Cut certification red tape to make licensing faster and enable teachers to teach more subjects across more grades and expand eligibility in the fast-track certification program
- Supported middle-class and working families by granting most full and part-time workers access to paid sick days over three years (a phase-in recommended by the small business community.)

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES

PROTECTING TAX CUTS

WE PASSED A BIPARTISAN BIENNIUM 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**



TAKING CARE OF OUR SENIORS AND STUDENTS

- Required nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60-90 days notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees
- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care
- Created a new registry system to connect patients to home care providers and created a dashboard to help navigate nursing home options
- Established the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council to review proposed and existing mandates on local boards of education
- 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
- Required same-day parental notification when children hurt themselves or others



CT'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Allowed telehealth to continue for in-state and out-of-state residents without letting the practice sunset
- Insured doctors' offices that are group practices have more accessible equipment to assist those with physical disabilities
- Moved more Department of Public Health licenses online
- Strengthened hospitals' defenses against cyberattacks
- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals and required better notice when herbicides are sprayed along railroads