



Dear Neighbor,

We focused on important issues in 2025: electric bills, a state budget, cost of living, special education, early childhood, veterans, and climate change. They may present significant challenges, but we negotiated concrete solutions, and you can see our work throughout this newsletter.

Though the local news may cover the soundbites of where we disagree, the collaboration and conversations with our legislative colleagues resulted in meaningful results for the people of Connecticut.

I remain filled with deep gratitude and pride to be your state representative.

All my best,

Eleni Kavros DeGraw

HONORING OUR VETERANS

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

- We excluded veterans’ pension benefits from income eligibility determinations under HUSKY A & D, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, and the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). Additionally, we exempted service-connected disability compensation from income calculations for public defender eligibility - expanding access to legal defense for veterans with mental health conditions.
- Improved access to capital and job creation among our veterans by prioritizing disabled veteran entrepreneurs in the Small Business Express loan program.
- Building off our 2024 law, we granted towns some new options to expand property tax exemptions for veterans and Gold Star families, to include:
 - Gold Star spouses, veterans rated Totally Disabled due to Individual Unemployability (TDIU), and veterans impacted before 2024.
 - Up to two acres of land and a cap on the exemption at the municipal median property value as a means of expanding eligibility in a fiscally sustainable way.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ELENI KAVROS DEGRAW

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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CUTTING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL, NOT YOUR POWER.

PROVIDING REAL ECONOMIC RELIEF TO ADDRESS AFFORDABILITY (NOT THE TRICKLE-DOWN KIND):

- Moved programmatic charges out of your bill and created better oversight of new charges.
- Capped infrastructure programs that utility companies make us pay for while they profit off the interest.
- Removed industry subsidies from our clean energy investments from the public benefits section of your bill.
- Used state financing to pay down COVID-era back payments and storm-related costs, which would otherwise be passed on to ratepayers.
- Our comprehensive reforms deliver **\$780 million in savings** over the next few years, meaning: lower bills, a smarter grid, and a stronger future for Connecticut.

THE SINGLE BIGGEST INVESTMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION:

- \$30 million annually for a new Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant to districts.
- \$10 million in competitive grants for more in-district programming.
- \$221 million in annual reimbursement for special education costs.
- \$10 million in financing for capital projects related to special education.

WE CONTINUED FUNDING SUCCESSFUL EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR KIDS:

- Chronic Absenteeism Intervention
- High Dosage Tutoring
- Dual Credit Assistance

AN EQUITABLE APPROACH TO STATE TAXES

WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:

- **Established an Enhanced Tax Credit for Families:** For the first time, we've created a refundable tax credit of \$250 per filer through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) framework – helping working families keep more of what they earn.
- **Supported Childcare Providers:** We created a \$500 refundable tax credit for home daycare owners – recognizing and sustaining the vital care workforce that allows families to work.
- **Helped Families Save For College:** We launched a tax credit for employers who contribute to their employees' CHET accounts – making it easier for families to plan for the cost of higher education.
- **Expanded Capital for Special Education Infrastructure:** We committed \$20M in bonding over the biennium to expand and upgrade special education facilities – ensuring that students with disabilities have the resources and environments they need to thrive.
- **Invested in Our Workforce and Residents:** We established a new 20% tax credit for farm equipment, machinery, and infrastructure investments and gave municipalities new tools to tailor homestead property tax exemptions – including residency requirements or assessed value caps.
- **Made Corporate Taxes Fairer and More Equitable:** We closed a major loophole for big multi-state corporations by ending a tax break that kept them from paying their share of taxes, which gave them a competitive advantage over our local businesses.
 - We removed a rule that limited how much tax big corporate groups had to pay when filing together – now they pay what they actually owe.
 - We protected small biotech companies by increasing refundable R&D credits for small biotech firms, supporting innovation while keeping the benefit targeted to those who need it most.

SUPPORTED 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 how close your family lives when care homes try to transfer patients.
- Created anti-discrimination protections for residents of long-term care facilities and now require their staff to receive anti-discrimination training. Our state Department of Public Health and Long-Term Care Ombudsman can now investigate complaints and take disciplinary action.

TOOK STEPS TOWARD MEANINGFULLY LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS BY:

- Stopping middlemen from passing along cost increases for their profit.
- Guaranteed rebates from drug manufacturers are passed along to consumers.
- Taking initial regulatory steps to import cheaper drugs from Canada.



DELIVERING FOR AVON AND CANTON

HELPING OUR TOWNS AND HOMEOWNERS

- Fixing the loophole that allowed a local construction company to take advantage of new homeowners.
- Increased the reimbursement homebuyers get when their contractor goes bankrupt and cannot repay them.
- Enabled condo homeowners to install solar panels on their detached homes.
- Avon Senior Center to receive \$100,000 in FY '26 and '27, and Avon DPW to receive \$514,000 in FY '27 to finally update its break room.
- Roaring Brook Nature Center to receive \$100,000 in FY '26 and FY '27.
- Mills Pond Park to receive \$330,000 in FY '27 to update the pool lining.
- \$2.5 million in bonding for FAVARH in Canton for its disability workforce building.