

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. With the 2023 legislative session behind us and summer winding down, I want to take a moment to check in and share some work we accomplished on your behalf this session.

I am proud to have delivered a budget that includes **historic tax cuts** to families and seniors and also **increased funding for students**, our **vital nonprofits**, and our **most vulnerable residents**. We accomplished all of this while continuing to prepay another **\$2 billion** toward our long-term debts, invested in our **Rainy Day Fund**, now at **\$3.3 billion**, and **stayed within our spending cap**. Most importantly, we achieved this all with broad bipartisan collaboration.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful. This represents a small fraction of the work of the legislature. I hope you will not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about what you read here or what you do not.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family and should you ever need assistance you can contact me at Jennifer.leeper@cga.ct.gov or 860-240-8585.

Sincerely,



GOOD NEWS FOR FAIRFIELD

- ✔ **\$6.2 million** Indoor Air Quality Grant for **Fairfield Public Schools**
- ✔ **\$350,000** for the **Fairfield Senior Center** for renovations and programming
- ✔ **\$3 million** for transit-oriented mixed-use development of the vacant former Bullard Machine Tool Co. site on **Black Rock Turnpike**
- ✔ **\$2.5 million** for the **Rooster River Flood Mitigation Project** to reduce potential flooding and make other water quality improvements



2023 CAPITOL UPDATE

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER LEEPER

PROUDLY SERVING FAIRFIELD AND SOUTHPORT

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MAJOR PUBLIC ACTS

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Major Acts Report



CAPITOL UPDATE

2023



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER LEEPER

PROUDLY SERVING FAIRFIELD AND SOUTHPORT



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STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

- **Expanded Medicaid coverage** for services including primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals
- Increased funding for elderly nutrition and **Meals on Wheels**
- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed
- Established a new coordinator of **state services for people with dementia** and expanded eligibility for **adult day services**

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

A recent study just ranked CT as having among the best public schools in the nation. That makes me very proud of my work on the Education Committee as vice chair to support our students and teachers. This session we:

- Improved our Teacher Evaluation system to **better support teachers**
- **Raised the kindergarten start age** to 5 by September 1st
- Provided an increase of more than **\$500 million in operating support to UConn and the CSCU system** to keep our flagship universities competitive and avoid tuition increases
- Invested **\$67.5 million in childcare** to help increase provider rates

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS

A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:



CUTTING YOUR TAXES

Our budget includes the **largest Personal Income Tax Cut in CT history** by reducing the state income tax rates of 5.0% to 4.5% and 3.0% to 2.0%, saving the middle class **\$600 million**.



TAX RELIEF FOR RETIREES

Expands retirement income tax relief to those making up to \$100,000 for single filers and up to \$150,000 for joint filers.



RAINY DAY FUND

Deposits \$3.3 billion into state's Rainy Day Fund to help keep our AA+ credit rating.



PAYING DOWN DEBT

Pre-pays an additional \$2 billion in unfunded pension liability, saving taxpayers **\$167.4 million** annually starting in Fiscal Year 25.



HISTORIC EDUCATION FUNDING

Our budget invests an additional **\$240 million** for public education funding, over **\$181 million** in special education funding (a **\$25 million increase** over FY 23) expands **debt-free community college, student loan assistance** and **scholarships**.



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

- **Passed common-sense gun control reform** including restricting open carry, banning ghost guns, and expanding the assault weapons ban
- **Enhances GPS monitoring** for high-risk and domestic violence offenders
- Funded **gun violence prevention** and **youth services**
- **Addressed pedestrian and traffic safety** by adopting recommendations of the **Vision Zero Council**. With DOT approval, towns can place speed or red-light cameras in high-incident areas. All ticket revenue must be used to improve roadway safety in the municipality

HELPING SMALL BUSINESS THRIVE

- **Reduced** the number of **reporting requirements** for businesses
- **Cut business taxes** to promote expansion of childcare facilities
- Made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects
- **Invested in CT Main Street Center** and other growing industries such as childcare, manufacturing, media, film and theater production

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

- Required companies that charge you through an auto renewal to get your permission before charging you for the next billing cycle
- **Restricted** more types of **telemarketing calls**, texts, and social media solicitations and the hours calls can take place
- Demanded TV and cable companies give you a **prorated refund** if you cancel at the end of your billing cycle

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Early voting Provides voting opportunities 14 days before Election Day for general elections, 7 days before most primaries, and 4 days before special elections and the Presidential primary

IDD Investments Our budget invests over **\$30 million** to better serve IDD individuals by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, and breaking down barriers for better coordination of services

Firefighter Cancer Presumption Establishes **\$5 million** in funding and benefits for firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer due to work exposures

