Dear Friends and Neighbors,

While the 2024 legislative session was a short one, I am proud of how much we accomplished for Fairfield and Connecticut. My goal for the session was to ensure we invested in our priorities while preserving tax cuts for families and seniors. By passing our fiscal stabilization plan we protected the **largest tax cuts in state history** and ensured more retirement income will be tax exempt. We also filled our priority buckets by **increasing funding for higher education, early childhood, mental health, and nonprofits**.

In addition, we had some major successes this session such as **Siting Council reform**, **preventing unnecessary school redistricting** by halting the racial imbalance law, and the **most significant 8-30g reform** since the law's inception that will credit work Fairfield has already done.

However, we also had some heartbreaks, as the Senate never passed our major climate change legislation or my lactation consultant licensure bill that would have supported new mothers. While this is extremely disappointing, I remain resolved and determined to work on these issues, and many others, in the future.

It remains an honor and a privilege to serve you as your state representative for the 132nd District. Thank you for the faith you have put in me to continue to fight for you. As our world and politics continue to feel dark and divided, I remain deeply committed to listening to you, engaging with you, and bringing our community together. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out if I can ever be of assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Leeper

2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JENNIFER LEEPER
PROUDLY SERVING FAIRFIELD AND SOUTHPORT

Representative Jennifer Leeper
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JENNIFER LEEPER

PROUDLY SERVING FAIFIELD AND SOUTHPORT

📞 860-240-8568

✉️ Jennifer.Leeper@cga.ct.gov

🌐 housedems.ct.gov/Leeper

📘 facebook.com/LeeperforFairfield

PROTECTING TAX CUTS

WE PROTECTED A BUDGET WITH HISTORIC TAX CUTS

- **LARGEST INCOME TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY**
- **Exempted even more retirement income from state taxes**
- **Record Rainy Day Fund**
- **Paid down over $7 billion of generational pension debt**

WE MADE INVESTMENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- **Record investment in public education**
- **New supports for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) community**
- **Increased funding for nonprofits**
- **Supports for Mental Health**

FUNDING FOR FAIRFIELD

From our 2-year state budget, Fairfield will receive a total of **$15.1 million** in state aid for FY 24 and FY 25. That includes $2.25 million in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding and $9.4 million for Tiered Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) that we fought for increases in.

Fairfield will receive over **$1.2 million** in state bonding to repair the Lower Wharf in Southport for the repair and replacement of a public pier destroyed by a storm in December 2022.

Fairfield School district will receive **$2 million** for the Clean School Bus rebate program to go towards the purchase of 10 new school buses that keep our air clean for our students and community.

The town received **$3 million** for transit-oriented mixed-use development and brownfield remediation of the vacant former Bullard Machine Tool Co. site on Black Rock Turnpike.

MAJOR WINS FOR FAIRFIELD

- **Paused implementation of the school redistricting law** preventing needless redistricting of our local schools.
- **Passed the most significant 8-30g statute reform** since the law's inception. The change in law will give Fairfield credit for middle housing zones it already has and will now get credit towards its moratorium.
- **Reformed the CT Siting Council** to ensure the independence of council members from utilities, improves public notice, ensures affected municipalities have automatic intervenor status, and requires utilities submit robust financial analysis for proposal and alternatives.

EDUCATION

As vice chair of the Education Committee, I am very proud to have helped champion the following initiatives:

- ☑ **Cut red tape** to make certification of teachers faster and more flexible
- ☑ Created the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund to **maximize public and private investments**
- ☑ **Invested in teachers, assistant teachers, paraeducators**, and state-funded school readiness programs and childcare programs

ENVIRONMENT

As a new member of the Environment Committee, I was glad to work on many bills and remain committed to passing the Climate Change bill that died in the Senate:

- ☑ **Banned** numerous products containing dangerous **PFAS chemicals**
- ☑ Expedited permitting for solar and lifted caps on **new solar production**

ECONOMY

As co-chair of the Main Street Working Group I was proud to support the following bills to promote business:

- ☑ **Expanded the small business loan program** and enabled more out-of-state businesses to expand into CT
- ☑ Created a fund to **improve and manage our small harbors**

SENIORS

- Made it easier for seniors to age in place and increased community-based services
- Created a nursing home database to connect seniors with quality care
- Established oversight to prevent negligence and abuse and incentives to encourage nursing homes to improve care

LEGISLATIVE NEWSBRIEFS

Veterans - Exempted permanently and totally disabled veterans from paying property taxes

Health and Wellness - Made access and coverage to telehealth permanent that was scheduled to sunset June 30, 2024.

Public Safety - Authorized permanent use of automated enforcement devices to enhance road safety and established vehicle noise limits with fines for violations

Higher Education - Expanded employer-based student loan repayment tax credits and reduced rates for state-backed loans for in-demand occupations