

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Although we are still grieving the immense loss of our dear friend and First Selectman, Bill Gerber, I want to share some updates from your state government.

During the 2025 legislative session, we tackled many big issues such as investing in childcare, reforming special education, lowering energy bills, and preserving the environment.

Our budget provides a \$250 check for working families under the Earned Income Tax Credit guidelines and invests \$300 million toward the creation of the nation-leading Early Childcare and Education Endowment. We devote hundreds-of-millions of dollars to special education and approved comprehensive energy legislation to reduce electric bills for families and businesses.

And we did it responsibly, ensuring we can continue to pay off our liabilities, lower our debt service, and enable greater fiscal freedom in the years ahead.

“Connecticut will be poised to continue saving hundreds of millions of dollars annually to continue paying down its hefty pension debt at an accelerated pace.”

-CT Mirror

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your state representative for the 132nd district. Thank you for the trust you put in me to fight for the future of our community and state. Through this newsletter, you will find many more details about the 2025 legislative session. I hope you find it informative and will reach out to me with your ideas, thoughts, questions, and concerns.

Warmly,

Jennifer Leeper

BIG WINS FOR FAIRFIELD AND SOUTHPORT

- **\$5,353,801** for Fairfield in Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)
- **\$1,131,021** for Fairfield in Education Cost Sharing Funds (ECS)
- **\$8,425,656** for Fairfield in Total Municipal Aid
- **\$2,000,000** for the new Fairfield Adaptive Recreation Center



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JENNIFER LEEPER

PROUDLY SERVING FAIRFIELD AND SOUTHPORT

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025



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A BALANCED BUDGET AND OUR SECOND-LARGEST SURPLUS IN STATE HISTORY

SOUND BUDGETING AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP DELIVERS:

- Single Greatest Investment in Children in Connecticut's History
- Historic Investments in Special Education
- Fully Funded Education Cost Sharing Grant

LOWERING YOUR ELECTRIC RATES:

- Capping infrastructure programs that utility companies make us pay for while they profit off the interest
- Removing industry subsidies from our clean energy investments
- Using state financing to pay down COVID-era back payments and storm-related costs, which would otherwise be passed onto ratepayers

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased penalties for street racing and takeovers, including two-year license suspensions, the ability to seize and destroy confiscated vehicles, and a minimum fine of \$2,000 (PA 25-80)
- Prioritized disabled veteran entrepreneurs in the Small Business Express loan program (PA 25-95)
- Benchmark funding to nonprofit providers to inflation (PA 25-151)
- Insurance coverage for biomarker testing to detect cancer early and improve treatment (PA 25-16)

PRIORITIZING CT'S CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- We established the Early Childhood Education Endowment with a down payment of nearly \$300 million - an investable trust fund that will create:
 - Universal access to pre-k by 2032
 - Free childcare for households earning up to \$100k in state funded seats by 2027
 - Caps childcare costs at 7% household income for everyone else in state funded seats by 2027
 - Expanding from 62,000 state funded seats to 78,000 state funded seats
- **\$30 million** to school districts annually for a new Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant
- **\$221 million** in "Excess Cost" annual reimbursement to districts for special education costs
- **\$10 million** in competitive grants for the development of in-district special education programs
- **\$10 million** in financing for capital projects related to special education



WORKING FOR SENIORS

- Established first-in-the-nation cap on generic drug prices (PA 25-167)
- Stopped middlemen from passing along cost increases for their personal profit (PA 25-167)
- Closed a loophole so that all employees at long-term care facilities undergo a background check (PA 25-16)
- Provided free online college courses to our nursing home residents (PA 25-16)

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Banned fertilizers that contain PFAS (PA 25-152)
- Set new state climate goals for greenhouse gas reduction (PA 25-125)
- Supported clean energy jobs through tax incentives (PA 25-125)
- Established an extended producer responsibility program for batteries (PA 25-34)

