



Dear Neighbors,

This summer there has been both triumph and tragedy in Fairfield and Bridgeport: the sudden loss of Fairfield First Selectman Bill Gerber, the opening of Bridgeport's new, state of the art Bassick High School, and the Metro Fairfield National's grit, class, and wins at the Little League World Series. Congratulations players, coaches, and parents!

The 2025 legislative session resulted in historic investments in special education, early childhood and childcare, environmental protections, progress on lowering energy bills, refundable tax credits for working families and home daycare owners, protections for veterans and seniors, more refundable R&D credits for businesses, and the prevention of massive increases in worker's compensation costs for every Connecticut employer.

There is still much more to accomplish and I remain committed to working alongside you to help improve our communities.

Gratefully,

Cristin



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CRISTIN MCCARTHY VAHEY

PROUDLY SERVING FAIRFIELD & BRIDGEPORT

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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

THANKS TO SOUND BUDGETING AND THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WE:

- Delivered the Single Greatest Investment in Children in Connecticut's History
- Made Historic Investments in Special Education

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

- Established an Enhanced Tax Credit for Families
- Supported Childcare Providers
- Helped Families Save For College
- Expanded Capital for Special Education Infrastructure
- Invested in Our Workforce and Residents

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

- \$250 refundable tax credit for EITC qualifying families.
- \$2.5 million for a new Fairfield adaptive recreation center.
- \$78 million for a new Bridgeport special education school.
- \$300 million for a new state early childhood education endowment.
- \$221 million in special education "Excess Cost" in annual reimbursement to districts.
- Cost of Living Increases to our non-profit providers.
- Refundable Research and Development tax credits for small biotech and some manufacturers.



LEADING THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

I continue to Co-Chair the legislature's Public Health Committee. This year we:

- Protected Mental Health Parity by requiring enforcement, compliance, and transparency from insurance companies regarding coverage for mental healthcare.
- Continued to address healthcare workforce shortages through the Physician Assistant licensure compact, Marriage & Family Therapist licensure portability, and more accessible licensure requirements for physicians returning to the workforce.
- Increased penalties for selling cannabis to minors and cracked down on illegal e-cigarette dealers.
- Acted to lower prescription drug costs.
- Improved access to Maternal Healthcare including contraception and pregnancy care, doula support, perinatal mental health, and lactation consulting.
- Required all nursing homes to be equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).
- Established a Pancreatic Cancer Screening and Treatment Referral Program.
- Funded 24/7 Mobile Crisis and Youth Urgent Care Centers.
- Limited step therapy requirements for MS and rheumatoid arthritis.

SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS

To improve safety in our communities, we:

- Continued gun violence prevention efforts by closing background check loopholes and creating firearm producer responsibility, which allows for a civil remedy. Regulated gun industry ads promoting illegal sales.
- Increased penalties for street racing and takeovers, including two-year license suspensions and empowered towns to regulate and penalize street takeovers. Created a minimum fine of \$2,000 for racing, evading police, or causing property damage.
- Expanded the work zone speed camera program.
- Increased the penalties for reckless driving or failing to yield to a pedestrian.
- Updated E-Bike laws to define 750-3,500 watts as motor driven cycles, requiring a driver's license, and treating e-bikes above 3,500 watts as a motorcycle, requiring registration and insurance.
- Increased from 16 to 18 the age children must wear a helmet while rolling on a bike, e-bike, scooter, skateboard or roller skates.



SENIORS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- 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.
- Provided free online college courses to our nursing home residents.
- Banned fertilizers that contain PFAS.
- Set new state climate goals for greenhouse gas reduction.
- Encouraged heat pump deployment through strategic planning and local school building projects.
- Reduced state bus fare for veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities.