



Dear Neighbor,

This newsletter is packed full of information from the 2022 legislative session.

I'm proud to report that we approved a state budget adjustment that ensures we live within our means and cuts taxes by hundreds of millions of dollars.

I know that there is lots of information to digest in these few pages, so please reach out with any questions.

It is my pleasure to serve as your state representative.

All my best,

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Keeping CT Safe with Juvenile Justice Reform
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TRENEÉ MCGEE

PROUDLY SERVING WEST HAVEN AND NEW HAVEN

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**



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I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

\$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✔ Creates a Child Tax Credit
- ✔ Cuts property taxes for retirees
- ✔ Cuts the car tax
- ✔ Extends the gas tax cut
- ✔ Extends free bus service
- ✔ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✔ Invests in healthcare workers

LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- Cut taxes by over \$650 million
- Increased state income tax credit for property owners from \$200 to \$300
- Increased the Earned Income Tax Credit for the 2023 tax year, cutting taxes for our neediest families
- Eliminated pension and annuity taxes for retirees making less than \$75k/year
- Secured one-time childcare rebate of \$250 per child, up to three children
- Capped car taxes at 32.46 mills
- Expanded student loan payment tax credit – allowing more employers to assist their workers with loan repayment
- Cut state gas tax to zero through December 1, 2022
- Eliminated admissions tax at movie theaters

RESPONDING TO THE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansions of school-based health centers and the services they provide
- Created new walk-ins for mental health emergencies
- Initiated a new position at the Healthcare Advocate to help families navigate care for children and adolescents
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Established state oversight and coordination of state response to kids' mental health needs
- Expanded mentorship opportunities
- Helped school-based health centers develop new mental health programming
- Assisted local schools in expanding mental health staff and access to care
- Provided mental health training to parents, students, and pediatricians

MAKING CT MORE EQUITABLE

- Required the teaching of Asian American and Pacific Islander studies in public schools
- Limited the circumstances in which a felony disqualifies you from holding an occupational license and created a pre-approval process to check if a prior conviction disqualifies you before going through testing or training requirements
- Required most publicly owned facilities to provide free menstrual products
- Increased health care coverage to undocumented immigrants, up to age 12
- Required police departments to allow for the wearing of religious head coverings while on duty
- Created a Hate Crimes Investigation Unit within the State Police while also improving data collection, reporting, and information sharing between departments
- Limited the use of solitary confinement and expanded the office of Corrections Ombudsman
- Required towns with over 25,000 residents to establish a local fair rent commission. These commissions will respond to tenant complaints about excessively harsh rent increases and lack of code enforcement by a landlord or property manager
- Established June 19th as Juneteenth Independence Day. This new state holiday will forever celebrate the independence of African Americans freed from slavery



EDUCATION & EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS

- Extended the renewal time for teaching certificates
- Ensured teachers get an uninterrupted 30 minutes for lunch
- Expanded scholarships for minority teachers

GIVING SCHOOLS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED

- Ensured more districts will meet eligibility requirements for the federal School Breakfast Program
- Doubled grants to school districts for bilingual education
- Established a new reimbursement grant to assist schools in upgrading their HVAC systems and ensured regular inspections and reporting on their operation

MEANINGFUL INVESTMENTS IN CHILDCARE

- Increased funding for infant and toddler care programs
- Increased pay to childcare workers to attract and retain more educators
- Expanded successful Birth to Three Program
- Assisted local childcare facilities with renovation costs
- Approved state tax credit for childcare

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

- Guaranteed CT veterans' in-state tuition rates
- Adopted higher fire department equipment standards, collecting better data on the prevalence of cancer among firefighters, and secured more local funding for firefighters who leave service with a cancer diagnosis
- Provided funding to local volunteer fire departments who respond to emergencies on certain state highways
- Established a new, local-option property tax exemption equal to 10% of home values for more veterans
- Created new license plates for veterans who served in Afghanistan or Iraq

GIVING POLICE THE TOOLS THEY NEED

- Extended employment protections to police officers who seek and receive mental health care services
- Improved training for handling incidents involving individuals with mental or physical disabilities

RESPONDED TO JUVENILE CRIME, AUTO THEFTS, AND PANDEMIC-RELATED CRIME DIVERSION:

- Invested in Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- Expanded alternatives to incarceration