

# SESSION WRAP-UP

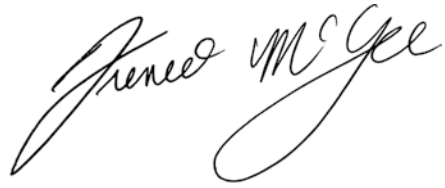
It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

We worked hard to deliver a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while still providing hundreds of millions in more funding to our local schools, colleges and universities, and services for our most vulnerable residents. As part of our historic tax cuts, families of four who make \$50,000 annually will pay no state income taxes. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

We did it by working together - without the fighting you see in Washington.

I'd love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,



## 2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ SUPPORTING SENIORS
- ✓ SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED
- ✓ A HELPING HAND TO COLLEGE STUDENTS
- ✓ HELPING KIDS LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES
- ✓ MAKING CT SAFER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**TRENEÉ MCGEE**

PROUDLY SERVING WEST HAVEN



PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
Permit No. 3937

**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2023**

Representative Treené McGee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2023**



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**TRENEÉ MCGEE**  
PROUDLY SERVING WEST HAVEN



- 860-240-8585
- Treené.McGee@cga.ct.gov
- [housedems.ct.gov/McGeeT](https://www.housedems.ct.gov/McGeeT)
- [facebook.com/reptreeneemcgee](https://facebook.com/reptreeneemcgee)

## SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Established a new coordinator of state services for people with dementia
- Strengthened patients' involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints
- Expanded eligibility for seniors to participate in adult day services (serving those with early onset dementia)
- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services like 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
- Required homemaker companion companies to provide notice to their clients before they abruptly close and prohibited any increases in rates without at least 60-day notice

## ELIMINATED EVEN MORE TAXES ON RETIREMENT

- Current law exempts 100% of pension and annuity income from the state's income tax, and we are halfway to phasing out 100% of IRA income for those making \$75,000 or less annually (\$100,000 for joint filers)
- We extended these exemptions to taxpayers making up to \$100,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers) by phasing-out the deduction between 2.5% and 100%, depending on your income

## SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

- Granted free graduate school tuition to eligible veterans and their families, as well as active members of the National Guard
- Expanded eligibility of state services to members of the Space Force
- Eased licensing requirements for childcare providers who served military families
- Established funding and benefits for firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer

## A HELPING HAND TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

- Provided an increase of more than \$500 million in operating support to UConn and CSU
- Created a student loan forgiveness program, starting in July 2024, that will forgive up to \$20,000 in debt in exchange for volunteering at a local nonprofit
- Established lower state-backed loan refinancing rates for licensed nurses with student loans
- Prohibited colleges and universities from withholding transcripts due to outstanding debt
- Created student loan subsidies for paraeducators and school counselors in our lowest-performing districts, for police officers in distressed municipalities and emergency medical service personnel
- Expanded debt-free community college – including subsidies for returning students
- Stabilized our state colleges and universities by providing \$135 million more than the governor proposed in the two-year budget

# 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 cutting marginal income tax rates, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, capping mill rates, and eliminating even more retirement income taxes.



### INDUSTRY GROWTH

Our budget **supports CT's growing industries** such as childcare, adult-use cannabis, manufacturing, and media, film and theater production.



### INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

Our budget **invests over \$240M in public education** by stabilizing our state colleges and universities, expanding debt-free community college, fully funding our schools and local boards of education, and increasing scholarships and student debt relief.



### SAFETY NET SERVICES

Our budget expands Temporary Family Assistance, increases Husky C eligibility, provides funds to community action agencies for residents facing immediate economic hardship, supports the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and increases Medicaid rate reimbursements for providers and specialists.



### IDD SUPPORTS

Our budget **invests over \$30M to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals** by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, increasing Husky C eligibility, and breaking down silos for better coordination and data collection.

## HELPING KIDS LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES

- Allowed trained childcare providers to administer EpiPens
- Required a state audit of all standardized testing
- Required boards of education to provide translator services and established rights for multilingual learners
- Moved up the eligibility age for starting kindergarten by three months (to align with more states) and will require more play-based learning from pre-K to grade 5
- Created reimbursements to schools who purchase local foods for their school meals
- Required high schoolers to take a financial literacy class before graduating
- Banned child marriages
- Ensured all state buildings have diaper changing tables
- Required funds from the state's legal settlement with vape-giant JUUL to go to helping kids under 21



## MAKING CT SAFER

- Protected consumer health data by restricting its access and sale and banned targeted ads near mental health and reproductive health facilities
- Expanded GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders
- Made it illegal for adults to solicit photos and videos from kids online, even if they're not explicitly sexual
- Required bright orange labels on prescription opiates
- Required trained EMTs to carry and use EpiPens
- Modernized our blight laws and extended local enforcement to commercial properties
- Required driver's ed classes to cover driving under the influence of cannabis
- Expanded speed enforcement on rural roads
- Improved data collection on use and compliance with police body and dashboard cameras
- Improved data collection on crimes involving firearms
- Created electronic notifications for expiring gun permits
- Formed a special police task force to deal with abuse of kids online