

Dear neighbor,

The 2024 legislative session is in the books, and I am proud of what we accomplished.

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 cut in state history and ensured more retirement income would be tax-exempt. We also filled our priority buckets by increasing funding for higher education, early childhood, mental health, and nonprofits.

This newsletter has more details.

Enjoy,



IN THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION, WE FOCUSED ON SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS AND CHILDREN:

- We passed a law to help seniors safely remain in their homes as they age, and to improve the quality of care in the state's nursing homes.
- We created a framework for the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund in order to address the need for available and affordable childcare in the state.
- We passed a bill to increase access to an enrollment in nutrition assistance programs for children and families, including WIC and SNAP.
- We voted to adopt the Nursing and Social Worker licensure compacts and to expand the telehealth services to ensure that all our residents have access to quality healthcare.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN MESKERS

PROUDLY SERVING GREENWICH

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CAPITOL UPDATE 24

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEPHEN MESKERS

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEPHEN MESKERS

CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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



GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Expanded the small business loan program and enabled more out-of-state businesses to expand into CT
- Established a trade commission with Ireland
- Created a fund to improve and manage our small harbors
- Made it easier for out-of-state nurses and social workers to move to and practice in CT

SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS

- Required same day parental notification when a child hurts themselves or others
- Established the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council to review proposed and existing mandates on local Boards of Education
- Required the State Department of Education to provide school districts an estimate of their next year's funding by the end of the current year, to ensure better budgeting
- Provided help to classroom paraeducators to pay for their health insurance

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals
- Required better notice when herbicides are sprayed along railroads
- Increased hydropower going to our power grid and extended offshore wind procurement

TAKING CARE OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE

- Protected domestic violence victims from being forced into debt by their abuser
- Cut red tape when it comes to getting wheelchairs under Medicaid and required their timely repair
- Required the Department of Children and Families to hold safety plan visits in-person
- Strengthened inspections and regulation of youth camps

SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS

- Exempted permanently and totally disabled veterans from paying property taxes
- Expanded eligibility for grants from the Military Relief Fund for families experiencing hardship
- Expanded veterans' driver's license and license plate options to reservists
- Formally recognized Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange



OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES PROTECTING TAX CUTS

WE PASSED A BIPARTISAN BIENNIUM BUDGET THAT INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS AND INVESTMENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

- **LARGEST INCOME TAX CUT** in state history
- **Biggest investment in public education ever**
- **New supports for the IDD community**
- **Expansion of debt free community college**
- **Protected safety net programs**

THIS SESSION WE PROTECTED THESE TAX CUTS AND INVESTED MILLIONS OF FEDERAL FUNDS IN:

- **Higher Education - \$160 million with a path to grow to \$200 million**
- **Early Childcare - \$21.8 million**
- **Mental Health - \$24 million**
- **Nonprofits - \$50 million**

FUNDS SECURED FOR GREENWICH

2024:

- Barbara's House - \$60,000
- Greenwich Alliance for Education - \$25,000
- Family Centers - \$25,000
- Boy Scouts Bridge at Camp Seton - \$250,000
- Glenville Corridor- \$6,500,00
- Roof Replacement at Parsonage Cottage- \$154,320
- Central Middle School Increased Reimbursement 20% of school construction project



Celebrating the reconstruction of the bridge at Camp Seton, thanks to state funds the Greenwich House delegation secured