

Dear Neighbor,

I am proud to share some historic highlights from the 2022 legislative session.

Historic like more than \$650 million in tax cuts. Historic like our investment in the mental health of our children. Historic like our commitment to growing jobs and our economy. Historic like a state budget that pays off millions in pension debt and continues our record rainy day fund while investing in Hamden and New Haven schools, mental health, public safety and programs that work - all while honoring the spending cap

That's not to say we aren't facing challenges. We are seeing inflation that hits everyone's wallets and housing prices that are pricing many out of even modest homes. That's why I fought hard to provide you with relief: increasing the property tax payment, phasing out taxes on retirement income, creating a childcare payment, cutting the gas tax and more.

I hope you find this newsletter packed with useful information. It is my pleasure to serve as your state representative.

All my best,

STANDING UP FOR WORKERS

- 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 (HB 5259)
- Helped front-line, private sector workers access pandemic pay, if they were certain essential employees who had to work through the pandemic (HB 5506)
- Toughened the penalty for public contractors who under-pay or withhold wages and benefits, created a public registry of those individuals, and established a process for revoking the licenses of repeat offenders (PA 22-17)
- Expanded access to special relief funding for specific front-line workers who had to work during COVID and became sick as a result (HB 5506)
- Protected the rights of employees by prohibiting employers from requiring their employees to attend meetings solely to listen to the employer's views on politics or religion (PA 22-24)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROBYN A. PORTER
 PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN AND NEW HAVEN

CAPITOL UPDATE 2022

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ROBYN A. PORTER
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2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Passed Legislation Expanding Workers' Rights
- Addressed Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cut Taxes to Combat Historic Price Gouging
- Created Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Secured \$43,884,584 in Funding for Hamden
- Secured \$285,478,714 in Funding for New Haven



I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES



OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

**\$650 MILLION
IN TAX RELIEF**

- ✓ Created a Child Tax Payment
- ✓ Cut property taxes for retirees
- ✓ Cut the car tax
- ✓ Extended the gas tax cut
- ✓ Extended free bus service
- ✓ Ended pension and annuity tax
- ✓ Invested in healthcare workers

EQUITY ACROSS THE BOARD

- Established Juneteenth as a new state holiday to educate and forever celebrate the independence of Blacks freed from slavery (SB 350)
- Limited the use of solitary confinement and created the office of Corrections Ombudsman (PA 22-18)
- Required most publicly owned facilities to provide free menstrual products (HB 5506)
- Increased health care coverage to undocumented immigrants, up to age 12 (HB 5506)
- Assisted local childcare facilities with renovation costs (HB 5506)
- Made direct investments in community nonprofits (HB 5506)
- Required towns with over 25,000 residents to establish a local fair rent commission that will respond to tenant complaints about excessive rent increases (PA 22-30)
- Established an office on gun violence prevention (HB 5506)
- Improved training for handling incidents involving individuals with mental or physical disabilities (PA 22-64)
- Increased business development funding for minority-owned businesses (HB 5506)
- Lowered the business tax rate for unemployment insurance, effectively making the federal loan repayment for the coming year on behalf of businesses (HB 5506)
- Established JobsCT program – helping companies in target industries earn rebates against insurance premiums and state taxes for meeting job targets (HB 5506)
- Provided support to museums, theaters and other CT attractions (HB 5506)
- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors (SB 1)
- Created new walk-ins for mental health emergencies (HB 5506)
- Established state oversight and coordination of state response to kids' mental health needs (HB 5506)
- Expanded mentorship opportunities (HB 5506)
- Expanded scholarships for minority teachers (SB 1)
- Ensured more districts will meet eligibility requirements for the federal School Breakfast Program (SB 226)
- Doubled grants to school districts for bilingual education (HB 5506)
- Increased funding for infant and toddler care programs (HB 5506)
- Increased pay to childcare workers to attract and retain more educators (HB 5506)
- Extended the renewal time for teaching certificates (SB 226)
- Approved state tax credit for childcare (HB 5506)
- Created a new paid internship program at DOT (HB 5506)
- Guaranteed CT veterans' in-state tuition rates (HB 5301)
- Extended employment protections to police officers who seek and receive mental health care services (PA 22-64)