

I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your state representative. Collaborating with fellow legislators, advocates, and constituents over the past year has allowed us to shape legislation together that directly addresses the vast needs of our communities.

In 2024, we focused on a variety of important and impactful initiatives - setting our sights on big issues like improving elder care, health care worker safety, early childhood nutrition, climate change, veterans tax relief and employee paid time off. We invested in these priorities while still preserving the historic 2023 tax cuts we put in place for families and seniors, while maxing out our Rainy Day Fund and paying down generations of pension debt.

The decision to keep the 2023 biennium budget intact enabled us to protect key investments, including the largest investment ever in public education, supports for our IDD community, and expanding debt-free college. We also filled other priority "buckets," using federal funds to increase funding for higher education, early childhood care and education, mental health supports, and our critical nonprofits.

There is much to reflect on regarding this legislative session, both the successes and the losses. I'm particularly proud of the work I did to expand our efforts around gun safety education and school meals for our most vulnerable students. In both cases, I took a simple idea and brought it together with like-minded colleagues and advocates. These small wins are not always easy to come by, but the reward comes in knowing our efforts will impact the lives of so many here in Connecticut. I'm also proud of the work I did to draft a meaningful and incentivizing bill to better address our climate crisis. We were able to pass it in the House, but it was never brought for a vote in the Senate. This was hugely disappointing, but it paves the way for this critical environmental work to continue.

I am extraordinarily thankful for the opportunities given to me as your state representative. Your support, ideas, and willingness to collaborate have been essential to my work as your voice at the Capitol. I am always striving to have this work be a direct reflection of your priorities. Please know I am more committed than ever to continuing our collaboration and serving this wonderful district. It is a privilege and honor.

As always, I encourage you to reach out with any concerns, ideas, or feedback you may have to share. Your input is invaluable to me.

With Gratitude,

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BILLS WE PASSED

Scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit [tinyurl.com/26w6k233](https://tinyurl.com/26w6k233)



# CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MOIRA RADER

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# MOIRA RADER

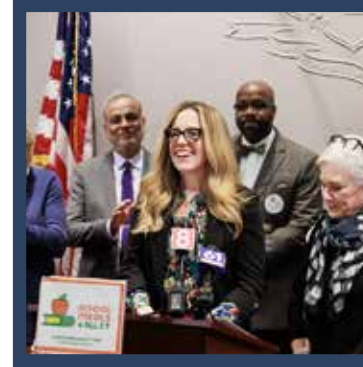
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# 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

While much was accomplished during our **2024 session**, I wanted to share some key legislation that will directly and positively impact the lives and opportunities of so many here in Connecticut.



## HEALTHCARE

- Requires primary care providers to share **gun safety materials** annually with patients
- Makes permanent and expands **telehealth** services to include out-of-state providers
- Examines **emergency room overcrowding**, taking important steps to tackle this critical healthcare issue
- Addresses the **safety of healthcare workers**, with focused attention on home healthcare providers

## ELECTIONS & VOTING

- Improvements to **absentee balloting laws**
- Prohibits foreign national **contributions or expenditures** under state's campaign finance laws
- Requires video monitoring of **ballot drop boxes**
- Makes it a crime to harass **election workers**

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- Requires **disclosure** to students of reductions to financial aid due to scholarship awards
- Expands employer-based student loan repayment **tax credits**
- Modifies the CT student **automatic admissions program** to be based on GPA, not class rank
- **Debt-free community college** extended to IEP-supported transition students

## WELLNESS

- Prohibits **medical debt** reporting to credit rating agencies for use in a credit report
- Establishes the Bureau of Services for persons who are **deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing**
- Covers **victims of sexual assault** under the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave program

## ENVIRONMENT

- Improves state's **energy procurement**, including renewable energy and zero-emission resources, inclusive of hydropower and offshore wind
- Expedites permitting for **solar** canopies and lifts caps on new solar production
- Expands regulation on sale and use of products containing **PFAS** (\*forever chemicals\*)
- Expands enforcement of **boating laws** at our bodies of water that border other states

## SENIORS

- Supports seniors to safely **age-in-place** by expediting Medicaid coverage for home-based care
- Improves quality of care in our state's **nursing homes**
- Requires health insurance coverage for **coronary artery disease** detection
- Strengthens **oversight** of negligent nursing homes

## VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDERS

- Property **tax exemption** for permanently and totally disabled veterans
- Expanded eligibility for grants from the **Military Relief Fund** for families experiencing hardships
- Establishes a **Fallen Officer Fund** for families of police officers lost in the line of duty

## EDUCATION

- Prioritizes **early childhood care and education**
- Establishes the **Education Mandate Review Advisory Council** to review proposed and existing mandates on local boards of education
- Significant and supportive changes to **teacher certification** laws
- Requires the State Dept. of Education to provide an **estimate of next-year's** funding to school districts by the end of the current year

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Strengthens laws that **protect** children from sexual abuse
- Establishes measures to address the issues of **disconnected youth**
- Streamlines and improves coordination and access to **nutrition programs**
- Extends free **school meals** to reduced-price qualifying students

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Each year, we in the legislature frame our work around certain priorities that we feel will best meet the most pressing needs and expectations of our constituents. I'm proud to have played an active part in advancing these priorities in support of our wonderful community and the people of Connecticut.

- ✔ **BOLSTERING PUBLIC EDUCATION**
- ✔ **PRIORITIZING HEALTH & WELLNESS**
- ✔ **FOCUSING ON OUR ENVIRONMENT**
- ✔ **ADDRESSING AFFORDABILITY & QUALITY OF LIFE**
- ✔ **SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS**
- ✔ **TACKLING HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**
- ✔ **KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE**
- ✔ **GROWING OUR ECONOMY**
- ✔ **SAFEGUARDING CONSUMERS**
- ✔ **HONORING OUR VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDERS**
- ✔ **PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY**