

It is such an honor to serve this community and work alongside my colleagues in the General Assembly to address the challenges facing Connecticut. This legislative session we were able to pass a balanced, thoughtful, biennial budget, that supports impactful legislation designed to strengthen Connecticut and support our communities.

As we entered 2025, the legislative session proved challenging and unpredictable, but ultimately extremely rewarding. In spite of significant federal uncertainty, we crafted a biennial budget that continues our commitment to public education, healthcare, housing, environmental protection, public safety, children, veterans, and seniors. I was grateful to meet the moment we are in with funding that is both responsive and responsible.

The legislation passed this year keeps our communities and constituents at the center. We established the Early Childhood Education Endowment Trust Fund; creating a permanent source of funding to expand affordable, high-quality preschool and child care. We invested in K-12 schools: significantly focused on special education. We funded higher education scholarships and career pathways. Funding for affordable housing construction and rehabilitation, tenant protections, and first-time home buyer supports have been put in place. We sought to address the challenge of electricity costs while keeping our environmental goals a priority. We implemented tax relief for those families working hard to build a life here in Connecticut. I'm grateful for the commitment we have made to the residents of this state and, most importantly, this community.

Throughout it all, I've been guided by the input and concerns of you - my constituents. You shared your perspectives regarding the cost of living, supporting our public schools, and protecting our environment. You brought attention to the needs of your families: from healthcare access to affordable housing. You entrusted me to craft a fiscally sound budget, balanced with a responsibility to uphold the values that make Connecticut the wonderfully diverse place we all call home. We did this together.

I am proud of what we accomplished this year and deeply grateful for your collaboration and trust. Your voices, insights, and resilience inspire me every day. Together, we are building a Connecticut where families can thrive, communities remain strong, and our state continues to be a place of enormous opportunity for all. In a world that can sometimes be overwhelming and unpredictable, our work in Connecticut has been focused on bringing more stability, safety and support to our cherished communities. I thank you for entrusting me to be that voice for you. It is a privilege that I never take for granted.

With Gratitude,  
*Maira M. Rader*

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025  
FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MOIRA RADER

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
MOIRA RADER  
PROUDLY SERVING GUILFORD & BRANFORD

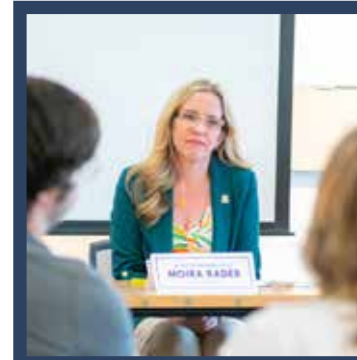
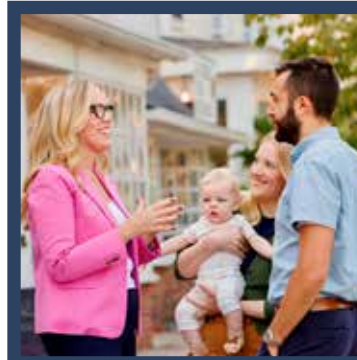
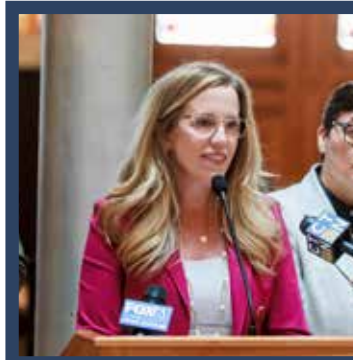
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# 2025 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

While much was accomplished during our **2025 session**, I wanted to share some key legislation that will directly and positively impact the lives and opportunities of so many here in Connecticut.



## ECONOMIC RELIEF

- Created a refundable tax credit for working families and home daycare providers.
- Established new tax credits for employers, farms, and small businesses.
- Lowered electric bills by shifting storm and pandemic costs.
- Reduced prescription drug costs and capped predatory lending rates.

## CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- Required businesses to provide “all-in” pricing and banned hidden fees.
- Expanded price gouging protections during declared emergencies.
- Restricted social media targeting of minors, banned the sale of sensitive data, and strengthened cyberbullying protections.
- Cracked down on predatory towing practices.

## VETERANS

- Increased staffing in Veterans Affairs to speed up benefits claims.
- Prioritized disabled veteran entrepreneurs for small business loans.
- Excluded veterans’ pensions from eligibility calculations for key benefits.
- Expanded property tax exemptions and provided no-cost license renewals.

## HOUSING

- Expediting conversion of vacant commercial property into housing.
- Expanded renter protections and support.
- Allocated bonding to assist first-time buyers and increase housing construction.
- Expanded the allowable use of municipal housing trust funds.

## EDUCATION & CHILDCARE

- Created a \$300M Early Childhood Endowment for free or low-cost childcare by 2027.
- Invested \$80M in childcare facilities, provider pay, and recruitment.
- Expanded Paid Family Leave to include non-certified school employees.
- Added “Finish Line” scholarships to help community college graduates.

## PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Expanded reproductive care protections and prohibited denial of care.
- Strengthened mental health coverage and supported essential nonprofits.
- Established a state account to cover public health funding gaps.
- Expanded firefighter cancer relief to include skin cancer.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Launched the SEED grant program (\$30M) to expand local special education services.
- Committed \$20M in bonding for special education facility upgrades.
- Secured record funding for high-needs students (\$221M annually).
- Expanded screenings for developmental disabilities up to age 8.

## SENIORS

- Strengthened protections and anti-discrimination safeguards in long-term care facilities.
- Required background checks for all facility staff.
- Expanded access to early cancer detection testing.
- Provided free online college courses for nursing home residents.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Further regulated THC drinks, smoke shop products, and e-cigarettes, with tougher penalties for sales to minors.
- Expanded the Fallen Officer Fund to include firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics.
- Increased penalties for street racing and takeovers.
- Updated the Connecticut Trust Act, clarifying local police responsibilities per non-judicial ICE detainers and allowing lawsuits against municipalities that violate it.

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

- Banned PFAS fertilizers, expanded invasive species bans, and created a battery recycling program.
- Preserved farmland and added a 20% tax credit for farm equipment and infrastructure.
- Set new state climate goals and incentivized clean energy jobs and grid upgrades.
- Supported nature-based climate solutions to meet emission reduction goals.



## YOUR VOICES, YOUR PRIORITIES GUIDING OUR WORK

I am so grateful for the many constituents who share their concerns with me—at town forums, in emails, and in conversations at the grocery store. Your input is what guides and prioritizes my work. This session, I supported legislation that responds to the needs and priorities you’ve shared. Below are some of the ways your voices shaped our work:



### IMPROVING TAX EQUITY

**Community members have shared their desire for better tax equity. We created refundable credits for working families and daycare providers, supported small business R&D, closed corporate loopholes, and revamped the hospital provider tax.**



### INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

**Families care deeply about strong schools and opportunities for every child. We supported education at all levels, including record investments in special education and early childhood programs, ensuring every student has the resources to succeed.**



### HOUSING & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**Many residents have shared their struggles with housing costs. We allocated bonded funds to assist first-time homebuyers, supported renters and people experiencing homelessness, and enabled municipalities to build middle housing.**



### PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

**Protecting our shoreline and environment is something this community holds paramount. We advanced measures to reduce harmful emissions, promote clean energy, and preparedness plans to ensure a resilient coastline environment.**



### MANAGING THE COST OF LIVING

**Constituents often share how rising costs deeply affect their daily lives. We lowered electric bills by shifting costs off ratepayers, strengthened numerous consumer protections and provided cost-of-living increases for community nonprofits to ease financial pressure.**



### HEALTHCARE ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

**Access to healthcare is a concern many families and residents voice to me. We reduced prescription drug costs, ensured mental health parity, protected reproductive care through a safe harbor account, and strengthened state public health policies.**