

Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2024 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.

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

Sincerely,

2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KEVIN RYAN

PROUDLY SERVING LEDYARD, MONTVILLE, & NORWICH

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

Representative Kevin Ryan
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KEVIN RYAN

PROUDLY SERVING LEDYARD,
MONTVILLE, & NORWICH

- 860-240-8585
- Kevin.Ryan@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Ryan
- facebook.com/RepRyanCT





GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Expanded the small business loan program in lower-income communities and enabled more out of state businesses to expand into CT.
- 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.
- Cut certification red tape to make licensing faster and enable teachers to teach more subjects across more grades.
- Expanded eligibility in fast track educator certification program.
- Supported middle-class and working families by granting most full- and part-time workers access to Paid Sick Days over a three-year period:
 - Use for yourself or to care for a loved one.
 - Up to 40 hours per year.
 - Roll over time to the following year.
- Established a trade commission with Ireland.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals.
- Required better notice when herbicides are sprayed along railroads.
- Clean Energy Initiatives:
 - Expedited permitting for solar canopies and lifted caps on new solar production.
 - Increased hydropower going to our power grid and extended offshore wind procurement.
- Increased enforcement of boating laws on bodies of water that border our neighboring states.

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**

MAKING SENIORS OUR PRIORITY

- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care.
- Created a new registry system to connect patients to home care providers and created a dashboard to help navigate nursing home options.
- Required nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60-90 days' notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees.
- Created an incentive-based program to improve nursing home care in CT.
- Fast-tracked nursing home transfers and receiverships when homes are closing.
- Strengthened oversight of negligent nursing homes.

SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS

- Established the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council to review proposed and existing mandates on local Boards of Education.
- Required same day parental notification when a child hurts themselves or others.
- Capped the amount of money all districts pay to send kids out of district – saving millions of dollars for local schools.
- 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.
- Improving Childcare:
 - Increased coordination to raise private funds
 - Piloted new childcare programming
 - Expanded the childcare incubator program

