



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 and second largest tax cuts 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,

*Hilda E. Santiago*

### 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Generational elder care reform
- Childcare and Early Childhood education
- Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans
- New supports for the IDD community
- Paid Time Off



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**HILDA E. SANTIAGO**

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### CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



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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

## QUALITY CARE FOR SENIORS

- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care
- Strengthened oversight of negligent nursing homes
- Required nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60- 90 days' notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees
- Required health insurance coverage for detecting coronary artery disease

## SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS AND IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION

- Capped the amount of money all districts pay to send kids out of district -saving millions of dollars for local schools
- Provided help to classroom paraeducators to pay for their health insurance
- Increased coordination to raise private funds
- Piloted new childcare programming
- Expanded employer-based student loan repayment tax credits and reduced rates for state-backed loans for in-demand occupations
- Invested in nonprofits that assist students with college and financial aid applications
- Secured \$79 million for Meriden schools



## NEW HOUSING INITIATIVES

- Required 45- day notice of rent increases
- Increased the value of state rental vouchers
- Prioritized surplus state-owned land to be used for affordable housing

## PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

- Protected domestic violence victims from being forced into debt by their abuser
- Excluded medical debt from counting against your credit score
- Established new Bureau of Services for Persons who are Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing

## PROTECTING AND HONORING VETERANS

- Exempted permanently and totally disabled veterans from paying property taxes
- Expanded veterans' driver's license and license plate options to reservists
- Expanded eligibility for grants from the Military Relief Fund for families experiencing hardship
- Formally recognized Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange
- Made it easier for veterans to earn a Q license endorsement to join fire departments