



Dear Neighbor,

The 2024 legislative session is in the books, and I am proud of what we accomplished.

We focused on big issues in 2024: elder care, protecting health care workers, childcare, early childhood nutrition, climate change, paid time off, targeting street takeovers - and we had to protect the largest and second largest tax cuts in state history.

I remain filled with deep gratitude and pride to be your state representative.

All my best,
Representative Travis Simms

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. Simms", written over a white background.

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
TRAVIS SIMMS

PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK

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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**

MAKING SENIORS A 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
- Prevented nursing homes from putting more than two patients in a single room
- 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
- Required health insurance coverage for detecting coronary artery disease
- Strengthened oversight of negligent nursing homes

HOUSING INITIATIVES

- Incentivized towns to develop more multi-family housing
- Required 45-day notice of rent increases
- Streamlined the process for converting vacant nursing homes into housing
- Prioritized surplus state-owned land to be used for affordable housing
- Increased the value of state rental vouchers

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 children hurt 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



GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Expanded the small business loan program in lower-income communities and enabled more out-of-state businesses to expand into CT
- Established a trade commission with Ireland
- 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

Growing our Teacher Workforce

- Cut certification red tape to make licensing faster and enable teachers to teach more subjects across more grades
- Expanded eligibility in the fast-track certification program
- Made it easier for industry experts to teach in our tech schools

Supporting Workers with Paid Sick Days

- 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

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals
- Required better notice when herbicides are sprayed along railroads
- Increased enforcement of boating laws on bodies of water that border our neighboring states

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