

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,

*Frank Smith*



## ENVIRONMENT

- Member of the Environment Committee
- Strong advocate for climate change legislation
- Helped ban dangerous PFAS chemicals (PA 24-59)
- Expedited permitting for solar canopies and lifted caps on new solar production (HB 5232)
- Introduced and advocated for coastal resiliency (SB 11)



## STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRANK SMITH

PROUDLY SERVING MILFORD



## CAPITOL UPDATE 24

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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## FRANK SMITH

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# STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRANK SMITH

## CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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



#### HEALTH

- Made it easier for people on copay-only health plans to access body scans, physicals and occupational therapy (PA 24-81)
- Cut red tape for operating plasma donation centers (PA 24-7)

#### DISABLED ACCESS

- Introduced and led passage and enactment of wheelchair repair bill; expediting and simplifying wheelchair repair process (PA 24-58)

#### SCHOOLS

- Established the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council to review proposed and existing mandates on local boards of education (PA 24-45)
- Capped the amount of money all districts pay to send kids out of district saving millions of dollars for local schools (PA 24081)
- Provided help to classroom paraeducators to pay for their health insurance (PA 24-81)

#### VETERANS

- Exempted permanently and totally disabled veterans from paying property taxes (PA 24-46)
- Expanded eligibility for grants from the Military Relief Fund for families experiencing hardship (PA 24-57)

#### ECONOMY

- Largest income tax cut in state history (PA 23-204)
- Expanded the small business loan program in lower-income communities and enabled more out of state businesses to expand into CT (PA 24-60)



### 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 (PA 24-39)
- Required home care workers to wear photo-ID badges (PA 24-39)
- Created a new registry system to connect patients to home care providers and created a dashboard to help navigate nursing home options (PA 24-39)
- Prevented nursing homes from putting more than two patients in a single room (PA 24-141)
- Created an incentive-based program to improve nursing home care in CT (PA 24-39)