

Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. As the 2023 legislative session has ended, I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some thoughts and 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. We expanded services for our most vulnerable residents and as part of our historic tax cuts, families of four who make \$50,000 annually will pay no state income taxes.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues and everyone within the district for their kindness and support this year. This was a very challenging session starting with the loss of my beloved mother on opening day, followed by the loss of my friend and colleague Rep. Quentin Williams the next day. While a difficult time, I passed two important pieces of legislation, fought for more funding for our schools, and was invited to the White House to discuss childcare in America. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve our communities.

Sincerely,

Mary Welander

BIG WINS FOR THE 114TH DISTRICT!

- ✓ Increased municipal funding
- ✓ \$100K for Sterling Opera House in Derby
- ✓ \$25K for Orange Food2Kids in Orange
- ✓ Increased funding to all schools in Woodbridge, Orange, Derby, and Hamden



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARY WELANDER

PROUDLY SERVING WOODBRIDGE, ORANGE, DERBY, AND HAMDEN

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

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YEAR IN REVIEW

FOR WOODBRIDGE, DERBY, ORANGE, AND HAMDEN

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MARY WELANDER

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STATE REP. MARY WELANDER'S CAPITOL UPDATE

LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY



PRIORITIZING OUR KIDS AND FAMILIES

- I introduced legislation that criminalizes online predatory behavior against children passing unanimously through both chambers. Governor Lamont signed the bill into law
- I introduced a bill that now requires our hospitals to give parents of babies who pass at birth at least 24 hours to be with their stillborn child
- I supported student loan subsidies for paraeducators and school counselors in our lowest-performing districts, as well as for police officers and emergency medical service personnel in distressed municipalities
- I supported legislation requiring schools to provide training to certified personnel on seizure recognition and first aid response

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS

- ✓ **\$600 million middle class tax cut**
- ✓ **Increase Earned Income Tax Credit** for lower income workers
- ✓ **Eliminate** more retirement **income taxes**

INVESTS:

- ✓ More funding for K-12 education
- ✓ More funding for higher education
- ✓ More funding for nonprofits
- ✓ More funding for childcare
- ✓ **MORE FUNDING FOR 114TH DISTRICT**

FIGHTING FOR EDUCATION

- Boosted funding by \$164M to local boards of education and \$7.2M for agriculture and vocational programs
- Created new reimbursements to schools who purchase local foods for their school meals
- Required high school students to take a financial literacy class before graduating
- Expanded school-based apprenticeship opportunities in aviation/aerospace, training for future paraeducators, and dual credit/enrollment options
- Required schools to provide more play-based education from pre-K to grade 5



SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed
- Expanded medicaid coverage for services including primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals
- Strengthened patients' involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

- Increased telehealth options for follow-up appointments and medical marijuana prescriptions
- Requiring pharmacies to develop a plan to notify customers of unscheduled closings
- Created Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to help providers and patients navigate insurance systems

ADVOCATING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- Required full disclosure of hidden fees on small business loans, ensured access to judicial hearings in a dispute, and required any loan offers to be good for at least three days
- Cut the number of reporting requirements for businesses
- Cut business taxes to promote expansion of childcare facilities