



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARY WELANDER

PROUDLY SERVING DERBY, HAMDEN, ORANGE, AND WOODBRIDGE

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Dear Neighbor,

The 2025 legislative session started with big goals: expand childcare, improve special education practices and funding, lower energy bills, strengthen our green economy and our climate resiliency, and more.

With a bipartisan approach, we addressed these concerns as best we could within the fiscal constraints of the established guardrails and projected revenue. With unexpected additional revenue coming in after a budget was adopted, many of us are frustrated by what actions were left on the table, which would help working families and small businesses in the 114th and across the state.

While I am very proud to have worked on some transformative legislation, I am determined to fight for more policies that give us all a chance not to just survive or barely get by but thrive and get ahead. We have a lot of work to do, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve you and the district.

All the best,

Mary Welanders



**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

Representative Mary Welanders
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Hartford, CT 06106-1591



**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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OUR SINGLE-GREATEST INVESTMENT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Established a new Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant program to provide funds for schools to build or expand in-house special education programs, thereby better serving our students and their families and reducing costs to districts and towns.
- Committed more funding for reimbursements of cost for our highest-need students, the most in state history.
- Created **more access** by expanding screening coverage to age 8 and ensuring families are at the table and have a voice throughout, **more compliance** through increased on-site visits for outplacement providers and licensing standards for private providers, and **more transparency** by establishing new outplacement rates and preventing those providers from increasing rates in the middle of the school year.
- Launched a comprehensive analysis of the workload and bureaucracy placed on our teachers to help identify how to improve this system.

INVESTING IN CHILDCARE

- Created the Early Childhood Education Endowment, a transformative investable trust that by 2027 will ensure families earning up to \$100,000 will be able to receive free childcare, while families earning more will pay no more than 7% of their income **plus more supports for childcare professionals.**

NEW ROLES, SAME DEDICATION

This term I have the honor of serving as the House Democratic Leader of the Regulation Review Committee, Chair of the Early Childhood Caucus, Vice Chair of the Committee on Children, and as a member of the Select Committee on Special Education and Education Committee.



OUR WORK

- Increased supports for veterans
- Increased penalties for street racing and takeovers
- Raised reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers
- Increased funding for nonprofits
- Prevented a massive increase in workers' comp costs for employers
- Expanded Research and Development tax credits to more manufacturers
- Created a grant program to fund agricultural land preservation

