

SESSION WRAP-UP

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some 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, and services for our most vulnerable residents. As part of our historic tax cuts, families of four who make under \$50,000 annually will pay no state income taxes. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

We did it by working together - without the fighting you see in Washington.

I'd love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,



BIG WINS FOR BRIDGEPORT

- ✓ Historic funding for schools
- ✓ Massive deposit into Rainy Day Fund
- ✓ Sensible/sustainable budget
- ✓ CT a beacon for reproductive healthcare
- ✓ Modern voting system with early voting
- ✓ Invest in growing healthcare workforce

NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRED GEE

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT

Representative Fred Gee
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937



EN ESPAÑOL

Escanee el código QR
o comuníquese con mi
oficina para ver este
boletín en español



NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT

2023
2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
FRED GEE

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT



- 860-240-8585
- Fred.Gee@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/gee
- facebook.com/FredGee4stateRep



SUPPORTING WORKERS AND 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
- Allowed existing cigar bars and clubs in our larger cities to serve alcohol; permanently allowed restaurants to sell alcohol for off-site consumption
- Supported CT farm wineries by allowing them to open up to three retail locations
- Protected workers whose health benefits are terminated by an employer following a strike or labor dispute
- Cut business taxes to promote expansion of childcare facilities
- Made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects
- Allowed cannabis businesses to deduct their expenses on their taxes
- Expanded JobsCT to increase employment and job creation in our state

GETTING PEOPLE BACK ON THEIR FEET

- Ensured those leaving prison have a state ID or driver's license
- Made more people convicted of a crime before the age of 21 eligible for parole
- Created reentry success plans for kids getting out of correctional or judicial facilities
- Expanded assistance to refugees
- Assisting people who no longer qualify for Medicaid to enroll in the Health Insurance exchange by providing two months of premium assistance
- Created pilot programs for substance abuse and mental health issues at correctional facilities
- Expanded eligibility to short-term financial assistance

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS!

A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:



CUTTING YOUR TAXES

Our budget includes the **largest Personal Income Tax cut in CT history** by cutting marginal income tax rates, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, capping mill rates, and eliminating even more retirement income taxes.



INDUSTRY GROWTH

Our budget **supports CT's growing industries** such as childcare, adult-use cannabis, manufacturing, and media, film, and theater production.



INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

Our budget **invests over \$240M in public education** by stabilizing our state colleges and universities, expanding debt-free community college, fully funding our schools and local boards of education, and increasing scholarships and student debt relief.



SAFETY NET SERVICES

Our budget expands Temporary Family Assistance, increases Husky C. eligibility, provides funds to community action agencies for residents facing immediate economic hardship, supports the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and increases Medicaid rate reimbursements for providers and specialists.



IDD SUPPORTS

Our budget **invests over \$30M to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals** by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, increasing Husky C eligibility, and breaking down silos for better coordination and data collection.

PROTECTING RENTERS

- Increased municipal fines to \$2,000 for rental property violations (unsanitary or unsafe living conditions)
- Required landlords to offer walk-throughs prior to signing a lease
- Capped rental application fees at \$50
- Erased judicial records for renters who win eviction cases
- Required a more timely return of security deposits
- Capped late charges for past due rent

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES

- Allowed trained childcare providers to administer EpiPens
- Required a state audit of all standardized testing
- Required boards of education to provide translator services and established rights for multilingual learners
- Moved up the eligibility age for starting kindergarten by three months (to align with more states) and will require more play-based learning from pre-K to grade 5
- Created reimbursements to schools who purchase local foods for their school meals
- Required high school students to take a financial literacy class before graduating
- Banned child marriages
- Ensured all state buildings have diaper changing tables
- Required funds from the state's legal settlement with vape-giant JUUL to go to helping young people under 21

