



Dear Neighbor,

This newsletter is packed full of information from the 2022 legislative session. My apologies for the tiny type, but there is a lot I wanted to share.

Beyond what's in these pages, I was very proud to secure \$3 million in state bond funds to enable the construction of a new Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in North Canaan. FQHCs are a crucial part of a successful rural healthcare model, and this new facility will provide primary care and mental health services to the region (regardless of ability to pay), as well as bringing jobs and economic activity. Healthcare was a big part of our focus this year, including significant resources for public health and mental health.

Accomplishing this within a state budget that ensures we live within our means and cuts taxes by hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars was a big deal, and I'm proud we got it done.

I know there is a lot to digest in these few pages, so please reach out with any questions.

It is my pleasure to serve as your state representative.

All my best,

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Bolstering Reproductive Freedoms
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARIA HORN

PROUDLY SERVING THE 64TH DISTRICT

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARIA HORN

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I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

\$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✔ Creates a Child Tax Credit
- ✔ Cuts property taxes for retirees
- ✔ Cuts the car tax
- ✔ Extends the gas tax cut
- ✔ Extends free bus service
- ✔ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✔ Invests in healthcare workers

LEADING OUR KIDS PAST THE PANDEMIC AND INTO PROMISING FUTURES

- Increased funding for infant and toddler care programs
- Increased pay to childcare workers
- Expanded successful Birth to Three Program, assisting families with needs of infants and toddlers with delays or disabilities
- Assisted local childcare facilities with renovation costs
- Approved state tax credit for childcare
- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansions of school-based health centers
- Initiated a new position at the Healthcare Advocate to help families navigate care for children and adolescents
- Expanded a new 24/7 emergency mental health response

PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

- Responded to juvenile crime, auto thefts, and pandemic-related crime by improving law enforcement's access to relevant information and training, and creating job training and engagement opportunities for young adults
- Created a Hate Crimes Investigation Unit, streamlining data collection, reporting, and information sharing
- Extended employment protections to police officers that seek and receive mental health care services
- Funded training and resources for law enforcement to address community mental health crises



ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

- Passed CT Clean Air Act, speeding up the timeline for the electrification of the state fleet of vehicles, making it easier for renters and condo owners to install electric chargers, exempting electric charging stations from property tax assessments, and incentivizing school districts to use electric school buses
- Set a goal of reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions from electricity supplied to you by 2040
- Expanded financing to develop zero-emission vehicle infrastructure, build more solar power and fuel cells, and reinforce our electric grid
- Supported developing carbon-neutral plans for new transportation projects

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

- Created a public health reporting system for homeowners who have excessive salt in their drinking water
- Expanded eligibility for participation in the state's brownfield remediation program to include companies who lease a property with an intent to own
- Explored new waste management programming

INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND OPEN SPACE

- Made climate-smart farming and forestry practices more financially accessible
- Established Office of Aquatic Invasive Species
- Finalized preservation of approximately 1,900 acres of land this year

FIGHTING FOR HEALTHCARE AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

- Strengthened the Certificate of Need Process, helping increase access to healthcare facilities throughout the state
- Established Healthcare Benchmarking, collecting data on what we spend on healthcare for the first time. This data will help create a road map to help lower healthcare cost growth

Our state remains a safe haven for an individual's right to choose. We set the standard in the nation on reproductive rights by bolstering and establishing protections for both those seeking abortions and those who provide such services

- Expanded eligibility to perform abortion care to include advanced nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants
- Blocked Texas and other aggressive states from targeting CT patients, doctors, and advocates
- Protected individuals from extradition to other states for seeking, providing, or assisting others in obtaining reproductive healthcare that is legal in Connecticut

GROWING CT'S ECONOMY

- Lowered the business tax rate for Unemployment Insurance
- Established JobsCT program – helping job-creating companies in target industries earn rebates against insurance premiums and state taxes
- Made direct investments in community nonprofits
- Helped community providers keep up with inflation
- Provided support to museums, theaters, and other CT attractions
- Created additional student loan assistance programs

