



Dear Neighbor,

The 2024 legislative session is in the books, and I am proud of what we accomplished.

My goal for the session was to ensure we invested in our priorities, while preserving historic tax cuts for families and seniors. We accomplished that, protecting the biennium budget passed in 2023, while investing in early childhood, mental health, higher education, and support for nonprofits.

This newsletter includes many more details on what made it over the line this year (apologies again for the tiny print!). I look forward to discussing these with you, and to the work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARIA HORN

PROUDLY SERVING THE 64TH HOUSE DISTRICT

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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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 OUR PRIORITY

- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care.
- Required home care workers to wear photo-ID badges.
- Created a new registry system to connect patients to home care providers and created a dashboard to help navigate nursing home options.
- Required nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60-90 days notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees.
- Fast-tracked nursing home transfers and receiverships when homes are closing.
- Strengthened oversight of negligent nursing homes.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

- Improved the eligibility process for getting benefits to the families of first responders who died in the line of duty.
- Established a Fallen Officer Fund to provide families of police officers who died in the line of duty with cash assistance and health care coverage.
- Required more thorough testing of firearms in criminal investigations with the use of the federal ballistic database.
- Protected the personal information of special victims like minors and victims of abuse from public disclosures.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals.
- Required better notice when herbicides are sprayed along railroads.
- Increased enforcement of boating laws on bodies of water that border our neighboring states.
- **Clean Energy Initiatives:**
 - Expedited permitting for solar canopies and lifted caps on new solar production.
 - Increased hydropower going to our power grid and extended offshore wind procurement.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Made it easier for people on co-pay only health plans to access body scans and physical and occupational therapy.
- Covered victims of sexual assault under the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave program.
- Approved comprehensive capital improvement plan at UConn Health.
- Cut red tape for operating plasma donation centers.
- Ensured doctors' offices that are group practices have more accessible equipment to assist those with physical disabilities.
- **Child and Family Nutrition:**
 - Improved coordination across state agencies and streamlined the process for residents to access nutrition programs - encouraging farmers' markets to participate in these programs.
 - Provided local markets with scanners that will make it easier for local vendors to accept nutrition vouchers.

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Enabled towns to provide tax breaks to primary homeowners and farmers.
- Expanded the small business loan program in lower-income communities and enabled more out-of-state businesses to expand into CT.
- Made it easier for out-of-state nurses and social workers to move to and practice in CT.
- **Growing our Teacher Workforce:**
 - Cut certification red tape to make licensing faster and enable teachers to teach more subjects across more grades.
 - Expanded eligibility in the fast-track certification program.
- **Supporting Workers with Paid Sick Days:**
 - Supported middle-class and working families by granting most full- and part-time workers access to Paid Sick Days over a three-year period to use for yourself or to care for a loved one.