

Dear Neighbor,

I am proud to share some highlights from the 2022 legislative session.

The rapid rise of inflation coincided with a historic budget surplus and rainy day fund, allowing the legislature to provide you some relief by cutting \$650 million in taxes - including the first-ever Child Tax Credit of \$250 per child, increasing the property tax credit, cutting the gas tax, and ending pension and annuity income from the income tax. While there is more to do to ease the pain the country and the rest of the world is feeling, these cuts are a significant first step in making Connecticut more affordable for middle class families and senior residents.

But that wasn't all we did. I was proud to co-author a best-in-the-nation approach to Children's Mental Health, helping our kids navigate the future and work to ensure their safety in our schools and at home. We further protected healthcare rights for women, passed laws to combat neighborhood crime, and helped businesses succeed by reducing costs and bolstering the education-to-work pipeline.

I hope you find this newsletter packed with useful information. As always, please contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

Warmly,

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
LIZ LINEHAN

PROUDLY SERVING CHESHIRE, SOUTHLINGTON & WALLINGFORD

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022



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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
- ✔ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✔ Invests in healthcare workers

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- **\$50.7 million** for our local schools in Cheshire, Southington and Wallingford.
- **50%** reimbursement rate for **school construction projects** in Cheshire, returning **\$28 million** to taxpayers over the life of the loan.
- **\$5.5 million** in grants for municipal projects.
- **\$1.5 million** in state aid for our roads.
- **\$1 million** for the expansion of the **YMCA in Wallingford**.
- **\$900,000** for **Ball and Socket Arts** to continue the economic development in Cheshire's West End Neighborhood.
- **\$150,000** for construction of municipal parking lot by the **Linear trail**.
- **\$200,000** for the **Vietnam Memorial**.
- **\$250,000** for **Bartlem Park**.
- Plans to modernize traffic light on **Rt. 68/70 to Mountain Rd in Cheshire** with a left-turn signal, which will help eliminate daily traffic backup on 68/70.

LEADING THE WAY ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

This year, I was proud to be a lead author of the most comprehensive legislation on Children's Mental Health in decades. For a full list of changes and successes, visit my webpage, but here is a partial look at how we're supporting our children now and in the future:

Funding a new Intensive Outpatient Program for the district in a partnership with Wheeler Clinic, serving children with depression, anxiety, self-harm, substance abuse and more; opening immediately.

Expanding Access: Created grant programs to hire school mental health professionals and programs; eliminated prior authorization for in-patient stays; added in-patient beds at Connecticut Children's; created funds to cover medications and in-home treatments.

Bringing Doctors to CT: Created Psychiatrist Recruitment and Retention Fund, Student Loan Reimbursement for Psychiatric Providers, License reciprocity with other states, and expanded Telehealth availability.

Early Mental Health Intervention: Creates a Mental Health Screening Tool for use by pediatricians at yearly visits and in EDs; provides Adolescent Mental Health Continuing Education for every pediatrician in CT; funds 211 Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Service for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and paves the way for nationwide suicide hotline (9-8-8) access.

FOCUSED ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Created and funded Trauma Coordinator positions for all CT public schools to help identify and treat students who are at-risk for violent behavior, hopefully averting possible tragedies.

Funded NARCAN in every school who wants it.

Developed a statewide Peer-to-Peer support program for mental health, which will help kids speak up when they suspect possible school danger.

Our updated Red Flag Law allows family members and mental health professionals to seek a Risk Protection Order, which if approved by a judge, will remove weapons and ammunition from the home. The law also removes the current one-year maximum seizure, while adding more opportunities for continual due process.



TACKLING CRIME

- Made it harder to resell **catalytic converters**.
- Passed an historic overhaul of **juvenile justice laws**, which provides for **earlier interventions and tougher penalties** with repeat offenders who commit serious crimes while investing millions in diversionary programs, Youth Service Bureaus, and Juvenile Review Boards.
- **Funded** state and local task forces to address **gun violence and auto thefts**.
- Passed **domestic violence** and **sexual abuse** awareness and **prevention** initiatives.



Representative Linehan welcomes Marine Corporal Roger Rua, a veteran wounded in action, and the non-profit Homes For Our Troops, who will be building a specialty adapted home for the Rua family in the 103rd district.

HELPING BUSINESSES SUCCEED

- **Lowered** the business **tax rate** for unemployment insurance, effectively paying the federal loan repayment for the coming year.
- Established **JobsCT** program – helping companies in target industries earn **rebates** against insurance premiums and state taxes for meeting job targets.
- Offered support to CT residents with CDL training.
- **Helped** community providers keep up with **inflation**.
- Approved **economic incentives** tied to new federal contracts and expansion, supporting the aerospace manufacturing **pipeline in our district**.

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

- **Eliminated pension and annuity taxes** for retirees making less than \$100k/year.
- **Enhance services** in nursing homes by requiring any new proposed nursing facilities to incorporate person-centered care.
- Expanded access to long-term care.
- Require mandated **elder abuse** reporters to complete elder abuse training within 90 days of becoming an elder abuse reporter.
- Reduced the **mandatory reporting** deadline for suspected elder abuse from 72 hours to 32 hours.