



Dear Neighbor,

I am happy to share with you some highlights from our 2023 legislative session.

I'm proud to have worked on a budget that delivered historic tax cuts and increased funding for students, families, and our most vulnerable residents, while paying down \$2.072 billion towards our long-term debt, investing in our Rainy Day Fund, and staying within our spending cap. All of this means very good financial news for our state!

We worked together toward balanced, bipartisan results, which helped result in the laws I personally wrote and passed this year as your representative - including warning labels for prescription medications, creating a police task force addressing child sexual abuse, and providing funding for mental health counselors in our district - all passing unanimously or near-unanimous in both the House and Senate. That's something you don't see in DC, but something to be proud of here in Connecticut!

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

Warmly,

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- **\$65.4 million** for our local schools in Cheshire, Hamden, and Wallingford.
- **\$1.8 million** in grants for municipal projects.
- **\$690,000** for the Quinnipiac River Lineal Trail Bridge.
- **\$600,000** for economic development projects in Cheshire.



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE LIZ LINEHAN

PROUDLY SERVING CHESHIRE, HAMDEN, AND WALLINGFORD

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

Representative Liz Linehan
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT 2023 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE LIZ LINEHAN

PROUDLY SERVING CHESHIRE, HAMDEN, AND WALLINGFORD

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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES THE

LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✔ \$600 million middle class tax cut
- ✔ Increased Earned Income Tax Credit for lower income workers
- ✔ Expanded cuts to retirement savings to benefit seniors

WE INVESTED:

- ✔ More funding for K-12 education
- ✔ More funding for higher education
- ✔ More funding for nonprofits
- ✔ More funding for childcare
- ✔ MORE FUNDING FOR CHESHIRE, HAMDEN, AND WALLINGFORD

PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT & BEYOND

- Extended income tax exemptions for social security, pension, and IRA income to taxpayers making up to \$100,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers) by phasing out the deduction between 2.5% and 100%, depending on your income, **allowing you to keep more of your hard-earned money!**
- Established a new coordinator of state services for people with dementia.
- Expanded eligibility for seniors to participate in **adult day services** (serving those with early onset dementia).
- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a **senior is being scammed.**
- Increased funding for nutrition for seniors and **Meals on Wheels.**

MAKING CONNECTICUT SAFER

- Expanded **GPS monitoring** of domestic violence offenders.
- Required bright orange warning labels on all **prescription narcotics**, including opiates.
- Required trained EMTs to carry and use NARCAN.
- Formed a special police task force to **catch child sexual abusers** more quickly, and with more evidence.
- Addressed **catalytic converter thefts** in conjunction with nearby states.
- Established **funding** and benefits for **firefighters** who are diagnosed with cancer.
- Invested in resources for our **State Police.**



LEADING THE WAY TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES

As House chairwoman of the Committee on Children, I am proud to have written and passed laws which:

- Provided training to school districts to **identify and address adult sexual misconduct toward children** in our schools and sports. We cannot allow this growing problem to continue, and I pledge to fight for more prevention, and harsher penalties for abusers for as long as I am in office.
- Funded mental health professionals in our district, including **two new mental health counselors** in **Cheshire** elementary schools; and a **trauma coordinator** in **Wallingford** Public Schools to serve families in need of mental health services.
- Funded the procurement of a free-to-use app to connect **families with special needs** to their trusted circle and **first responders** to ensure the safety of their children at home and beyond.
- Funded sensory kits for any CT police department that wants to equip their officers and firefighters with **sensory items** to calm individuals with Autism during **emergency situations**
- Created a working group with the governor's office to work toward opening a **manufacturing and aerospace high school** to help our children train for the influx of **high-paying careers, but without the college debt.**

LOCAL FUNDING TO TOWNS

HELPING STABILIZE AND LOWER YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

- Reformed retirement plans for municipal employees, saving towns hundreds of thousands of dollars annually - **that could lower property taxes!**
- Allowed towns to accept electronic signatures from contractors, helping streamline local government and business permitting to **help grow the grand list.**
- Made it easier for towns to allow monthly payment options for municipal taxes, to help you **spread out your property and car tax payments.**
- Provided \$60 million in new funding for town governments, to help **thwart a rise in local mill rates.**
- Continued municipal funding to **stabilize car taxes** and cap them at 32.49 mils.



BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

- Expanded school-based **apprenticeship opportunities** in aviation and aerospace, training for future paraeducators, and dual credit/enrollment opportunities.
- Created **prosecutor apprenticeships** for legal interns.
- Created tax credits and incentives for towns and businesses that build **workforce housing**, including for **teachers, police officers, and firefighters.**
- Incentivized licensed providers with 10 years of experience to become adjunct faculty at CT colleges and universities.
- Streamlined licensing for nurses and physical therapists who move to CT.
- **Encouraged careers** in our K-12 schools, offering nursing licenses at our colleges, and creating opportunities among our existing personal care attendant workforce.