



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2025 legislative session featured big issues like **lowering energy bills, childcare, special education** and the **state budget** – and we tackled them all.

This session, I was proud to be appointed to the leadership position of **Deputy Speaker** and **Caucus Co-Chair**, which gives me more of an ability to advocate for important priorities for our district and our state. I'm proud to provide constituents with in-district learning events on topics such as legal **protections for kids** heading to college, **safe driving** and **pedestrian safety**, as well as **healthcare workshops** and avoiding the most **current consumer scams**.

The budget funded grants for our towns' education budgets and municipal aid to **reduce your local property tax burden**. We also did it responsibly, while still maintaining a **\$1.58 billion surplus**, a maxed-out **Rainy Day Fund**, and a **Special Transportation Fund** to protect CT from draconian federal cuts made without rhyme or reason – something we will likely address in a special session this fall.

Please read on for more details about the 2025 legislative session.

Warmly,

State Representative Liz Linehan

BIG WINS FOR CHESHIRE WALLINGFORD AND HAMDEN

- Increased state funding for **Cheshire's** new schools, **saving Cheshire taxpayers an additional \$22.4 million in property taxes** for our new and upgraded schools
- Increased **Hamden's** municipal funding to a **record amount** in 2025 and 2026
- **Wallingford** will receive an **additional** \$454,450 in total Special Education aid for FY 26 and FY 27
- **Increased Education Funding** to the entire district by **\$4.1 million**, including a total **\$108.8 million** in **Town Aid** for FY 26, so you can **pay less** in your property taxes



DEPUTY SPEAKER

LIZ LINEHAN

PROUDLY SERVING CHESHIRE, WALLINGFORD, HAMDEN

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UPDATE 2025

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025



DEPUTY SPEAKER
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MAKING CONNECTICUT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

FREE CHILDCARE, COLLEGE SAVINGS AND A CHILD TAX CREDIT

- By 2027, families earning up to \$100,000 will receive **free state-funded childcare**
- Families earning above \$100,000 will pay **no more than 7%** of their income
- Launched a **tax credit** to incentivize employers to contribute to employees' **college savings accounts**
- Expanded access to **MYCTSavings**, the state administered **retirement program for all workers who enroll**

NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

To **help our kids** and **reduce your property taxes** we approved the following **Special Education Funding**:

- **\$221 million** in annual reimbursements for special education
- **\$30 million** annually for new special education expansion and development grants
- **\$20 million** in competitive grants for in-district programming and capital school construction projects

Plus Continued **Education Support** includes:

- Funded chronic absenteeism intervention programs, high-dosage tutoring; supported dual-credit assistance for high school students



LOWERING ELECTRIC BILLS

This session, I introduced legislation to force a state takeover of Eversource and UI, sell off their out-of-state holdings to invest in Connecticut's grid, and make energy affordable for all by making the utility a not-for-profit entity. Legislation like this takes time to come to fruition, but my colleagues and I will continue to fight for this enormous change, to make electricity affordable for all residents.

In the meantime, we passed legislation which:

- **Caps** program costs that **utility companies charge** you, while profiting from the interest!
- Uses state financing to **pay down** COVID-era **back payments and storm-related costs**

MAKING HEALTHCARE EASIER AND MORE AFFORDABLE

- Established the nation's first **cap on generic drug prices**
- **Stopped** pharmacy middlemen from **passing along cost increases for profit**
- Expanded **CT Paid Family Medical Leave** to municipal and non-certified school employees
- **Guaranteed Rx rebates go to YOU**, the consumer, not corporate middlemen

PROTECTING CONSUMERS

I'm working diligently on the first-ever state **No Solicitation List**, to protect you and your home from unwanted salespeople, scammers, and crooks. I'm close to final language and hope to put this in to place next year! **This year**, we:

- **Protected consumers** from surprise subscription renewals and hidden fees, and predatory payday loans
- Passed a law I wrote to **protect children** with stricter laws on minors and peer-to-peer money apps like Cash App and Venmo, thanks to a Cheshire resident sharing their family's story with me. These apps are a tool for **abusers, child traffickers, drug dealers, and scammers**

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

I am **working closely with Animal Control Officers** from across the state to develop better standardized training, mutual aid across towns, protect ACO officers during domestic calls, and codifying into law a **lifetime ban on ACOs who are found guilty of animal abuse**, on or off the job. Additionally, we:

- Expanded the **Fallen Officer Fund** to support families of **firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics** killed in the line of duty
- Extended the **work zone speed** camera program statewide
- Strengthened **penalties for reckless driving and illegal street racing**
- Enhanced **protections for victims** of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Launched a working group to review benefits and **protections for first responders**, including dispatchers and DPW staff



SMARTER DEVELOPMENT

- **Passed legislation I wrote** which requires any developer submitting a study to support a local development project to include a statement of **financial interest**, so our Planning and Zoning Commissions can refuse to accept the study if it is **biased and paid for by anyone with a financial interest**. This was written based on the Mountain Road Project in Cheshire.
- Secured new planning tools for towns to support resilient infrastructure and **smart growth**

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

- Ensured **insurance coverage** for biomarker testing to **detect cancer** early
- Closed a loophole to require **background checks** for **all long-term care facility** employees
- Required greater consideration of **family proximity** when **nursing homes** attempt to **transfer patients**

SALUTING OUR VETERANS

- **Protected military pensions** from being counted against Medicaid and other support programs
- **Waived hidden college fees** and continued National Guard enlistment incentives
- Created town-level options to **expand property tax relief** for veterans and Gold Star families
- Added six new **Veterans Service Officers** to tackle benefit backlogs