

# PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Dear Neighbor,

I worked hard last session on a number of initiatives to help our working families and children.

This newsletter provides an update on recent and current initiatives and proposals made at the state level designed to help families in the Valley and throughout the state better afford healthcare, childcare, and the ability to remain living and working in Connecticut.

If you have a question or concerns, or if I can support you in any way, please feel free to call me at 860-240-8769 or email me at [Kara.Rochelle@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kara.Rochelle@cga.ct.gov).

To keep up with what's going on at the Capitol, make sure to sign up for my email updates at [www.HouseDems.ct.gov/Rochelle](http://www.HouseDems.ct.gov/Rochelle).

Best regards,



Kara Rochelle



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Kara Rochelle

ANSONIA, DERBY | 104TH HOUSE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

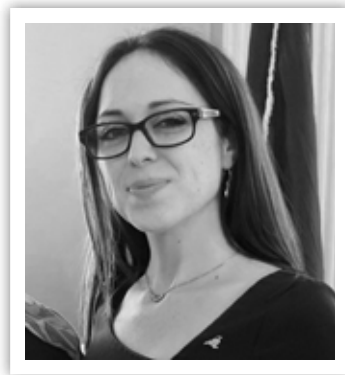
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# KARA ROCHELLE

## ***Earned Family & Medical Leave***

Last session, the legislature established the Family and Medical Leave Insurance program to ensure that no one has to choose a paycheck over caring for a family member. The program will provide employees with up to 12 weeks of FMLI benefits over a 12-month period and is funded by employee contributions so as not to place undue burden on local businesses. **(Public Act 19-25)**

## ***Minimum Wage Increases***

Over 330,000 Connecticut workers and around 5,600 Ansonia and Derby residents will see pay increases and a better quality of life as a result of the minimum wage increases starting this year and continuing gradually over the next 4 ½ years to \$15 an hour. With one of the highest costs of living in the nation, it was imperative that we made sure that our most vulnerable workers were able to remain living and working here. **(Public Act 19-4)**



## ***Education Funding Increases***

As promised, education funding from the state for our schools will continue to increase in Ansonia and Derby. Ansonia will receive an increase of \$605,415 each year, stacking, equaling a total increase of over \$1.8 million over the next two years. Derby will experience an increase of \$414,815 each year, stacking, equaling a total increase of over \$1.2 million in ECS funding over the next two years. Nearly 300 families in Ansonia and Derby will benefit from increases to Care4Kids early childhood education funding.

## ***Early Childhood Interventions***

I wrote and advocated for a bill that makes it easier for parents to access information on early childhood interventions, which help infants and toddlers who have delays or disabilities meet their developmental and health-related needs. The Office of Early Childhood is tasked with the creation of a list that is required to be publicly displayed in daycares, of key developmental milestones from birth to five and phone numbers for further resources and evaluation of their child so that parents are better able to track their child's developmental progress. **(Public Act 19-106)**

## ***Access to Healthcare***

We passed legislation that redefines the “pre-existing condition provision” to **include pre-existing conditions** whether or not medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment was recommended or received before the coverage effective date for certain short-term health insurance plans, ensuring that no one is blocked from obtaining the coverage they need. **(Public Act 19-134)**


Illness of the brain should be treated the same as illness of the body. Legislation requiring **parity for mental health and substance use disorder benefits**, nonquantitative treatment limitations, and drugs prescribed for the treatment of substance abuse disorders and services was passed this session. **(Public Act 19-159)**

The legislature **expanded workers' compensation laws to allow for police officers, parole officers, and firefighters** to receive certain workers' compensation benefits for PTSD caused by traumatic experiences on the job. It also requires a feasibility study for the future expansion of these benefits to EMS personnel. **(Public Act 19-17)**

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