



Growing Our Economy & Fighting for the People of Bethel, Danbury, Newtown & Redding

Dear Neighbor,

I take serving our community seriously, which is why this session I voted for every Bethel, Danbury, Redding, and Newtown resident.

We made the biggest tax cuts in CT's history to put more money back into your pockets, established a fully funded, first-of-its-kind mental health program to ensure all our kids are safe and have the resources they need and, offered additional relief to local businesses and restaurants so they can keep their doors open despite facing numerous challenges throughout the pandemic.

All our efforts this year work to make life easier for you, even in the face of historically high inflation rates. I am proud to make these critical investments in our community while maintaining CT's fiscal responsibility and integrity for the future.

I hope you find the information enclosed in this newsletter useful. If you have any questions, please reach out. I am always happy to assist.

All my best,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

RAGHIB ALLIE-BRENNAN

PROUDLY SERVING BETHEL, DANBURY, NEWTOWN, REDDING

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**IMPORTANT
STATE UPDATES**

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

LARGEST TAX CUTS IN STATE HISTORY

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
- ✔ Extends free bus service
- ✔ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✔ Invests in healthcare workers

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION INITIATIVES

GIVING SCHOOLS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED

- Ensured more districts will meet eligibility requirements for the federal School Breakfast Program
- Secured extra funding to solve the magnet funding gap
- Provided funding to our schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Increased funding for infant and toddler care programs
- Increased pay to childcare workers to attract and retain more educators
- Expanded scholarships for minority teachers
- Established a new reimbursement grant to assist schools in upgrading their HVAC systems, and ensured regular inspections and reporting on their operation
- Expanded successful Birth to Three Program
- Assisted local childcare facilities with renovation costs

RESTARTING OUR ECONOMY

PUTTING MONEY BACK IN YOUR POCKET

- Lowered the business tax rate for unemployment insurance, effectively making the federal loan repayment for the coming year on behalf of businesses
- Made direct investments in community nonprofits
- Helped community providers keep up with inflation
- Created additional student loan assistance programs
- Provided support to museums, theaters, and other attractions



PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

ENSURING OUR SAFETY

- Invested in Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- Toughened penalties for vehicle thefts
- Expanded alternatives to incarceration
- Created more crisis training for our police
- Increased training and education of sexual abuse identification and prevention
- Designated youth camp counselors as mandatory reporters
- Extended address confidentiality to victims of kidnapping, human trafficking, and child abuse
- Expanded anti-discrimination provisions to all employers regardless of the number of people they employ
- Made victims of domestic violence a protected class

PUTTING WORKING AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES FIRST

STANDING UP FOR WORKERS

- Expanded access to special relief funding for specific front-line workers who had to work during COVID and became sick as a result
- Helped front-line, private sector workers access premium pay, if they were among the essential employees who had to work through the pandemic
- Toughened the penalty for public contractors who underpay or withhold wages and benefits, created a public registry of those individuals, and established a process for revoking the licenses of repeat offenders
- Increased the Earned Income Tax Credit for the 2023 tax year, cutting taxes for our neediest families
- Protected the rights of employees by prohibiting attendance requirements for meetings based solely on the employer's political or religious views



RESPONDING TO THE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

FIGHTING FOR THE WELLBEING OF OUR KIDS

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansions of school-based health centers and the services they provide
- Created new walk-ins for mental health emergencies
- Initiated a new position at the Healthcare Advocate to help families navigate care for children and adolescents
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Established state oversight and coordination of state response to kids' mental health needs
- Expanded mentorship opportunities
- Helped school-based health centers develop new mental health programming
- Assisted local schools in expanded mental health staff and access to care
- Provided mental health training to parents, students, and pediatricians