

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This was my first year serving as your state representative and I hit the ground running. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to do this work and proud of what we've delivered for the 22nd District.

We tackled big issues like rising electric bills, affordability, special education, and the state budget. I fought to make sure Plainville, Farmington, and Southington got their fair share. Increased state aid and education funding will help stabilize town budgets and support students, educators, and taxpayers. I kept my promise to secure a space waiver for the Plainville Middle School renovation to bring home additional state reimbursement and saving local dollars.

When a proposed beverage tax surfaced, I knew the real impact it would have on families already struggling with the cost of living. I went against the grain and spoke out because doing the right thing matters. We passed a responsible budget with no new taxes, continued paying down long-term debt, maintained a fully funded Rainy Day Fund, and built in a surplus to protect against future uncertainty.

I stood up for Medicaid, advocated for healthcare workers' safety, and worked to lower prescription drug costs. I'm proud of what we've accomplished, and I'm just getting started. If you ever need help or want to share an idea, you can email me at Rebecca.Martinez@cga.ct.gov or call my office at (860)240-

All my best,



### **DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

- \$40.4m for the Plainville Middle School renovation project, which includes a \$2.7 million space waiver
- \$50,000 for PARC, Inc. toward their renovation project
- \$3.4m increase in municipal aid and special education funding for Plainville, Farmington, and Southington
- \$672,000 for Plainville's first STEAP grant to reconstruct and enhance tennis and basketball courts at Norton Park

## **REPRESENTATIVE**

SOUTHINGTON, FARMINGTON

SERVING PLAINVILLE,

**PROUDLY** 



Building, Room 4100 CT 06106-1591 -egislative Office E Hartford, C

### CAPITOL 2025 UPDATE



### FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE REBECCA MARTINEZ

PROUDLY SERVING PLAINVILLE, SOUTHINGTON, FARMINGTON



860-240-8585



Rebecca.Martinez@cga.ct.gov



housedems.ct.gov/Martinez



facebook.com/StateRepMartinez



# STATE

### CREATING A MORE AFFORDABLE CONNECTICUT

### **Lowering Electric Bills**

- Capped infrastructure programs that utility companies charge while profiting from interest
- Used state financing to pay down COVID-era back payments and storm-related costs

### **Reducing Drug Costs**

- Established the nation's first cap on generic drug prices
- Stopped pharmacy middlemen from passing along cost increases for personal profit

### **Fairer Corporate Taxes**

- Closed a major loophole that allowed multi-state corporations to avoid paying their fair share
- Leveled the playing field for local businesses

### **Consumer Protection**

 Protected consumers from surprise subscription renewals, hidden fees, and predatory payday apps

### **New Tools for Towns**

Secured new planning tools for towns to support resilient infrastructure and smart growth

### OUR GREATEST INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN

### Free Childcare

- 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
- Tax Relief for Families
- Created a refundable \$250 tax credit per child through the Earned Income Tax Credit framework

### **College Savings Support**

 Launched a tax credit for employers who contribute to employees' college savings accounts

### **Special Education Expansion**

- \$30 million annually for new special education expansion and development grants
- \$10 million in competitive grants for in-district programming
- \$221 million in annual reimbursements for special education costs
- \$10 million in financing for capital projects related to special education

### **Continued Educational Support**

- Funded chronic absenteeism intervention programs
- Expanded high-dosage tutoring
- Supported dual-credit assistance for high school students



### **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 care homes attempt to transfer patients

### **SUPPORTING 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
- Ensured educational stability for military children when families relocate



### **KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE**

- 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