



Dear Neighbor,

During the last legislative session, we passed over 200 bills. Enclosed are highlights of just some of those bills.

I was proud to help lead the effort to address children's mental health and support a budget that cut taxes by millions of dollars, made an additional payment towards our pension debt, and provided a rainy day fund that will ensure stability for our future.

The investments we made will help businesses survive and thrive, support our workers, and help our families and communities navigate today's challenges.

Thank you for all of your e-mails, messages and calls. I listen to and read them all, greatly appreciate your ideas, and always weigh your diverse and thoughtful input as I make decisions on behalf of our district. If you have questions as you read, please reach out.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your state representative.

Take care,

Cristin McCarthy Vahey

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Keeping CT Safe with Juvenile Justice Reform
- Bolstering Reproductive Freedoms
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CRISTIN MCCARTHY VAHEY

PROUDLY SERVING FAIRFIELD

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022



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I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES
\$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✔ Creates a Child Tax Credit
- ✔ Cuts property taxes for retirees
- ✔ Extends the gas tax cut
- ✔ Extends free bus service
- ✔ Ends pension and annuity taxes
- ✔ Invests in healthcare workers

VOTING AND TRANSPARENCY

- Expanded eligibility for absentee voting
- Passed extensive consumer data privacy protections
- Authorized the use of remote or hybrid meetings in perpetuity



HELPING FAMILIES

- Increased funding for non-profit service providers who care for our most vulnerable
- Increased the amount a surviving spouse may retain under Medicaid spend-down
- Established student loan reimbursement for mental health providers in shortage areas
- Invested in early childhood education, teachers and children to provide safe care and help parents continue to work

PUBLIC SAFETY & GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Funded Youth Service Bureaus, the Auto Theft Task Force, and created the Office of Gun Violence Prevention
- Made it harder to re-sell catalytic converters
- Made the State Police Hate Crimes Unit permanent
- Expanded hands on and crisis training for police
- Extended employment protections to police officers who seek and receive mental health care services



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

I was proud to serve as a member of the small bi-partisan working group that led the effort to address children's mental health. Those bills and others passed:

- Provided grants to schools for hiring mental health providers
- Continued telehealth options
- Safeguarded reproductive rights by expanding which providers can provide abortions and protecting doctors and patients from out-of-state litigation over reproductive health care
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Funded \$150 million for new HVAC reimbursement for schools
- Invested \$12 million for tobacco prevention and cessation
- Expanded breast and ovarian cancer screenings

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

This year's most significant Transportation Committee bill was the Connecticut Clean Air Act. The bill:

- Created incentives and faster timelines for electrification of school buses
- Expanded eligibility for the CHEAPR rebate program to businesses, towns, and non-profits, and included e-bikes
- Provided grant money for towns to modernize traffic signals
- Introduced EV charging requirements for town buildings, renters, and condo owners

