



Dear Neighbors,

In my second year representing both Bridgeport and Fairfield and chairing the Public Health Committee, I remain honored to serve you in this role. Besides helping to bring millions of investment dollars home to Fairfield and Bridgeport, I focused on healthcare access, changes to help smart growth in affordable housing, and made changes to improve election integrity.

Together with colleagues and community members, we were able to rein in the CT Siting Council and pause the state's racial imbalance law, allowing the community a stronger voice. We made progress, but the work is never done. Please reach out so we can continue to work towards solutions together.

Take care,

Cristin



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CRISTIN MCCARTHY VAHEY

PROUDLY SERVING FAIRFIELD & BRIDGEPORT

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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**SCAN TO HEAR FROM
STATE REP. MCCARTHY
VAHEY**

CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES PROTECTING TAX CUTS

WE PASSED A BIPARTISAN BIENNIAL BUDGET THAT INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS AND INVESTMENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

- **LARGEST INCOME TAX CUT** in state history
- **Biggest investment in public education ever**
- **Expansion of debt free community college**
- **Protected safety net programs**
- **New supports for Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled Community**
- **Increased Earned Income Tax Credits for Working Families**
- **Expended cuts to retirement savings**

THIS SESSION WE PROTECTED THESE TAX CUTS AND INVESTED MILLIONS OF FEDERAL FUNDS IN:

- **Higher Education - \$160 million, growing to \$200 million**
- **Childcare - \$21.8 million**
- **Mental Health - \$24 million**
- **Nonprofits - \$50 million**

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Some of this year's local investments include:

- Close to \$200 million in education funding for Bridgeport Public Schools
- \$3 million in remediation funds to support a Fairfield housing project
- \$8 million to support bringing professional soccer to Bridgeport
- \$2 million for electric buses in Fairfield
- \$22.5 million of CIF Funds to demolish and abate the PSEG coal plant in Bridgeport
- \$255,000 in Recreational Trails Grant Funding for the Villa Ave Open Space Trail



LEADING THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

In my second year as Co-Chair of the Public Health Committee, I have continued to lead the work to help our families, neighbors, and communities access healthcare. This year we:

- Made telehealth expansion a permanent option for accessing healthcare (PA 24-110)
- Required medical offices to provide accessible equipment for those with disabilities (PA 24-113)
- Increased access to food and nutrition programs for children (PA 24-82)
- Improved data collection and monitoring of non-fatal opioid overdoses (PA 24-120)
- Addressed healthcare workforce shortages with nursing and social work compacts (PA 24-83 & PA 24-30)
- Improved safety conditions for the in-home healthcare workforce (PA 24-19)
- Expanded paid sick leave to include many more private sector employees (PA 24-8)
- Required pediatricians and primary care providers to give patients educational materials on gun safety and safe storage (PA 24-19)



HOUSING

The cost of housing remains a tremendous burden on both families and businesses working to recruit their workforce. This session we:

- Incentivized towns to develop more multi-family housing (PA 24-143)
- Required 45-day notice of rent increases (PA 24-110)
- Streamlined the process for converting vacant nursing homes into housing (PA 24-143)
- Prioritized the use of surplus state owned land for affordable housing (PA 24-143)
- Increased the value of state rental vouchers (PA 24-143)



ELECTION INTEGRITY

Some of the steps, we took in PA 24-148 to provide both safeguards to election integrity and consequences for illegal actions include:

- Extended the statute of limitations for election-related crimes
- Required video recording of absentee ballot drop boxes
- Recording and reporting of how absentee ballots are received
- Required a log of who has requested applications, their address, and number of applications requested
- Limited the number of absentee ballot applications a person may request 90 days or more before an election
- Established specific criminal penalties for harassing poll workers

