

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear Neighbors,

I'm honored to serve as your state representative and to fight for Greenwich values in Hartford. I wanted to take the time to share with you what I worked on during the 2023 legislative session.

My areas of focus included advocating for seniors and children in our district, promoting public health, and growing the economy. As newly appointed co-chair of the Commerce Committee this session I fought to increase Connecticut's workforce and provide grants to Connecticut brownfield landbanks. We worked hard to deliver a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while still providing hundreds of millions in more funding to our local schools, colleges and universities, and services for our most vulnerable residents.

I'd love to hear from you, if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this legislative update please reach out to my office.

All my best,



2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Deposited \$3.3bn into the state's Rainy Day fund
- ✓ \$6.5m for Greenwich Boys & Girls Club
- ✓ \$250k for Greenwich Boy Scouts (Camp Seton)
- ✓ \$100k for Barbara's House
- ✓ 16% Increase in Education Cost Sharing Funding for Greenwich public schools
- ✓ \$150k for food waste diversion for Greenwich public schools

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEVE MESKERS

PROUDLY SERVING GREENWICH



**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2023**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2023**



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Established a new coordinator of state services for people with dementia
- Strengthened patients' involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints
- Expanded eligibility for seniors to participate in adult day services (serving those with early onset dementia)
- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services like primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals
- Increased funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels
- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed
- Required homemaker companion companies to provide notice to their clients before they abruptly close and prohibited any increases in rates without at least 60-day notice

NEW CT GUN REFORMS

- Restricted Open Carry
- Banned Ghost Guns and closed existing loopholes
- Limited monthly handgun purchases to 3 per 30-day period
- Required safe storage and trigger locks
- Expanded our assault weapon ban
- Updated training requirements
- Strengthened penalties for failure to report lost or stolen guns



OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS!

A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:



CUTTING YOUR TAXES

Our budget includes the **largest Personal Income Tax cut in CT history** by cutting marginal income tax rates, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, capping mill rates, and eliminating even more retirement income taxes.



INDUSTRY GROWTH

Our budget **supports CT's growing industries** such as childcare, adult-use cannabis, manufacturing, and media, film, and theater production.



INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

Our budget **invests over \$240M in public education** by stabilizing our state colleges and universities, expanding debt-free community college, fully funding our schools and local boards of education, and increasing scholarships and student debt relief.



SAFETY NET SERVICES

Our budget expands Temporary Family Assistance, increases Husky C. eligibility, provides funds to community action agencies for residents facing immediate economic hardship, supports the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and increases Medicaid rate reimbursements for providers and specialists.



IDD SUPPORTS

Our budget **invests over \$30M to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals** by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, increasing Husky C. eligibility, and breaking down silos for better coordination and data collection.

STANDING UP FOR CONNECTICUT CONSUMERS

- Prohibited utility companies from passing off their lobbying and marketing expenses through rate hikes
- Required faster transfer of medical records between facilities
- Responded to inflation by freezing scheduled increases on the diesel tax – helping lower the cost of groceries and other commodities
- Protected precise geolocation data under our data privacy laws and created more stringent standards for targeted advertising to kids
- Demanded TV and cable companies give you a prorated refund if you cancel before the end of your billing cycle
- Required the driver's license test to be offered in 26 languages



SUPPORTING WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

- Required full disclosure of hidden fees on small business loans, ensured access to judicial hearings in a dispute, and required any loan offers to be good for at least three days
- Cut the number of reporting requirements for businesses
- Protected workers whose health benefits are terminated by an employer following a strike or labor dispute
- Cut business taxes to promote expansion of childcare facilities
- Made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects
- Expanded JobsCT to increase employment and job creation in our state