



I am honored to continue to serve as your state representative. This term I was appointed an Assistant Majority Leader, Vice Chair of the Government Administration and Elections Committee (GAE) and a member of the Transportation Committee and Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee.

I'm proud to have worked on a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while delivering historic tax cuts, deposits \$3.3 billion into the Rainy Day Fund, and prepays an additional \$2 billion of unfunded pension liability. The budget increases funding for municipalities and schools, families, and our most vulnerable residents. It provides a helping hand to college students and employees in healthcare, education, and manufacturing fields.

In addition to passing a bipartisan budget, the legislature:

- Enacted early voting beginning in 2024.
- Provided additional supports for intellectually or developmentally disabled individuals and families.
- Made our roads safer with the approval of automated traffic enforcement and wrong way driving countermeasures.
- Protected consumers by restricting additional telemarketing and requiring companies to obtain your permission for auto-renewals before charging the next billing cycle.

It's impossible to capture all the good work we accomplished this session, but this mailer is a highlight. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,



# NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MORRIN BELLO

PROUDLY SERVING WETHERSFIELD

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

Representative Morrin Bello  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4040  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

# CAPITOL UPDATE 2023



## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE **AMY MORRIN BELLO**

PROUDLY SERVING WETHERSFIELD

- 860-240-8585
- Amy.MorrinBello@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/MorrinBello
- facebook.com/RepMorrinBello





## HELPING OUR FAMILIES

### CHILDREN

Addressed mental health services for children, collaborated with nonprofits to identify and enroll eligible children in HUSKY Health, established the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate, banned child marriages, required more play-based learning for young learners and a financial literacy class for high school students, mandated translator services, and established rights for multilingual learners.

### SENIORS

Extended income levels for the exemption of pension, IRA, and annuities from the state's income tax, strengthened patient's involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints, increased funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels and allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed.

### HEALTHCARE

Expanded access to medication, telehealth and pharmacy services, created mental health toolkits for new parents and extended health insurance coverage for newborns, directed state universities to provide reproductive health resources to students and allowed pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraceptives. Expanded workers' comp coverage for anyone who experiences PTSD at work, added more specificity to hospital discharge plans, prohibited insurers from discriminating between patients based on gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or age regarding coverage for infertility treatment, and expanded Medicaid coverage for long-term contraceptives.

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES THE

# LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✔ **\$600 million middle class tax cut**
- ✔ Continues **car tax cap** and **property tax credits** for homeowners
- ✔ Expands cuts to retirement savings to **benefit seniors**
- ✔ Increases **Earned Income Tax Credit** for lower income workers

## INVESTS:

- ✔ More funding for K-12 education
- ✔ More funding for higher education
- ✔ More funding for nonprofits
- ✔ More funding for childcare
- ✔ **MORE FUNDING FOR WETHERSFIELD**

## STATE FUNDS FOR WETHERSFIELD

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>EDUCATION FUNDING</b>	\$12,274,498	\$13,195,442	\$15,276,776
<b>TOWN FUNDS</b>	\$2,913,778	\$3,710,441	\$3,710,705
<b>TOTAL FOR WETHERSFIELD</b>	\$15,188,276	\$16,905,883	\$18,987,481

## IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

Made it illegal for adults to solicit online photos/videos from children even if not explicitly sexual, formed a police task force to deal with the abuse of children online, implemented additional measures to prevent human trafficking, and expanded GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders. Established a regional task force to combat illegal vehicle activities in greater Hartford, worked with other states to regionally address catalytic converter theft, and passed common-sense gun control reform including restricting open carry, banning ghost guns, and expanding the assault weapon ban.



## GROWING OUR ECONOMY

### ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESSES

Reduced the number of reporting requirements for businesses, cut certain business taxes, created a new tax credit for eligible theater productions, permanently allowed restaurants to sell alcohol for off-site consumption, expanded JobsCT, and made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects.

### BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Expanded school-based apprenticeship opportunities and dual credit/enrollment opportunities, created tax credits and incentives for towns and businesses that build workforce housing, streamlined licensing for nurses and physical therapists that move to CT, partnered with other states for clinical training opportunities, and offered nursing licenses at our colleges.