



Dear neighbors,

The 2024 legislative session is in the books. This newsletter highlights some of what we accomplished.

We focused on big issues in 2024: elder care, childcare, paid time off, additional housing, juvenile justice reform - and we protected the largest tax cut in state history.

Unfinished business included our climate bill, which would have directed state and federal investment in new, efficient energy technology such as heat pumps, and legislation that would have provided grants for housing in transit district towns like Wallingford.

I remain grateful to serve you as your state representative. Please reach out if you need state assistance.

Sincerely,

*Mary Mushinsky*

### 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Providing Quality Care for Seniors
- Maintaining Historic Tax Cuts
- Making Childcare More Affordable and Accessible
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# MARY MUSHINSKY

PROUDLY SERVING WALLINGFORD

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## CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES

# PROTECTING TAX CUTS

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

- LARGEST INCOME TAX CUT in state history
- Biggest investment in public education ever
- New supports for the IDD (disability) community
- Expansion of debt free community college
- Protected safety net programs

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

- Higher Education - \$160 million with a path to grow to \$200 million
- Early Childcare - \$21.8 million
- Mental Health - \$24 million
- Nonprofits - \$50 million
- CT closed the fiscal year with a \$270 million operating surplus
- We deposited another \$1.1 billion in the Rainy Day Fund and our pension systems

## QUALITY CARE FOR SENIORS

- Made it easier for seniors to age in place and increased community-based services
- Created a nursing home database to connect seniors with quality care
- Established oversight to prevent negligence and abuse and incentives to encourage nursing homes to improve care
- Enacted requirements for nursing home facilities to be more transparent
- Capped nursing homes to 2 beds in a room
- We also required health insurance coverage for detecting coronary artery disease

## LINEAR TRAIL UPDATE



The Quinnipiac River Linear Trail pedestrian and bicycle bridge to link the trail to Yalesville is in the permitting stage. Funds are in place for construction, which can begin after permits are obtained. The side trails are now blazed.

There is state, federal, and municipal cooperation on this project.

## AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE

We supported high-quality and affordable early childhood care and education to support our workforce and families.

- Creates the “Early Childhood Care and Education Fund,” to maximize public and private investments
- Provides a wage enhancement program for over 4,000 childcare and education providers
- Invests in teachers and assistant teachers in state-funded school readiness programs and state-funded childcare programs



## SUPPORTING AND HONORING OUR VETERANS

- Exempted permanently and totally disabled veterans from paying property taxes
- Made it easier for veterans to earn a Q license endorsement to join fire departments
- Expanded eligibility for grants from the Military Relief Fund for families experiencing hardship
- Expanded veterans’ driver’s license and license plate options to reservists
- Formally recognized Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange

## HOUSING INITIATIVES

- Incentivized towns to develop more multi-family housing
- Required 45-day notice of rent increases
- Streamlined the process for converting vacant nursing homes into housing
- Prioritized surplus state-owned land to be used for affordable housing
- Increased the value of state rental vouchers

Another bill that would have added funding for housing in transit districts like Wallingford’s died in the Senate.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS

- Capped the amount of money all districts pay to send kids out of district - saving millions of dollars for local schools
- Required the State Department of Education to provide school districts an estimate of their next year’s funding by the end of the current year, to ensure better budgeting
- Provided help to classroom paraeducators to pay for their health insurance