

It is an absolute privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. I wanted to take this opportunity to check in with you and share some highlights from the past 2023 legislative session.

In my first term as your state representative, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Environment, Public Health and Education committees. It was an incredibly rewarding experience, whereby I worked together with my colleagues, advocates and constituents to craft and support meaningful, impactful legislation. I'm very proud to have also worked on a budget that delivers historic tax cuts and increases funding for students, families, and our most vulnerable residents. This budget also works to pay down our long-term debt, while supporting important and needed services for our communities.

By far, what is most important to me is that we did it by working together. As legislators, we came together across party lines to prioritize education, support our nonprofits, and invest in public safety. We worked diligently to prioritize the needs of our communities, the growth of our cities and the financial viability of our state. I am happy to see that, in Connecticut, we in the General Assembly are able to bring our different perspectives together and create results that are balanced, impactful and inclusive.

As a freshman legislator, I have been so inspired by your stories, your advocacy and engagement in the legislative process. I could not do my job without your support, your ideas and your willingness to work together. Thank you for that trust. I have never and will never take it for granted.

As always, please never hesitate to reach out. It would be wonderful to hear from you.

With gratitude,



Moira M. Rader

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BILLS WE PASSED

Scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit [tinyurl.com/bddrbfpb](https://tinyurl.com/bddrbfpb)



# CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MOIRA RADER

PROUDLY SERVING GUILFORD & BRANFORD






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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2023



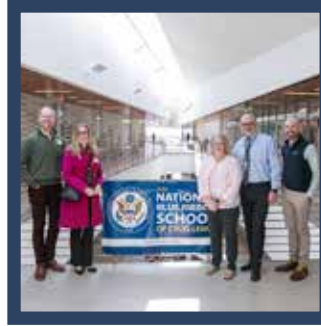
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# 2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

While so much was accomplished during our 2023 session, I wanted to share some **key legislation** that will work to better the lives and livelihood of so many here in Connecticut.



## HEALTHCARE

- Establishing the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to support providers & patients
- Prohibiting facility fees on certain routine services provided at a hospital
- Creating a statewide Drug Discount Card Program
- Banning anticompetitive loopholes in healthcare contracts

## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

- Allows pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraceptives
- Protects pharmacists & health care providers licensed in other states
- Prevents healthcare providers from being punished, losing their license, or experiencing insurance hikes because they provided reproductive health care services

## ENVIRONMENT

- Additional funding to towns to address harmful chemicals like PFAS
- Addressing food waste management
- Expanded eligibility for Microgrid and Resilience Loans

## VOTING

- Early voting: 14 days for general elections, 7 days for most primaries & 4 days before special elections and the Presidential primary
- Adopted anti-discrimination laws with voting rights protections

## EDUCATION

- Focus on teacher supports, retention and workforce growth
- Preparing our students with a required financial literacy course before graduation
- Expanding our school meal program to include free breakfast for all & free lunch for reduced-cost qualifying students
- Requiring more play-based learning from pre-K to grade 5

## MUNICIPAL SUPPORTS

- Tax credits & incentives for towns and businesses that build workforce housing, including for teachers, police officers and firefighters
- Disqualifies libraries that ban books from getting state grants

## SENIORS

- Establishes a new coordinator of state services for people with dementia
- Expands Medicaid coverage for services like primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals
- Eliminates even more taxes on retirement income

## GUN SAFETY

- Bans ghost guns, closes existing loopholes & requires safe storage & trigger locks
- Limits monthly handgun purchases & updates training requirements
- Expands our assault weapon ban & strengthens penalties for failure to report lost or stolen guns

## CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- Prohibits utility companies from passing off lobbying & marketing expenses through rate hikes
- Restricts more types of telemarketing calls, texts & social media solicitations
- Freezing increases on diesel tax to help lower the cost of groceries & other consumer goods

# 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 Connecticut history by cutting marginal income tax rates, increasing the earned income tax credit, capping municipal mill rates, and eliminating even more retirement income taxes.



### INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

Invests over \$240 million in public education. We are fully funding our public schools & local boards of education with a balanced ECS (excess cost sharing) formula.



### SAFETY NET SERVICES

Expands temporary family assistance, increases Husky C eligibility, supports the 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline, & increases Medicaid rate reimbursements for providers & specialists.



### GROWING THE PROFESSIONAL HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Invests in our healthcare workforce by encouraging healthcare careers in our K-12 schools while streamlining licensing for nurses & physical therapists who move to CT.



### IDD SUPPORTS

Invests over \$30 million to better prioritize & serve intellectually & developmentally disabled individuals.



### SUPPORTING BUSINESS GROWTH

Supports Connecticut's growing Industries such as child care while cutting business taxes to promote expansion of childcare facilities.