

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

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. As part of our historic tax cuts, families of four who make under \$50,000 annually **will pay no state income taxes**. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

We did it by working together – without the fighting you see in Washington.

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.

Sincerely,

Hilda E. Santiago

BIG WINS FOR MERIDEN

- ✓ Secured a \$250,000 increase in funding for local capital improvements in Meriden
- ✓ Maintained \$200,000 in funding for motor vehicle tax reimbursement for Meriden residents
- ✓ \$2 million increase in funding for Meriden schools
- ✓ Enacted early voting – providing voting opportunities 14 days before Election Day for general elections, 7 days before most primaries, and 4 days before special elections and the Presidential primary beginning in 2024



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE HILDA E. SANTIAGO

PROUDLY SERVING MERIDEN

Representative Hilda E. Santiago
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

EN ESPAÑOL

Escanee el código QR
o comuníquese con mi
oficina para ver este
boletín en español



NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT

2023
2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE HILDA E. SANTIAGO

PROUDLY SERVING MERIDEN



- 860-240-8585
- Hilda.Santiago@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/SantiagoH
- facebook.com/StateRepHildaSantiago



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- I supported investing \$14.6 million for prevention programs for at risk youth
- Advocated for \$200 million to be used to expand workforce development housing
- I championed \$150 million to be allocated for the Time To Own program, a program that assists the purchase of affordable homes

BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

- Expanded school-based apprenticeship opportunities and dual credit opportunities
- Streamlined licensing for nurses and physical therapists who move to CT
- Partnered with other states for clinical training opportunities, and offered nursing licenses at our colleges

FIGHTING FOR EDUCATION

- I supported an increased investment of \$240 million for our public schools, securing an increase of \$2 million for Meriden schools
- Required boards of education to provide translator services and established rights for multilingual learners
- Financial management and financial literacy education now a requirement for high school graduation
- We expanded debt-free community college by including returning students and giving more flexibility to students to apply to the program beyond the first 48 months of their college attendance

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.

ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESSES

- Reduced the number of reporting requirements for businesses
- Cut certain business taxes, expanded JOBSCT to promote job creation in CT
- Established tax credit for businesses that expand childcare for employees
- We made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects



SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Advocated for \$25 million in funding to enhance elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels
- I supported an initiative to further expand Connecticut's tax exemptions on pensions, annuities, and IRAs. Now, single seniors making \$100,000 and joint filing seniors making \$150,000 can qualify for tax-exempt pensions, annuities, and IRAs.
- We allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed

