



Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session has concluded, 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, saves billions towards our unfunded future pension liability, while still delivering historic tax cuts, providing hundreds of millions in more funding to our local schools, colleges, and universities, and investing in public safety and services for our most vulnerable residents. As part of our historic tax cuts, families of four who make no more than \$50,000 annually will pay no state income taxes, nearly 60% of all filers get a cut in their tax rate, and more middle-class retirees will be able to deduct retirement income from their taxes. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

Most importantly, we did it by working together – without the partisan politics and 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,



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE JASON DOUCETTE

PROUDLY SERVING MANCHESTER, GLASTONBURY

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE JASON DOUCETTE

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IMPROVING HEALTHCARE AND PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- Established the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate to help providers and patients navigate our insurance system (PA 23-101)
- Expanded workers' comp coverage for anyone who experiences PTSD at work (PA 23-35)
- Created early detection screening for lung cancer, required newborn screening for cytomegalovirus, and extended health insurance coverage for newborns from 61 days to 91 days (HB 6941)
- New responses to opioid addiction by creating a harm reduction pilot to prevent overdoses including access to fentanyl and xylazine tests, counseling and other services under the care of licensed providers (PA 23-97)
- Allowed pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraceptives and guaranteed their availability in cases of an emergency (PA 23-52)
- Prohibited insurers from discriminating between patients based on gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or age regarding coverage for infertility treatment (PA 23-127)
- Invested in state research and development for endometriosis treatment and prevention (PA 23-67)
- Protected pharmacists and health care providers who are licensed in other states from discipline when they provide reproductive health services in our state (PA 23-31)
- Kept healthcare providers from being punished, losing their license, or experiencing insurance hikes because they provided reproductive health care services (PA 23-128)
- Established funding and benefits for firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer (HB 6941)

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES THE

LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✓ \$600 million middle class tax cut
- ✓ Increase Earned Income Tax Credit for lower income workers
- ✓ Expand cuts to retirement savings to benefit seniors

INVESTS:

- ✓ More funding for K-12 education by expanding ECS formula
- ✓ More funding for higher education and debt-free community college
- ✓ More funding for nonprofits and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- ✓ More funding for childcare and childcare providers
- ✓ More funding for gun violence prevention
- ✓ Funding for the historic "Baby Bonds" program



MY WORK AS BANKING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

- Protecting seniors from financial fraud by allowing banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed (SB 1088)
- Regulated cryptocurrency and added increased protections from scammers (PA 23-82)
- Established lower state-backed loan refinancing rates for licensed nurses with student loans (PA 23-60)
- Created a Student Loan Ombudsman to help students, graduates, and their families deal with student loans (HB 6941)
- Created a process at Department of Banking for complaints related to bank mergers (SB 1033)
- Required more disclosures of fees on small business loans (SB 1032)
- Extended and added funding to the successful CHFA "Time to Own" homeowner loan program. (PA 23-45)



MAKING CONNECTICUT SAFER

- Closed existing loopholes related to ghost guns and expanded our assault weapons ban (PA 23-53)
- Installing wrong way driving prevention systems on our highways (PA 23-51)
- Expanded GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders (PA 23-106)

SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND BUILDING OUR WORKFORCE

- Required financial literacy in high schools (SB 1)
- Expanded school-based apprenticeship opportunities in aviation and aerospace, training for paraeducators, and dual credit/enrollment opportunities (PA 23-21)
- Growing the professional healthcare workforce (PA 23-97)

EXPANDING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- 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 (PA 23-5)
- Approved a resolution that will ask voters in the Nov. 2024 election whether we should have no excuse absentee ballots (HJ 1)