Dear Neighbor,

The 2025 legislative session was one of big ideas, bipartisan work, compromise, and solutions.

Connecticut is so different from Washington. Instead of drawing lines in the sand, we collaborate and have conversations with our legislative colleagues – and that can be seen in the work we do.

We focused on important issues in 2025: electric bills, a state budget, special education, early childhood, and climate change all received our laser focus.

I remain filled with deep gratitude and pride to be your state representative.

All my best,

Renee

BIG WINS FOR OUR DISTRICT

- Increases in education and special education funds
- Increases in municipal aid for each town
- The Nest: $20,000
- Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau: $110,000

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
LAMARK MUIR

CHESTER, DEEP RIVER, ESSEX, AND HADDAM

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2025

Representative LaMark Muir
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL UPDATE 2025

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

RENEE LAMARK MUIR

PROUDLY SERVING CHESTER, DEEP RIVER, ESSEX, AND HADDAM

860-240-8585
Renee.LaMarkMuir@cga.ct.gov
housedems.ct.gov/LaMarkMuir
facebook.com/StateRepLaMarkMuir

A BALANCED BUDGET AND OUR SECOND-LARGEST SURPLUS IN STATE HISTORY

THANKS TO SOUND BUDGETING AND THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WE:

- **Delivered the Single-Greatest Investment in Children and Special Education in Connecticut's History**
- **Increased Funding for Critical Services and Non-Profits**

WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES THAT:

- **Establishes $250 Enhanced Tax Credit for Eligible Families**
- **Increases Medicaid rates**
- **Includes a refundable tax credit for home daycare, farmers, and CHET accounts**
- **Creates meaningful steps to lower cost of prescription drugs**
- **Expands capital for special education infrastructure**

BUDGET

- No new taxes or tax increases
- Balances budget under spending cap
- Pays off debt
- Increases Rainy Day Fund and State Surplus
- Maintains high-quality state services
- Invests in workforce and residents

ELECTRICITY

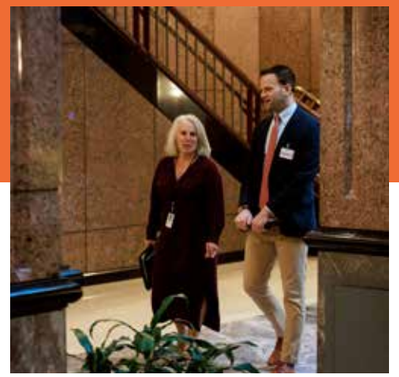
Energy reform delivers $780 million in savings for ratepayers and reduces unnecessary costs

- Restructures how key energy programs are funded
- Updates energy procurement to lock in savings
- Shifts the cost of public benefit programs onto state bonds
- Modernizes the electric grid
- Pays storm costs over a longer period
- Better transmission planning and transparency
- Invests in long-term clean energy solutions

FIREARM RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Holds the firearm industry accountable for negligent practices, misuse of products, and sales to prohibited individuals that contribute to gun violence.

- Legal recourse for victims of gun violence
- "Reasonable controls" to prevent the sale or distribution of firearms to individuals prohibited from possessing them
- Prevents individuals with out-of-state misdemeanor convictions from obtaining Connecticut permits
- Allows the Attorney General to file civil suits against the firearm industry



SPECIAL EDUCATION

A more equitable and efficient system for special education while controlling rising and unpredictable costs, increasing funding, enhancing oversight, and improving the quality and delivery of services

- $30 million special education expansion grant for schools
- Revised cost definitions and stronger reporting requirements
- Address teacher shortages through the new grant program for prospective educators and paraeducators
- Prohibits cost increases from private providers and defines "reasonable costs"
- Oversight and accountability
- Focus on early childhood education and access to childcare

ENVIRONMENT

Priority legislation taking a comprehensive, practical, and equitable approach to protecting the environment – from homes and schools to jobs and land, we set clear goals, removed barriers, and put residents first.

- New state climate goals for greenhouse gas reduction
- Clean energy jobs through tax incentives
- Encourages the use of heat pumps through strategic planning and local school building projects
- Expands the ban on the sales of invasive species
- Regulates the use of rodenticides and neonicotinoids
- Bans fertilizers containing PFAS
- Grants for agricultural land preservation and support for local farmers
- Land and grant programs to offer more benefits to low-income residents
- Continues to preserve and protect our natural resources and reduce the effects of climate change