



Dear Neighbor,

I am happy to share with you some highlights from our 2024 legislative session.

I'm proud to have protected our budget that **delivered historic tax cuts** and increased funding for students, families, and our most vulnerable residents, while also being able to provide more funding for our local non-profits, higher education, and more. In fact, we have projected an **additional \$256M in revenue** next year from interest alone on our high balance in the Rainy Day Fund, which will go back into the General Fund - meaning that money will go towards the operating budget without getting it from you, the taxpayer! All of this means very good financial news for you and our state!

I'm also extremely pleased to have personally worked on legislation which protects your healthcare, increases health insurance coverage, protects children from predators, supports our law enforcement officers, and makes our streets safer - most passing unanimously or near-unanimously in both the House and Senate. **That's something you don't see in DC, but something to be proud of here in Connecticut!**

I hope you find this newsletter packed with useful information. As always please contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas. We do our best work together.

Warmly,

State Representative Liz Linehan

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- More than **\$70,920,537** for our **local schools**
- More than **\$107,314,944** in **municipal aid** to help residents **pay less in property taxes**
- Funding to Cheshire for a new regional **Miracle Field at Bartlem Park** for kids with **disabilities**
- Funding to Hamden to build a new **Fire Station**, and to demolish the former Hamden Middle School to develop a new **Arts and Cultural Center** in its place
- The **Quinnipiac River Linear Trail** pedestrian and bicycle bridge to link the trail to Yalesville is in the permitting stage
- We've added **free school lunch** for an additional **162 kids in Cheshire, 466 kids in Hamden, and 318 kids in Wallingford** to help families who need it most



STATE REPRESENTATIVE LIZ LINEHAN

PROUDLY SERVING CHESHIRE, HAMDEN, AND WALLINGFORD

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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PROTECTING TAX CUTS

HISTORIC TAX CUTS AND INVESTMENTS

- LARGEST INCOME TAX CUT in state history
- Biggest investment in public education ever
- New supports for the IDD 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

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

- Improved eligibility for **benefits** to the **families of first responders** who died in the line of duty
- Established a **Fallen Officer Fund** for cash assistance and health care coverage for families of those who died in the line of duty
- Required more **thorough testing of firearms in criminal investigations**
- **Protected** the personal information of special victims like **minors and victims of abuse** from public disclosures
- **Toughened penalties** for killing a police dog

PA 24-16, PA 24-27 PA 24-32, PA 24-56, PA 24-65

Rep Linehan partnered with AAA and Str8line Automotive for the "How To Stay Safe On The Road" event. Email Liz for our How-To Guide to changing flats and more!

Rep Linehan partnered with the Stew Leonard Foundation to bring water safety to elementary classrooms, preschools and daycares. Email Liz if you'd like her to bring the program to your group!

MAKING SENIORS A PRIORITY

- **Strengthened oversight** of negligent nursing homes
- **Expedited Medicaid coverage** for **home-based care**
- **Home care workers** to wear photo-ID badges for **increased safety**
- Created a new registry system to **connect patients to home care providers**
- **Prevented nursing homes** from putting more than two patients in a single room
- Require at least **60-90 days' notice of any fee increases** and improved transparency around fees
- **Fast-tracked nursing home transfers** and receiverships

PA 24-141, PA 24-39

TAKING CARE OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE

- **Protected domestic violence victims** from being forced into debt by their abuser
- **Excluded medical debt** from counting against your **credit score**
- Made it **easier to qualify** for the state's **emergency mortgage assistance** program
- Fast-tracked **wheelchair repair** through Medicaid
- Strengthened inspections and **regulation of youth camps**
- Required the Department of Children and Families to **hold safety plan visits in-person**

PA 24-77, PA 24-66, PA 24-6, PA 24-58, PA 24-49, PA 24-92



Rep Linehan's "How to Lower Your Electric Bill" seminar. For a written guide, email Liz today!

SUPPORTING AND HONORING 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**
- **Expanded veterans' driver's license and license plate options to reservists**
- Formally recognized **Vietnam veterans** who were exposed to **Agent Orange**

PA 24-46, PA 24-14, PA 24-57, PA 24-146, SJ 6



MY PRIORITIES

FIGHTING CHILD SEX ABUSE

My work continues on **ending child sexual abuse**. This year, I wrote and passed an omnibus bill which requires:

- A sexual abuse and assault survey for high school administrators, to ensure there are the **proper services available** in-district for **child victims**
- The term "child pornography" has been replaced with "**child sexual abuse material**" to more accurately reflect the nature of these heinous crimes
- A 22-member task force will be established to study the **responsiveness** of certain state agencies and the Judicial Branch to **child sexual abuse crimes**
- Extended the Title IX Toolkit production to include recent clarifications in federal law, to **ensure school districts comply** with federal protections for youth, including **victims of adult sexual misconduct in schools**
- The Office of the Child Advocate must **investigate probate court guardianship** proceedings, after the horrific abuse allegations against Roger Barriault of Bristol – **the worst case of child sex abuse I've encountered** as a member of the legislature and Co-Chair of the Committee on Children

PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

This summer I am writing new bills to propose in January, including:

- Change the state project bidding process to adequately reflect the **benefit of Connecticut companies**, which helps keep our **local business open** and our **residents working**
- Require any **environmental** or traffic study to have a **conflict of interest** disclosure clause, so residents can **trust** the data given for projects in their town
- **Undo the dangerous** change to the building code and require **fences** around all inground **pools!**
- **Training** for investigators surrounding "**the freeze response**" to sexual assault, to help **survivors** and victims **get justice**

Please contact me if you have an idea which should be a law!