

From the House

2019 Legislative Session Recap

By Rep. Matt Ritter - House Majority Leader

The General Assembly's regular session ended on June 5th with a balanced budget and other significant legislation passed. I'd like to highlight some of the issues we addressed in the new state budget and other impactful legislation.

Budget:

The \$43 billion two-year budget includes increasing the Rainy Day Fund balance to more than \$2.2 billion, the largest in CT history.

Budget highlights:

- Increases education aid for Hartford by over \$3 million
- Funds an agreement with hospitals for improved healthcare access, protecting thousands of jobs and avoid costly litigation
- Stabilizes the teachers' pension fund as well as payment levels in the coming years
- Preserved tax exemptions on pensions and social security income

Growing Our Economy

The budget opens up the Angel Investor tax credit to more industries and small businesses, including those that are minority & women-owned and improves the workforce development pipeline to help employers fill thousands of position in the fields of engineering and advanced manufacturing. We ended the "Still Revolutionary" campaign and will create a marketing plan and incentive programs to promote CT as a hub for the emerging bio-science industry.

Supporting our Workforce:

To ensure greater economic security for working families we increased the minimum wage to \$15 per hour over the next 5 years. We also established the Family and Medical Leave Insurance program through employee contributions so that no one has to choose a paycheck over caring for a family member

Education

Debt-free community college...wow! We created a plan for students to attend community college for three years or take 72 community college credit hours without accruing debt.

Other Highlights

Tobacco 21 - Prohibited the sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, electronic delivery systems, and vapor products to anyone under the age of 21

Gun Violence Prevention bills - Safe storage in the home, safe storage in cars, and a ban on "ghost guns"

LGBTQ - Established a health and human services network to assess the needs of the LGBTQ community and make recommendations to the state about how to build a safer, healthier environment

State Water Plan - Approved the state water plan and ensure that water remains a public trust

Please contact me at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, or by phone at (800) 842-1902, if you have any questions or concerns.