

State Budget Review

Despite months of public work on the budget, in the waning hours of session majority party leaders secretly cobbled together a new bill that did not consider input from Republicans. I was not able to support the \$46.3 billion budget this year because it was primarily balanced on one-time federal relief dollars, which will not be replenished once allocated. While I agree that residents and businesses here in Southington and Berlin should receive assistance, the document has created an unavoidable fiscal cliff that translates to outyear projected deficits into the billions.

In order to avoid falling deeper into fiscal despair, there must be major budget adjustments made when the legislature reconvenes next February. I will continue to fight against tax and spend policies, while prioritizing the resources we currently have so that businesses and residents are both provided with stability they deserve.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE | 30th District



Donna Veach

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I want to hear what you think and help whenever possible. If you have any issues, questions or concerns, and feel I might be able to assist you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Donna M. Veach



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Donna Veach



"It's truly been an honor to serve as your representative and I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of all of the residents of Berlin and Southington." - Donna

2021 My Legislative Priorities

EXPANDED eligibility of property tax relief for senior citizens

INCREASED access to intervention and support services through the CRISIS program

SUPPORTED greater access to physical and mental health care services

IMPROVED portions of the police accountability bill

WORKED alongside residents to fight the 'gas tax'

DEMANDED more oversight with the allocation and disbursement of federal relief funds

ESTABLISHED a state-wide mental health services program tailored to the specialized needs of deaf, blind and hard of hearing

In May, I had the privilege of attending the ground-breaking ceremony of the "Woody Williams" Foundation Memorial Monument for Gold Star Families. This monument is a great honor to the Town of Berlin and will be the first and only of its kind in the state.



In June, I held my first post-session legislative update in Southington. It was well attended and I appreciate being able to discuss important issues that matter to our community with you in person and hearing your feedback. Similar events will occur this summer.



On the first day of Pride Month, I was proud to attend the governor's signing of HB-6321, the Parentage Act, a bill I co-sponsored to ensure that children of same-sex couples are entitled equal access to parentage rights.



Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence | **Public Act No. 21-78**

I co-sponsored this initiative because it accelerates the ability of victims of domestic violence to receive state assistance by excluding the abuser's income from the eligibility requirements necessary to receive them. This is just one more step to helping victims of domestic violence free themselves and their families from their abuser by removing the financial ties that bind them to an unsafe situation.

Human Trafficking | **Public Act No. 21-103**

This new law, which I co-sponsored, is aimed at eradicating human trafficking. It broadens the crimes of "sex trafficking," "patronizing a prostitute," and "commercial sexual abuse of a minor." Additionally, the bill includes a Republican amendment to require the Trafficking Person Council report back to the legislature with information on how traffickers use the Internet to groom and exploit minors and recommend legislation to combat it.



Combatting Online Stalking/Harassing | **Public Act No. 21-56**

I supported and co-sponsored this concept to protect victims from online harassment by expanding the definition of "stalking" to include situations where race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability is involved and expanding the crime of second-degree stalking to include disclosure of identifiable personal information that is done electronically and without consent.

Requiring Employees of Youth Camps, Youth Sports Coaches, Teachers and Instructors Submit to a Background Check | **Public Act No. 21-82**

I voted in favor of this initiative because it provides a common-sense requirement for anyone working with children. This bill will help protect our children from sexual predators and those with offenses against children by ensuring anyone 18 years and older pass an extensive background check. I was proud to co-sponsor this new law.

