

Memorandum

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Kristin Mabrouk

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From: Jay Aronson

Date: February 10, 2023

Re: Legislative Update

This Week at The Capitol:

The creation of a new state budget begins.

On Wednesday during his state of the state address before the joint session of the House of Representatives and state Senate, the Governor released his budget and laid out his vision for Connecticut for the next two fiscal years. There was a lot to like in his proposal, including YSBs remaining whole in both the Main Grant and Enhancement line items and a small increase to the JRB line.

One might think because Democrats control both Chambers of the General Assembly and the Governor's office that it will be smooth sailing from here as the Legislature takes its shot at crafting a budget. One would be mistaken. While there *was* plenty to like, there was also a lot of grumbling about line items that were cut or priorities that were not met. That is why the budget process is set up the way it is: the Governor proposes, and the Legislature takes a fine-tooth comb and pours over each and every proposed line item in his budget over the next two plus months.

Budget hearings will begin next week and run through March 1st. The Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families will present her Department's budget on March 1st from 10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. before the Human Services subcommittee. CYSA will have an opportunity to testify before the subcommittee beginning at 12:30p.m. (Registration will close on Tuesday, February 28th at 3:00p.m. I will send details in a separate notice.)

CYSA had a scheduled meeting with the Appropriations Committee Leadership set for Tuesday to discuss the Association's budget request. Unfortunately, the Chairs had to reschedule the meeting as they were called into a meeting with the Governor for a preview of his budget. It will now be held on February 22nd.

On Wednesday, the Judiciary Committee met to raise concepts including two potential Juvenile Justice bills. There are no bill numbers nor language, however will carry the titles of An Act Concerning Juvenile Matters and An Act Concerning Juvenile Justice.

Next Thursday will see a priority bill for CYSA, SB 1005, AAC A Study of the Post-Pandemic Needs of Children come before the Children's Committee for a public hearing. This measure was born out of a conversation with the Chairs of the Committee who agreed to raise the bill.

I have been able to procure "Old Approps", Room 210 in the Capitol from 8:30 to 11:00a.m. for YSB Day at the Capitol. The room is now used by House Democrats for lunch and dinner during session days (and I do expect that day to be a session day) so we will not be able to stay in the room for lunch as we have in the past. We can talk about options as we move forward.

As always, please contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or concerns about these or any other Legislative matters. Also, please share this information with your members as you see fit.