

State Representative

Jeffrey Sánchez

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Friends and Neighbors:

Summer is here! As we continue the 2017-2018 legislative session, I wanted to take this moment to update you on what I'm doing to represent you in the State House.

In July, I was incredibly honored and humbled to be nominated by the Speaker to be the new Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Having formerly chaired the

Committees on Public Health and Health Care Financing, I hope to use this new post as the chief budget architect to protect those most in need - like many of my constituents - while also securing our state finances and the Massachusetts economy. I know that we're going to be able to work hard and make a real difference in people's



lives and essentially figure out a way to do more for more people despite the fiscal challenges that we have before us.

Yours in service,



Jeffrey Sánchez
State Representative

Budget Highlights

Public Safety

The FY18 Budget provides \$6M in grants to address gang violence in communities throughout the Commonwealth.

Office of Health Equity

The FY18 Budget allotted funds for the creation of an Office of Health Equity which will be charged with addressing racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare.

Behavioral Health

The FY18 Budget includes \$150k for the **Dimock Center** in Roxbury, which provides counseling

and treatment for individuals suffering from behavioral health challenges and/or substance abuse issues.

Early Education

The FY18 Budget provides \$15M to increase the early education and care salaries, benefits, as well as stipends for the personal development of our early educators.

Mass. Cultural Council

The FY18 Budget provides over \$13M for the Massachusetts Cultural Council which funds public programs for the arts and sciences.

Youth Services

The FY18 Budget allocated funds for critical youth services including: \$3.5M to local work-force investment

boards to connect at-risk students with school-to-career connecting opportunities, \$125k for **Hyde Square Taskforce** which provides programs to empower young leaders in our community, \$10M for youth-at-risk programs which target juvenile delinquency in high risk areas, and \$4M for youth violence prevention programs in the Commonwealth.

Minority Services

The FY18 budget provides \$125k for the Union of Minority Neighborhoods which is tasked with ensuring that leaders of color are effectively organizing around community issues.

Family & Community Services

The FY18 Budget also provides essential funding for Family and Community Services including,

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Thank You for Your Calls

Like many of my colleagues, I continue to receive an unprecedented number of phone calls, emails, and visits to my office in support of various bills and budget amendments. These contacts have helped shape my priorities as I serve the people of Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Roslindale, and Brookline. If you were someone who contacted my office in the past few months, thank you for your engagement. I hope you continue to stay in touch.

Budget Highlights (Cont'd)

Family & Community Services

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\$15M for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), which helps families avoid homelessness, \$100k for Community Servings, which prepares and delivers meals to homebound people with chronic illnesses, \$150k for **Self Esteem Boston**, a program that helps the homeless, victims of domestic violence, and the unemployed, and \$18M for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation which provides legal services to low-income residents and their families.

Reducing Recidivism

The FY18 Budget provides funds for reducing the recidivism rates in the Commonwealth including \$375k for re-entry services designed to keep individuals coming out of prison from returning, as well as \$150k for a workforce development and supportive services program targeted to individuals transitioning from a house of correction or the department of correction.



On the House Floor with students from Harvard School of Public Health.

Spotlight: L.O.O.K: Language Opportunities for Our Kids

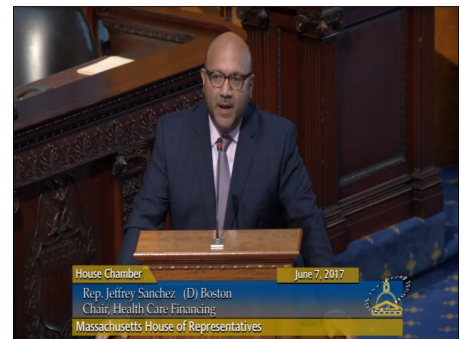
On June 7, 2017, the House passed H.3736, an act relative to language opportunity for our kids, a bill that I sponsored to address the disparities in school performance between English Language Learners (ELL) and their native English-speaking peers. ELL students account for 20 percent of the Massachusetts student population and that number continues to grow. In the past six years, the number of ELL students in the Commonwealth increased by 26,000. Making sure all of our students have access to the best education and an equal opportunity to succeed is a top priority and the passage of H.3736 in the House yesterday is a demonstration of that. When all of our children are set up to succeed, it is the entire Commonwealth that benefits.

The Massachusetts economy truly is a global economy that flourishes because of its diversity. A recent report by the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council found that 58 percent of Massachusetts-based Fortune 500 companies were founded by

immigrants or their children, and international students contributed \$2.3 billion to the economy during the 2015-2016 school year. Moreover, a report done by the Boston Foundation found that “one in five city residents are from Hispanic, Latino or Brazilian background [and that] the community contributes \$9 billion, or 7 percent, of the city’s gross domestic product, up from less than 3 percent three decades ago.” The way we maintain this strong economic contribution going forward is by ensuring that ELL students have access to the best education possible. Passing H.3736 demonstrates our commitment to both our children and our economy.

H.3736 moves away from the “one size fits all” approach and increases flexibility for schools, parents, and teachers. The bill establishes clear guidelines for parental involvement and requires school districts to communicate ELL options with parents so they can select the program that best meets the needs of their child. It re-

quires more rigorous data collection, both while students are enrolled in ELL programs and after they are enrolled in regular classrooms, to ensure that schools are accountable for the success of their ELL students. Our bill also encourages effectiveness and transparency by creating a special commission to evaluate and report on school compliance with ELL requirements. This bill creates opportunities that ensure that every child in the Commonwealth has access to high quality education. I’m excited to work with the Senate and Governor Baker to move this critical legislation forward.



House Chamber
Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez (D) Boston
Chair, Health Care Financing
Massachusetts House of Representatives

Around the Neighborhood

We have a lot of events going on in the district this summer! In Bromley, we host Hot Dog Night every Tuesday and Real Kidz Boston Basketball games every Wednesday. In Mission Hill, kids Soccer Nights will take place at McLaughlin Park from July 24th through the 28th. In August, we will host our annual Back to School Jam at Brookline High Street Veterans Housing, Bromley-Heath, and Mission Main to celebrate the beginning of the new school year.



Health Care Financing

On July 12th, we invited the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts (BCBS) to the State House to brief representatives and their staff on the House's American Health Care Act, the Senate's Better Care Reconciliation Act, and how those bills compared to the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). The presentation included an overview of both the Senate and House proposals and how they would affect Massachusetts. Under both bills, Massachusetts would lose hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars in federal funding each year and up to 464,000 Massachusetts residents could lose their health care coverage. We will continue to monitor the health care debate in Washington.

House Committee on Ways and Means

In early July, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a \$40.2 billion FY18 Conference Committee budget. After the House and Senate pass their versions of the budget, three House and three Senate members meet to reconcile the differences between the budgets. The product of their work is the Conference Committee budget which goes to both branches for a final vote of acceptance.

In the midst of a tough fiscal climate, we achieved a budget that makes targeted investments to protect our most vulnerable citizens. I am particularly proud of the work we've done on early education and childcare, as well as services for the disabled. The budget

demonstrates the House's continued commitment to the education, housing and the health of all Massachusetts residents. It includes funding to support evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism and provide job training for ex-prisoners, funding for anti-gang and youth violence prevention programs and funding to increase the salaries of early educators. Additionally, the House passed a bill allocating \$26.1 million to pay attorneys who represented indigent clients this past fiscal year.

Massachusetts faces a tough fiscal climate as tax revenue growth continues to be lower than expected. This is part of the challenge that we face during this budget process and beyond it. I look

forward to engaging with my colleagues to address these challenges.



Get in Touch!



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I am always available, whether you prefer to email, tweet, or send a letter. I love hearing from constituents!



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Spotlight: Unsung Heroines

Willie Pearl Clarke, of Mission Hill, and Wendy Polanco, of Jamaica Plain, were honored as members of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's 2017 class of Unsung Heroines. I was honored to recommend Willie Pearl and Wendy for this recognition because of their commitment to their respective communities. Willie Pearl was honored for her outstanding contributions to the Mission Main Tenant Task Force and Wendy was honored for her outstanding contributions to the Mildred C. Hailey Tenant Task Force in a ceremony on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 from 1-4 p.m., in the Great Hall at the State House in Boston.

Willie Pearl Clarke is the Co-Chair of the Mission Main Tenant Task Force and has been organizing tenants around affordability, living conditions, neighborhood safety, recreation, and community empowerment for over 30 years. She and her partner in crime-reduction are largely heralded as the women responsible for the turnaround and improvement of the Mission Main Housing development. She is a fearless advocate for her com-

munity, a well-known go-to for everyone in the development and in the surrounding neighborhood, a political force to be reckoned with and one of the kindest souls ever to grace the earth. Willie doesn't work for the accolades, and insists that others always take their share before she even gets a plate. She's a champion for equity, a voice for the underserved, and a staple of Roxbury and Mission Hill.

Wendy does outstanding work in the Jamaica Plain community, whether it is working and attending her meetings as the Mildred C. Hailey Tenant Task Force Secretary or volunteering for events all across JP, such as those hosted by the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation. Wendy makes an enormous impact on her community and always does so with a smile on her face. She also has a family of her own that she cares for, but never gives the community any less than 110 percent. She plays a major role in her community, a community that is grateful for her and her service.

Our Unsung Heroines are women who don't



make the news, but make the difference. They are the women who use their time, talent and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others and make a difference in their neighborhoods, cities and towns. They are mentors, volunteers and innovators who do what needs to be done without expectations of recognition or gratitude. These women are the glue that keeps a community together and their communities are better because of their contributions.

JPNDC: 40th Anniversary

On Saturday, June 17th, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation celebrated 40 years of dedication to our community since opening their doors in 1977. They have always remained true to helping community members improve their lives through engagement, awareness, and education.

There are several topics the JPNDC addresses in support of Jamaica Plain residents, including affordable housing, community organizing, early education to train home-based childcare providers, family prosperity, and small businesses. They redeveloped and currently manage Boston's largest small business complex

— the Brewery — which has become a five-acre historic site and community destination. JPNDC's impact also includes creating 630 affordable homes and connecting more than 1,500 residents to jobs, education, and training.

Throughout the years, JPNDC has grown and so has the number of JP residents, which has allowed the organization to further showcase their love of service for the individuals most in need of their support.

It was a wonderful experience for me to present them with a Resolution for their endless efforts in servicing the Jamaica Plain community. Well deserved!



Celebrating JPNDC's
40th Anniversary