



Dear Friend,

As summer weather arrives it is a good time to report to you about the plethora of activities in the district and at the State House. On Beacon Hill we have a packed calendar of upcoming events and legislative priorities as we approach the conclusion of formal sessions for the summer on July 31st. As usual May and early June are the busiest time of the year for me in the district with the onset of favorable weather that draws us all outdoors for various events and celebrations. Additionally, there are many activities celebrating the end of the school year where we have an opportunity to congratulate all those who have worked hard in their academic pursuits and thank all who contributed to each and every student's success. There have been many success stories that I have been fortunate to take part in, both in the district and at the State House that I am honored to share with you this month.



I would like to congratulate the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation for celebrating their 35th Anniversary! The JPNDC has done so much to shape and better all of Jamaica Plain and I hope they are around for another 35 years. The Arborway Coalition has successfully secured matching grants from the Department of Recreation and Conservation to continue the "Gateway to the Arborway" Project and I am happy to say that they have reached their goal.

Within the State House, the House and the Senate have passed the final version of the

budget, with the Governor signing it on Sunday. The House also passed legislation relative to gas leaks, payment reform, and election laws. And finally the Transportation reform bill was signed into law, providing millions of dollars for the MBTA.

Finally, congratulations are in order for all of our youth who have graduated from school this spring. I am very involved in supporting youth leadership in the district and am proud to support organizations such as the Hyde Square Task Force, ABCD Parker Hill/Fenway, Tobin Community Center, Mission Hill Grammar School, Sociedad Latina, Roxbury Tenants of Harvard, Phillip Brooks House, Mission SAFE, and the Mission Hill Youth Collaborative who work so hard to provide services and support to our youth in our community. I am proud of all of these kids and grateful to all their parents, mentors, and supporters for all their hard work helping our youth to establish and reach their academic goals while learning how to live responsibly and fruitfully in our community and beyond.

Please have a safe and fun summer.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in service,



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 187th Legislative Session is winding down on July 31st and a number of important pieces of legislation have been passed recently within the House of Representatives. I worked diligently on many of these pieces of legislation.

The House recently passed H3986 *An Act Improving Quality in Early Education and Care by Family Child Care Providers*. This bill will give Massachusetts child care providers a voice in improving early education and care. It will enable the state to recruit and retain a stable workforce of family child care providers that children and families can depend on and help Massachusetts' family's access quality child care. This bill will also enhance the quality of family child care by providing support and incentives for training and education and create the legal mechanism for child care providers to unionize if they choose to do so. Currently, as independent contractors, child care providers cannot unionize.



Another important piece of legislation passed by the House this past month was H4139 *An Act Reforming Election Laws*. This legislation will allow 16 and 17 year olds to register to vote, provide an electronic version of a voter registration card; to be filled out online or printed, and allows the use of hand-counted audits if there is a concern around the votes casts. Along with these two important pieces of legislation the House also passed H4129 *An Act Relative to Gas Leaks*. This is legislation that a number of my constituents have contacted my office about over the years. H4129 establishes a uniform natural gas leak classification standard for all natural gas companies. This will create a universal standard around the public safety of gas leaks.

Finally the House of Representatives passed H4196 *An Act Relative to Emergency Service Response of Public Utility Companies* and H4198 *An Act Relative to Competitively Priced Electricity in the Commonwealth*. These two bills would allow for new renewable energy sources to be utilized throughout the Commonwealth. They also put into place a standard and a plan for public utility companies to follow if there is an emergency that occurs.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any legislative issues or priorities, please contact me at my office at 617-722-2130.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

This month, I joined my House colleagues to pass historic legislation that addresses the unsustainable cost of health care by promoting innovative, patient-focused primary care delivered in a more transparent and coordinated health care system. The bill centers on policies I've championed this legislative session, including empowering patients to take a greater role in their own health care, improving access to primary care, reforming the delivery of care the Patient-Centered Medical Homes and Accountable Care Organizations, transitioning to a payment system that rewards providers for the quality of their care, and making health care more affordable by brining the cost of health care in line with the overall growth of the state economy.



Building on Massachusetts's commitment to provide all residents with access to health insurance, this bill makes certain that the insurance products available to them provide affordable, high-quality and high-value care. To gauge the quality of care, the state must adopt a uniform set of quality measures to promote a focused effort system-wide to improve patient care and reduce disparities in care. Additionally, it increases primary care access by allowing the most effective use of all primary care providers, including physician assistants and nurse practitioners. The bill also makes strides in patient safety by including a number of policies included in legislation I filed this session. These include expanding peer review to allow for more discussion of medical errors, as well as tasking the Department of Public Health to create checklists of care to reduce adverse events and health care associated infections. Finally, the bill includes language I filed modernizing discipline reporting in the Board of Registration in Medicine to close gaps in patient protection that were revealed in a *Boston Globe* investigation. Now, patients will be more transparently conveyed disciplinary information about their physicians.

I am proud of the balanced approach the House took to promote transparency in health care price and quality; enhance provider accountability for the quality of care they provide; encourage elimination of waste; and reduce administrative burdens on patients, providers, and payers. In doing so, we will save our health care system over \$160 billion in the next 15 years and make the best health care in the world even better. It's a great time to reside in the Commonwealth.

RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH:

I had the pleasure of eating at Tostado Sandwich Bar this past month. Located at 300 Centre Street Jamaica Plain, Tostado's is a wonderful place to grab a quick Dominican sandwich and a delicious smoothie or shake.

Please stay tuned for another email on the Community Events and Happenings around the 15th Suffolk District!