

**The Office of State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez**  
**Chairman, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing**

The State House | Boston, MA 02133

Phone: (617) 722-2430 | Fax: (617) 722-2346

E-mail: [Jeffrey.Sanchez@mahouse.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Sanchez@mahouse.gov)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

5/28/2015

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to serving you in the 189<sup>th</sup> legislative session. A lot has happened since the start of the new session, and I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about what I have been up to in both the State House and the 15<sup>th</sup> Suffolk district.

In February, I was appointed as House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Following my role as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Health for six years, I am excited about this new opportunity to examine health care spending and delivery in the Commonwealth, while continuing to explore ways to reduce health disparities across the Commonwealth. In the first few months since my appointment, I have traveled across the state, visiting hospitals and community health centers in an effort to better understand the varying perspectives on our state's healthcare system. In particular, I am looking to learn from health professionals how Massachusetts health reform is working on-the-ground.



*Testifying regarding the LOOK Bill before  
the Education Committee*

**Legislative Priorities for the 189<sup>th</sup> Session:**

*Below are a few of the bills I filed this session:*

- An Act Relative to Language Opportunities for Our Kids (LOOK)
- An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing
- An Act Preventing Unnecessary Medical Debt
- An Act to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in the Commonwealth
- An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control and Protecting the Health of Minors
- An Act to Increase Access to Immunizations
- An Act to Prevent Unnecessary Vacancies in Foreclosed Homes
- An Act to Improve Quality in Early Education Centers

Starting the first week of June, we will be holding our first hearings of the new legislative session. These hearings will feature a variety of topics, including mental health, Medicaid, substance abuse, nursing homes, and community health services. The schedule for the first four hearings is posted on the legislature website.

I have also continued my work to expand access to essential health services, such as immunizations, by re-filing my bill H.2051, An Act to Increase Access to Immunizations. This bill would allow trained medical assistants to administer vaccines and will improve availability and access, while reducing costs and maintaining care quality. This measure will be especially important for low-socioeconomic and racially diverse communities, often served by community health centers, by maximizing health workforce resources.

This spring, I was able to file new legislation on several important issues, as well as re-file legislation that I am still working to get passed in the legislature. My colleagues and I filed over 5,000 bills in the House of Representatives this session, and we are now in the midst of holding public hearings on the many bills that have been filed. This past month, I testified before the Joint Committee on Education in support of my bill, H495, An Act Relative to Language Opportunities for Our Kids (LOOK).

This legislation aims to update and improve English language learner programs in schools across the Commonwealth.

In April, my colleagues and I worked hard to produce a budget for FY 2016. To those of you who reached out to my office to advocate for certain budget priorities, thank you for your continued work around such important issues. We are currently in the midst of debating the budget with the Senate in preparation to send it to Governor Baker. The House passed a 38 billion dollar budget, in which I was able to advocate for continued funding around youth jobs, affordable housing, and adult basic education.



*Meeting with constituents from Jamaica Plain on the importance of English classes for adults*



*Speaking with youth at this year's Mission Hill March Madness Basketball Tournament*

At home in the district, I remain committed to the issues that have always been on my priority list: education, youth jobs, affordable housing, promoting safety, reducing health disparities. This spring, I hosted the annual Mission Hill March Madness basketball tournament with the help of our friends at the Tobin Community Center. More recently, I hosted a summer jobs and camps resource fair for youth at the Bromley Heath housing development. We worked with ABCD, Hyde Square Task Force, and SuccessLink to bring these services closer to residents. This past week, Greater Boston Legal Services and Union of Minority Neighborhoods collaborated with my office to host a CORI Sealing Day at Bromley Heath.

For some residents with a CORI, job opportunities may be difficult to access. This event connected residents with attorneys working pro bono to help them seal their records and move forward with their lives.

My staff and I are gearing up for a busy summer, when we will be hosting everything from neighborhood barbeques to resource fairs for children returning to school in the fall. With the warmer weather, I look forward to spending time in the community and engaging families across the 15<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District.

As always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have. I always enjoy hearing from constituents; your input allows me to better understand the importance of community perspective in the work that I do every day.

Yours in service,

**Join the Conversation!**

• [www.jeffreysanchez.org](http://www.jeffreysanchez.org)



[www.facebook.com/jeffrey.sanchez3576](https://www.facebook.com/jeffrey.sanchez3576)



[@jeffrey\\_sanchez](https://twitter.com/jeffrey_sanchez)