

State Representative

Jeffrey Sánchez

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Friends and Neighbors:

Happy Spring! The House of Representatives picked up momentum this Spring, passing legislation protecting transgender individuals from discrimination and updating public records laws, as well as finalizing the \$39.5 billion House version of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, which now goes to conference committee to work out differences from the Senate version. In the district, little league is in full

swing and I have been busy planning events to celebrate the beginning of summer. In this issue, you will find a recap of recent events in the neighborhood, a summary of



the state budget, and a snapshot of the bills I released as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. I look forward to celebrating warmer weather together.

Yours in service,



Jeffrey Sánchez
State Representative

News From the State House

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has continued to pursue legislation and policies that create workable, practical solutions. I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to doing more to serve our state. The last day of formal session is July 31, meaning that we must make all decisions on legislation prior to that date. Here is a look at some of the bills we have passed in the last three months.

Language Opportunities for Our Kids (LOOK)

My bill, An Act Relative to Language Opportunities for Our Kids, surpassed a major hurdle in May when it was reported out favorably from the Joint Committee on Education. I have been

pushing this legislation for the past 10 years and this is the first time it has made it out of committee. Highlighted in my last newsletter, H4330, formerly H498, would reform education for English Language Learner (ELL) students in Massachusetts by giving schools the flexibility to develop programs based on best practices and the needs of their students, rather than the one size fits all approach currently in place. I am proud of this accomplishment and will continue to advocate for our students to get it passed into law.

Public Records Reform

After hearing how outdated our public records laws are, the House passed reform legislation

making it easier for members of the public to access public records. It requires documents to be furnished within 10 business days and limits fees agencies and municipalities may charge to reproduce records.

Transgender Accommodations

Bucking the tide of most states across the country, I voted in favor of a bill that would protect transgender individuals against discrimination related to gender identity or expression in public places such as the T, restaurants, and parks. This bill gives respect to people for being themselves.

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Committee Updates: Health Care Financing

Opioid Bill

On March 14th, the Governor signed into law landmark legislation addressing the deadly opioid epidemic plaguing the Commonwealth. The bill, which the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing reported favorably earlier in the year, includes education for students and doctors, a required screening for anyone presenting with substance use symptoms at an emergency room within 24 hours, and a seven day limit on first-time opioid prescriptions.

Joint Rule 10 Reporting Deadline

A set of rules that govern the activity of the House and Senate, Joint Rule 10 establishes a deadline for all joint committees to report legislation. The Joint Committee on Health Care Financing has a later deadline than other committees as it is often the second committee through which a bill travels in the legislative process. The Committee's deadline for reporting was April 27th. Several bills were released favorably including the CARE Act (H3911), which ensures family caregivers are instructed on how to

care for their loved one after a hospital discharge, and a bill (H966) stabilizing eligibility for PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly). PACE provides comprehensive medical services to keep seniors eligible for nursing homes in their own homes as long as possible. H988 was also reported out favorably. This bill would expand access to Medicare Savings programs, which helps subsidize the healthcare costs of qualifying seniors.

Medical Immunizations

My legislation increasing access to immunizations was passed by the House on May 16th. The bill authorizes certified medical assistants employed in a primary care setting to administer immunizations under the direct supervision of a primary care provider. Medical assistants are trained to administer immunizations and are authorized to do so in many states. However, Massachusetts law does not explicitly authorize these professionals to perform this task. This simple provision will allow primary care providers to more easily meet the demand for immunizations and free-up

other providers to see more patients and focus on more complex clinical care.

Tanning

Earlier this year, the House passed an important bill prohibiting people under the age of 18 from using tanning devices and also from operating these devices, even if they are employed by a tanning facility. This is an important step to protecting younger generations from the harmful effects of skin cancer.

Provider Price Commission

In response to legislation and a ballot initiative filed earlier this year seeking to regulate hospital reimbursement rates, a compromise was signed into law by Governor Baker this week. The new law calls for millions of dollars in new funding to community hospitals and establishes a special commission to study variations in healthcare prices and hospital payment, which I will co-chair. This commission, which will release a report of its findings in March 2017, will include 23 representatives from several state agencies, hospitals, insurers, labor, and other stakeholders.

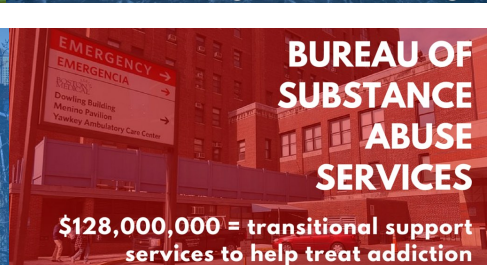
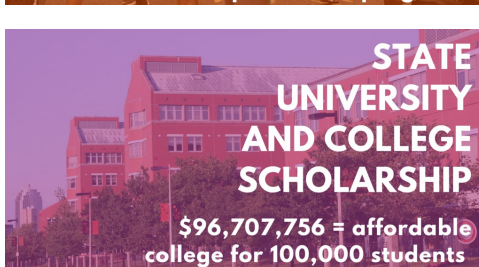
Learning Outside the Classroom

I hosted three classes from Madison Park High School, Bromley-Heath, and MissionSafe in the State House to show students that it is their house. For many youth in Boston, the State House is a scary, imposing building in which they feel unwelcome. We talked about education funding, career readiness, and how to advocate effectively so their voices can be heard. We visited the House chambers and talked about how a bill becomes law. It was energizing to hear their stories and to show them how government can work for them.



House Passes Budget Investing in Education and Mental Health

Every year the Legislature is tasked with the important job of passing the state budget, which provides the funding that runs state agencies, makes public services run smoothly, and gives assistance to individuals and community organizations. In April, the House of Representatives passed a \$39.5 billion budget that builds on economic growth to support important priorities including early education, mental health and substance abuse, and housing. In May the Senate passed its own version. The budget now goes to conference committee to work out the differences. Below is a summary of key programs in the House budget:

 EARLY EDUCATION RATE RESERVE \$15,000,000 = additional funding for early educators	 MASSACHUSETTS LEGAL ASSISTANCE CORPORATION \$18,500,000 = civil legal aid to help low-income people in need	 CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND PREPAREDNESS \$150,000 = funding to prepare for the challenges of climate change
 SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL YOUTH (SHANNON GRANT) \$6,000,000 = funding for youth violence prevention programs	 MASSACHUSETTS RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM \$100,000,000 = 375 new vouchers	 BUREAU OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES \$128,000,000 = transitional support services to help treat addiction
 STATE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP \$96,707,756 = affordable college for 100,000 students	 MASSHEALTH NURSING HOME RATES \$347,900,000 = to support direct care workers	 SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS \$2,000,000 = to help small businesses and the local economy

Around the Neighborhood

State of our Neighborhood

In April, I participated in the Jamaica Plain State of Our Neighborhood. The conversation focused on three topics: Arts and Culture, Housing, and Food Justice. I highlighted my support of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and youth at-risk grants, which are crucial state sources of arts funding. We also discussed the importance of programs to encourage affordable housing. At the state level, I continue to advocate for policies and funding streams like Brownfields and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to encourage affordable housing.

Jackson Square Kickoff

In March, I helped kick off UrbanEdge's Jackson Square Recreation Center Capital Campaign. Their goal is to raise \$17.1

million to build a facility that will provide recreational space and after school activities for children living in Jackson Square. This two-story center will consist of a regulation-size ice rink, a turf field, and a space dedicated to academics and socializing. Once funds are raised, the rec center will help youth and families to learn, grow, and succeed.

Latin Quarter Hearing

I proudly testified in support of designating Centre Street between Hyde and Jackson Squares the city's "Latin Quarter," an effort spearheaded by teens at the Hyde Square Task Force. The name celebrates the area's rich Latin culture and heritage. Today, the Hyde Jackson Square neighborhood has about 2,700 Latino residents, roughly 36



percent of the population. Additionally, the majority of small businesses are Latino-owned. The designation affirms the character and identity of the neighborhood, and would make the area eligible for state grants and designations.

Neighborhood Groups

Thank you to the Jamaica Hills Association, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, and Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services for letting me address their members at meetings.

Get in Touch!



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



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I had the honor of receiving the 2016 Nurturer of the Year Award from the Nurtury. Thank you to everyone who helped make the night one to remember and thank you for all you do supporting our youth and families.

Photo above left: Wayne Ysaguirre (President and CEO of Nurtury), Rep. Sánchez, & Jonathan Lonske (Nurtury Board Member)

Photo above right: Joshua McFadden (Legislative Aide), Sarah Sabshon (Chief of Staff), Rep. Sánchez, & Collin Fedor (Legislative Aide)

Photo Credit: Mim Adkins Photography for Nurtury

News from the State House (cont'd)

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Chapter 90 Road Funding

I voted to support a \$200 million spending bill that would provide funding for municipalities to complete road, bridge, and infrastructure improvement projects. It plays a key role in maintaining our transportation system in order to make it safer for the motorists and cyclists who rely on them daily. The bill will bring significant funding to both Boston and Brookline.

Uber Regulations

I voted in favor of a bill creating statewide regulations for the 'ride for hire' industry, which includes Uber and Lyft. The bill ensures passenger safety by requiring background checks and that vehicles clearly

display they are a ride for hire vehicle. It prohibits surge pricing during weather-related emergencies and standardizes insurance requirements. The bill ensures customer safety without overburdening an innovative technology.

Solar Bill

After months of debate in conference committee, the Legislature passed a bill that would incentivize the adoption of solar power. The bill did this by raising the cap on net metering. Net metering allows people to receive payments for the excess solar energy they produce. The bill allowed thousands of solar employees to return and will ensure communities can continue to pursue solar in a cost-effective way.

Stay Tuned!

To receive updates for summer events, including family night cookouts, Mission Hill softball, and more, sign up for my email listserv at www.jeffreysanchez.org!

We will have our first weekly family night cookout on Tuesday, June 7th from 4pm to 7pm.

We will be in front of the Bromley-Heath Management Office, 30 Bickford St. Jamaica Plain.