

Dear Friend,

February has flown past and we have been active both in the district and in the State House. With fiscal year 2011's budget deadline approaching, we have heard from many of you regarding state funding that you feeling strongly about. I have committed myself to working for the best interests of the district and will advocate for funding that reflects the needs of our district and the commonwealth.

Throughout this month we have had several legislative victories. An Act Relative to Public Housing Innovation Program was reported favorably from the Joint Committee on Housing and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Green ticket legislation was signed into law, giving law enforcement officials the ability to effectively collect municipal fines which have in many cases gone unenforced and unpaid for years. Legislation to prohibit the devocalization of dogs and cats, of which I am a co-sponsor, was successfully passed by the House and referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules. On March 1st, 2010 a regulation requiring Massachusetts businesses to meet industry standards for office and computer management—201 CMR 17.00, Standards for Protection of Personal Information of Residents of the Commonwealth went into effect. For a more in-depth update on these pieces of legislation and others please read on to the "Legislative Update" section.

The Committee on Public Health has recently reported fifty eight pieces of legislation from the committee favorably. In that group, topics of bills range from asthma control to increase the screening for autism spectrum disorders. Additionally, the House of Representatives and Senate have passed H. 2322, An Act Relative to School Nutrition to make our schools a healthier place for our children. For more information on the bills mentioned here please refer to the "Public Health Update."

I, along with MassArt President Kay Sloan, had the privilege of hosting an art show with work from artist John Thompson in my office at the State House. His work was well received by all our guests and we were proud to honor him in this way. Much of his John's work is silkscreen and gouache inspired by landscapes and water scenes. We thank him and MassArt for sharing this experience with us. We had excellent participation from the district. This was our second art reception and we will have a third later this spring that we will let you know about.

The 2010 Census is approaching in the coming weeks and I strongly encourage everyone to participate. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the census is a confidential survey protected by law that reflects the number of people living in the state. Census information helps states receive and allocate funds to locations in need of improvement. Residents of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and non-citizens are included and vital to the count. Thus, it is important that everyone in the district participate.

As always, please contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Service,



Jeffrey Sánchez
State Representative
Chairman, Joint Committee on Public Health