

State Representative

# Jeffrey Sánchez

NOVEMBER | 2017

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## Friends and Neighbors:

We're almost halfway through the 2017-2018 legislative session, so I wanted to take this moment and update you on what I've been doing to represent you in the State House.

In my first few months as Chair of the House Ways & Means Committee, we overrode the Governor's budget vetoes and passed a \$130 million supplemental budget that included \$3 million for youth violence prevention programs.

Massachusetts continues to be a progressive beacon despite policies in DC, passing important legislation to stand up to President Trump, while continue investing in healthcare, housing, and the environment.

It's been one year since I conducted my community survey, which I still reference as we take up criminal justice, women's health, and other legislation.

In this new statewide role, I will



continue working with my colleagues to foster a Commonwealth that stands up for our shared values in Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Brookline.

Yours in service,

A stylized blue ink signature of Jeffrey Sánchez.

## Legislative Updates

It's been a productive year in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where I've worked to pass legislation that improves the lives of our most vulnerable, creates job opportunities, and protects our shared values. In 2017 we voted to:

- Reform the criminal justice system
- Guarantee a woman's right to access birth control
- Uphold our environmental leadership in the Trump era
- Ban deadly bump stocks on guns
- Invest in community-based criminal justice programs
- Ensure fairness for pregnant workers

Please continue reading for a short summary of these bills I supported

### Women's Healthcare

In October, the Trump administration weakened rules ensuring copy-free birth control for women.

In response, we passed the ACCESS bill to guarantee free birth control for women in Massachusetts, regardless of changes at the national level. The bill, now signed into law, requires insurers to cover at least one of every type of FDA-approved birth control.

The House is committed to empowering women to make informed decisions about their health, no matter their economic status. With this law, Massachusetts women will no longer have to choose between their health and putting food on the table.



### Paris Climate Agreement

By investing in offshore wind, hydropower, and solar power, Massachusetts has emerged as a clean energy leader. We continued our leadership in a vote proclaiming Massachusetts' dedication to the Paris Agreement. It will ensure that we as a Commonwealth have the tools to accomplish our climate goals, and that we will continue to engage the international community on this critical issue.

### Bump Stock Ban

On October 1st, the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history was carried out in Las Vegas. The shooter used a "bump stock," an attachable device that makes a gun fire rapidly, similar to a machine gun.

In response to this unprecedented violence, we banned bump stocks.

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# HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM BILL

I was proud to vote for the House criminal justice reform bill. Through practical, progressive policies, we committed to ensuring public safety and helping to break the cycle of incarceration.



## **Mandatory Minimums**

Eliminates mandatory minimum sentences for certain low-level, non-violent drug offenses



## **Expungement**

Allows for expungement of certain juvenile offenses (under 18) and criminal offenses for young adults (18-21)



## **CORI Reform**

Shortens waiting period to seal a CORI, makes resisting arrest a sealable offense, and allows "no record" for housing applications



## **Felony Larceny Threshold**

Increases the felony larceny threshold from \$250 to \$1,000



## **Solitary Confinement**

Limits how long an inmate can be held in solitary confinement without review



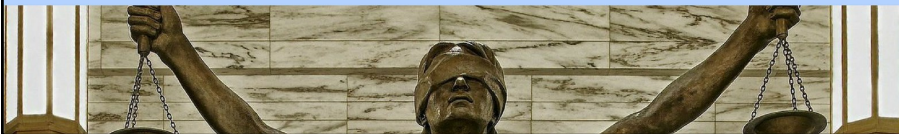
## **Compassionate Release**

Allows compassionate early release from prison



## **Bail**

Requires consideration of financial resources when setting bail



## Budget Overrides

The FY18 budget invested in areas critical to our commonwealth. It was a balanced budget that passed with bipartisan support.

After the budget was passed, the Governor signed the package into law, but vetoed certain line-items. The House overrode these vetoes. A \* indicates that the Senate did not restore funding for the program.

- |                                                                        |                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| • \$209 million: MassHealth*                                           | • \$1.7 million: DCR Parks & Recreation                  |
| • \$6.6 million: Transitional Aid for Families with Dependent Children | • \$1.3 million: After-School and Out-of-School Programs |
| • \$1.9 million: Mass. Cultural Council                                | • \$850,000: Adult Basic Education                       |
| • \$2.5 million: HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, and Services          | • \$675,000: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth                |
| • \$1.1 million: Recovery High Schools                                 | • \$300,000: Youth-At-Risk Grants                        |

## Legislative Priorities

(Continued from page 1)

These actions build upon Massachusetts' leadership in gun violence prevention. We are committed to preventing such tragic events.

### **Healthcare**

As Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means, I am responsible for considering financial issues across the state. Healthcare is a major component of my work since it is 40% of all state spending and a key driver of our economy.

Recently, we have seen a lot of attempts to undo the progress we've made to insure 98% of our population. Massachusetts dodged a bullet when Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare failed. However, we still face challenges in the days ahead: 1. Congress has not reauthorized CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) funding, 2. funding for community health centers has languished, and 3. President Trump ceased CSR (Cost Sharing Reduction) payments. We continue to monitor events in Washington and what is needed here in Massachusetts.

### **Safe and Successful Youth**

The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) is a program that funds outreach and intervention for high risk youth. In the supplemental budget, I helped ensure that \$3 million in funding for programs like MissionSafe, ROCA, and BCYF to help the hardest hit youth in our neighborhoods.

In October, we had to challenge the Senate to adopt funding in the state supplemental budget to fund this program. Ultimately, I was able to work with House leaders to ensure these programs were funded and could continue to work on our streets. This funding addresses immediate needs in our communities and is a key part of the broader criminal justice reform discussion.

### **Pregnant Workers Fairness**

This legislation makes pregnancy a protected class, meaning that working women have the right to be free from pregnancy discrimination. Under this law, employers must provide reasonable accommodations, such as job restructuring, time off, private non-bathroom space for breast feeding, and frequent or longer breaks, for employees who are pregnant.



## Around the Neighborhood

It's been nonstop in Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Brookline. We officially commemorated the Jamaicaaway bridge over Rt. 9 in honor of Lance Corporal Alexander Arredondo and Brian Arredondo. We held weekly barbeques in Bromley-Heath all summer long and held our annual Back to School Jam in Brookline High St. Housing, Mission Main, and Bromley-Heath. We enjoyed the Taste of JP to raise money for scholarships, celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at the Nate Smith House, and had students at the State House to learn about civics. We held a reception for Mission Hill artist Marilyn Casey, who's work is being showcased in my office. Bringing people together is one of the most important things we can do as a community, and I'm excited to continue the conversation.



## Ida B. Graves Memorial Yard

On October 31, The Mission Hill community gathered behind the Tobin Community Center to unveil the Ida B. Graves Memorial Yard.

A warm heart to all, Miss Ida was an active member of the Mission Main Tenant Task Force and leader during a time of transformation in Mission Hill.

Known for her wit and quick come backs, she always pushed others to excel. She fought for equal rights for the underserved while volunteering for numerous

community organizations. Everyone respected and appreciated her honesty, opinions, and views on life. She loved Mission Hill and Mission Hill loves her.

She played a key role advocating for the backyard space at the Tobin. The Ida B. Graves Memorial Yard will ensure that all children in Mission Hill and the City of Boston have the opportunity to explore their talents and grow strong as young men and women.



# 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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## Language Opportunities for Our Kids (LOOK) Signed into Law

The state's one-size-fits-all approach has failed our English language learners. Through flexibility and accountability, the LOOK bill creates a system where students are able to learn English and succeed academically throughout the Commonwealth.

I have filed and advocated for the LOOK bill every year since I was elected into office.

15 years later, the bill passed the House and Senate, and was signed into law on November 22, 2017.



## Puerto Rico: Life After Hurricane Maria

Hurricane Maria has devastated the island of Puerto Rico. As of this writing, only 42% of energy has been restored on the island, and there are still thousands without access to clean water or fuel.

Following the aftermath of the storm, there was an outflow of support from the Puerto

Rican community in Boston and across Massachusetts. Thanks to their work, we were able to raise over \$3 million for the Massachusetts United for Puerto Rico Fund. These funds will be dispersed to community organizations doing work on the island and to aid families who resettle across Massachusetts. Thank you to all who have participated and donated to help those in need.

At the time of this writing, Boston has seen over 109 kids enroll in BPS, and expects to see more in the coming weeks. Sociedad Latina in Mission Hill is a designated welcome center for families to receive items and register for school and benefits.

If you, a family member, or a friend have come to Massachusetts from Puerto Rico, **call 2-1-1 to connect directly with a state caseworker**, who can help navigate resources such as benefits, healthcare, and schools.

