

State Representative

Jeffrey Sánchez

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Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you for reading my April 2018 Newsletter. I have been busy the past few months working on my first budget as Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. I have met with over 130 representatives, officials from every level of government, advocates from across the state, and hundreds of constituents in the process of crafting budget recommendations. Meanwhile,

we've made historic progress on criminal justice reform and women's rights legislation, while holding dozens of events throughout the district.

It is an honor to represent the 15th Suffolk/Norfolk District in the State House. I look forward to working with constituents and members of the House over the next few months to pass the budget and legislation that



protect and progress our shared values here in Massachusetts.

Yours in Service,



Jeffrey Sánchez

State Representative

Legislative Updates

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

As I've highlighted in previous newsletters, this has been an exciting session. **On April 1, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act officially became law.** With this law now in place, discrimination against pregnant women in the hiring process and workplace is explicitly illegal, and workplaces must provide a private space for breastfeeding. I proudly supported this bill in the House last June.

Housing

We've addressed affordable housing through a \$1.7B housing bond bill passed earlier this year. Building on these efforts, we passed comprehensive legislation regulating and taxing short-term rentals. The House's bill recognizes local control, so Boston can create a regulatory structure that addresses the impact short-term rentals have on our housing market.

I advocated for a provision that was ultimately included that would ensure a portion of local taxes collected from rentals go toward the preservation and development of affordable housing in the city.

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Criminal Justice Reform

There are a couple truly historic votes I've taken in my time at the State House: passing universal healthcare reform in 2006, protecting legalized gay marriage in 2008, and approving the strictest gun control laws in the country in 2014 stand out among them.

On April 4, fifty years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther

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Budget Update

I am in the midst of my first budget process as Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. Between now and my next newsletter we will have released and debated the budget. To receive updates in the meantime, visit my website: www.jeffreysanchez.org.

District Events

Constituent Meetings



The 15th Suffolk/Norfolk district's vast number of active neighborhood groups and associations is one of its strongest assets. In February and March, I met with groups, including the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council and Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association in Roslindale. The meetings provided a terrific opportunity to hear from our leaders in the community, inform my legislative work, and share budget updates from the House Ways and Means office.

Big Sister Fashion Show

I made my runway debut in March at the Big Sister of Greater Boston Gala. They do so much work throughout the city empowering young women, and I am proud to support their mission.



Public Health Week

Every year, the American Public Health Association recognizes the first week of April as National Public Health Week. In celebration, we held events that highlighted emerging public health issues – an overdose prevention training and a panel on the impact of gas leaks. Special thanks to all of our partners: Brenda Cantero of AIDS Action Committee, the JP Forum, Mothers Out Front JP, and all who attended!



Roslindale Easter Egg Hunt



Have you ever seen 10,000 Easter eggs? I have, but not for long before the kids of Roslindale found them all! Thanks to phenomenal work by the Roslindale Village Main Streets and contributing partners, kids and families were able to enjoy face painting, arts & crafts, and a record-setting game of Egg Toss.

Celebrating Margaret Noce

Congratulations to Margaret Noce on her retirement. Margaret's 40 years of service to JP, as an advocate of health and social services embody the true essence of JP. Fitting for a woman of her impact, a boisterous celebration was held at the First Baptist Church.



Bromley-Heath Sports Jamboree

On March 24th, I hosted a sports jamboree at Bromley-Heath with Mayor Marty Walsh, the Bromley Tenant Organization, and many other community partners.

Attended by approximately 200 youth and family members who reside at Mildred C. Hailey Apartments, the festivities included games, music, sneaker giveaways, and basketball drills led by the City of Boston's BCYF and Bryan Doo, former Boston Celtics Athletic Trainer. In addition to being a day of engagement, the event served as an opportunity to reflect on recent gun violence tragedies at Bromley, and the community's dedication to ensure that safety remains the top priority.

On a day that young people across the nation marched to galvanize a broader public safety movement through March for Our Lives, the jamboree

symbolized a similar local movement among Bromley residents to show solidarity in the face of gun violence.

The catalyst of this event was the murder of Gerrod Brown in October. After that, we coalesced with the Mayor and the Tenant Organization to establish priorities for what we wanted to accomplish to help a community affected by violence. We held a series of events during the holidays and the winter months. The sports jamboree was the culmination in this series to keep youth engaged and to kick off the beginning of spring. We look forward to continuing to hold events in the summer months to provide youth opportunities to get involved and to bring the community together.

Thank you to everyone who made the event possible.



Legislative Updates (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Funding for Family Planning, Veterans, and Special Education in Supplemental Budget

From time to time, the Legislature needs to pass a supplemental budget to address unexpected costs during the fiscal year.

In a recent supplemental budget, the House provided \$1.6M for **Family Planning**, intended to fill the gap in the event the Trump Administration cuts federal funding for reproductive health ser-

vices for low-income/uninsured individuals.

We also provided \$5.3M for **Veterans' Benefits** in the form of payments to Gold Star families.

Among other programs funded were **Emergency Assistance Family Shelters**, the **Healthy Incentive Program**, which connects people with SNAP benefits to local farmers throughout the state to increase access to fresh, locally-grown produce, and the **Special Education Circuit Breaker**, to enable school districts to continue special education classes and programming.

PATCH Act Signed into Law!

On April 2, the Protecting Access To Confidential Healthcare Act was signed into law! It will ensure patients' privacy when they receive sensitive services, like STI testing, HIV treatment, domestic violence counseling, mental health support, or substance use treatment.



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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Immigrants' Day at the State House



On April 4, I had the opportunity to talk with hundreds of people who had come for Immigrants Day at the State House.

Immigrants do so much to lift up this Commonwealth, and their engagement makes sure that the immigrant voice is heard in this legislature.

Every year, I've led the effort in the House to prevent anti-immigrant amendments from being added to the budget. I look forward to continuing this effort during the upcoming budget debate.



Criminal Justice Reform Becomes Law

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King, Jr, I added one more vote to that list: criminal justice reform.

I've been engaged in this conversation for a long time. Growing up in public housing in Mission Hill, many of my childhood friends felt the impacts of an unjust criminal justice system. They continue to pay the price, despite having served their sentences long ago. Conversations around the impact of the system on people of color haven't always occurred in the State House. This year, we changed that.

The bill has over 15 provisions, including: juvenile expungement, CORI reform, raising the felony larceny threshold, eliminating mandatory minimums for low-level drug offenses, and bail reform. You can read a full summary at: www.jeffreysanchez.org/crj.

The final bill, which was the result of a months-long conference committee, is a profound piece of legislation that will have a great impact on so many lives here in Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Brookline, and across the Commonwealth. It's truly a once in an era bill that tackles the criminal justice system front to back, ensuring public safety while helping those who want to turn their lives around.

In my community, we say, "Si se puede" – yes we can. Well, now we can say, "Lo hicimos." We did it.



Ride the Mission Hill Link!

GOT GROCERIES?

The Mission Hill Link—our local shuttle bus—will take you home!

Track it live: www.WheresTheLink.org

Catch it weekdays: 10 am—2 pm, 3 pm—6:30 pm

Catch it on the 1st & 3rd Saturday: 10 am—2 pm

