

REBECCA PERKINS
KWOKA
STATE SENATE

Hi Dan,

Last week marked a critical step forward for our country, with President Biden making good on his promise to Build Back Better by signing the landmark COVID relief bill. Crucial funding for stimulus checks, reopening schools, and restaurants & small businesses are on their way to NH!

The State has also announced the new timeline for vaccines, with teachers and staff in school districts working with public health networks beginning to receive their shots last Friday. In Portsmouth, there was an all-day clinic on Saturday! A big thanks to our local Fire Departments for their leadership on the organization of these local clinics. All other teachers can sign up tomorrow - on March 17 - through the new Vaccine and Immunization Network Interface, while folks over 50 can start signing up on March 22. For up-to-date information, visit vaccines.nh.gov.

And amidst these exciting developments, much has happened on the state level. Here's the latest from the Senate:

Relief for Newly-Opened Small Businesses Passes the Senate: We did it!! SB 107 unanimously passed the Senate, meaning crucial COVID relief for newly-opened businesses is on its way to the House. This bill will create new jobs and help protect the immense impact small businesses have on our communities. We couldn't have done it without Enna Chocolate, Dwyer's Pub, Puttin' on the Glitz, Ciao Trattoria and Wine Bar, and all of the businesses who testified—your stories made the difference!!

Save Our Granite Stages Act Unanimously Passes the Senate: I'm so proud to work alongside Senator Becky Whitley, Rep Matt Wilhelm, and other incredible leaders as we move forward on getting independent live venues crucial relief!

Inclusive Outdoors Act Passes the Senate: Though the full contents of the original bill did not pass, this vote was a step in the right direction to ensuring all folks can enjoy our beautiful state without fear of discrimination or violence. Huge shoutout to Senator Whitley and the NH Sierra Club for leading the way!

Renter's Assistance Bill Unanimously Passed Out of Committee: With the unparalleled financial instability renters and landlords have faced, this bill (SB 126) would create critical guardrails to help keep renters in their homes and provide additional protections.

Senate Committee Votes Down Nonpartisan Redistricting Reforms: The Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee voted inexpedient to legislate on SB 90, the nonpartisan omnibus bill I am leading to make redistricting more fair and transparent. I hope to work with my colleagues to overturn the

vote on the Senate floor on Thursday, and ensure our elected officials truly reflect the will of the people. Over 350 people signed in in support of this bill at Committee! I joined a press conference today to highlight the importance of this fundamental, democratic issue.

SB 13 Passes Despite NH Senate Dems Pushback: During last Thursday's full Senate session, my Senate Democratic colleagues and I fought against business profit tax cuts, which were eventually pushed through by the Republican majority. These tax cuts will only place a greater burden on municipalities, further raising local taxes and making housing even more expensive. And they are bad for small businesses, who can't hope to attract talent if workers can't afford to live here.

Events Recap

Emily's List 'Choice Under Attack' Twitter Chat: Last Monday, I participated in a Twitter chat hosted by Emily's List, Choice Under Attack, designed to educate folks on what Democratic pro-choice women are doing to fight abortion bans and anti-abortion bills across the country. As anti-abortion bills make their way to our State Senate, it is important that we continue speaking out against the harm that this legislation will cause. Check out my Twitter [Feed](#) for my responses to the chat questions, including information on how you can get involved!

Press Conference on Higher Education Funding: Earlier this month, I joined a press conference on why Governor Sununu's proposed budget harms our education system. Our shared priority should be to empower students and support our schools - to build a modern workforce, plan for the next generation, and

rebuild from the pandemic. We can't do that by cutting an already worst-in-the-nation school funding.

Durham Town Council Meeting: Last night, I joined the Durham Town Council along with the entire legislative delegation and Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington. We got to see the new Councilors sworn in, and share updates from Concord. It was great to see everyone as well! Thank you for having us.

Looking Ahead

With NH Democratic Party officer elections held this past weekend, I want to congratulate Chairman Ray Buckley on his re-election as Chairman of the NH Democratic Party, and to our very own former Senator Martha Fuller Clark on her re-election as Vice-Chair. I am excited to work with them both to elect bold Democratic leaders up and down the ballot! And a big shoutout to Emmett Soldati—the energy and bold ideas he brought to the race only strengthened our party and will be crucial as we move into 2022 and beyond.

I hope you all have enjoyed the warm weather and recent glimpses of Spring! Here at the Kwoka household we are learning about animals in daycare, and got to visit baby lambs a couple weekends ago at Sturgeon Creek Farm, thanks to Happy Hippie Chickens. Remember to support your local farms and businesses as you start to look towards Spring!





Stay safe and best wishes,
Rebecca

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