

REBECCA PERKINS
KWOKA
STATE SENATE

Hi everyone,

These past two weeks have been quite eventful, from the passage of our workplace lactation bill to introducing legislation to help support our live venues! Here are some highlights from a jam-packed start to February and several ways to get involved:

Legislative Update

Our Workplace Lactation Bill (SB 69) Unanimously Passed in the Senate! This bill builds on the long legacy of Our Former Senator, Martha Fuller Clark. SB 69 would require employers to provide access to a sufficient space and a reasonable break period for nursing mothers. This is a huge win for both working moms and businesses—on to the House!

Testimony Wanted for My Bill (SB 107) Helping Local Businesses: I am looking for businesses that were formed after May 30, 2019 and did not qualify for the Main Street program to testify for a bill I'm leading, SB 107, which directs future state

discretionary funds to be distributed to these businesses, as they were excluded from the Main Street and Main Street 2.0 grant programs run by GOFFER. If you are interested or know of a business that might be, please reach out via [email](#) or on [social media](#). The hearing date has not been scheduled yet but I will be sure to update you when I know more.

Introducing the Save Our Granite Stages Act (SB 132):

Senator Becky Whitley, Representative Matt Wilhelm, and I are leading legislation to provide targeted assistance and long-term planning support to our state's independent live venues... especially the smallest ones. [Check out the segment on WMUR here!](#) The initial hearing in the Health and Human Services Committee last week showed strong bipartisan support and we are optimistic that we will be able to deliver crucial relief to our live venues and music community, which have an irreplaceable economic and cultural impact on our communities.

Hearings for Anti-Abortion House Bills: Early last week, the House Judiciary Committee heard legislation that would threaten reproductive rights by repealing the buffer zone, imposing a gag rule, and banning abortions later in pregnancy. [I testified against](#) these abortion restrictions and will continue to fight against these outrageous attacks on our reproductive freedom.

The Majority Votes Down Independent Redistricting

Committee (SB 80): During our second full Senate session, the Majority rejected legislation (SB 80) that Senator Tom Sherman and I were leading that would have established an independent redistricting committee. SB 80 resulted from years of bipartisan work, and similar resolutions are being submitted or passed all across NH—in blue *and* red districts. I will continue working

tirelessly alongside our communities to make our redistricting process more fair, transparent, and nonpartisan.

Co-Sponsoring the Inclusive Outdoors Act (SB 114): Last Tuesday, my colleagues and I on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee heard SB 114, [legislation that I am co-sponsoring](#) to ensure that all folks can use and enjoy our beautiful state free from the threat of discrimination and violence. It would also establish a publicly-accessible database of any violations and require all officers from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and Fish and Game to complete diversity and ethics training.

Events Recap

Last Monday, Senator Becky Whitley, Representative Mary Jane Wallner, and I hosted a **virtual panel discussing paid sick leave**. We spoke with an amazing panel of working mothers who shared their stories and helped show why providing families paid sick leave is more important than ever. A special shoutout and thanks to our very own Christina D'Allesandro, Mom's Rising, and Family Friendly Economy.

The following day, Senator Watters and I hosted our first virtual **Energy Wrap Up** ([check out the link here](#)), a weekly event in which we highlight exciting green energy legislation on which we are working. This past week, we discussed Senate bills 114, 115, and 129. Together, these bills would set greenhouse gas reduction goals, protect threatened species, and ensure all folks can enjoy our beautiful outdoors free from discrimination. [Check out on Twitter as well!](#)

Looking Ahead

This Thursday at 1:15 PM, the **Children and Family Law Committee will hold a second hearing for HB 68**, which aims to define gender-affirming care as child abuse. **Sign in to oppose the bill [here](#)** and note that if you were signed up to testify on February 3rd, you will need to register again at the [New Hampshire General Court website](#).

Rochester City Councilor Palana Belken and Linds Jakows have started an awesome newsletter and website, <https://transactionnh.org>, to mobilize folks against ongoing legislative attacks on NH's transgender community. **Be sure to check out their website and sign up for their newsletter [here](#)**.

I hope you all are staying safe and well and that you have a wonderful rest of your week. I'll leave you with a picture of Chef Logan helping me cook a special Valentine's day breakfast for our special lady.



Stay safe and best wishes,
Rebecca

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**PAID FOR BY REBECCA PERKINS KWOKA
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