

REBECCA PERKINS
KWOKA
STATE SENATE

Hi everyone,

This week marks three months in office and we've already made great progress on key legislation! Nine of the fourteen bills I'm prime sponsoring have passed the Senate, including ones to improve net metering, send relief to small businesses, and implement the use of electronic poll books. We've also led the charge on fair redistricting and expanding renewable energy portfolios, despite partisan resistance.

There is of course still plenty of work to be done, especially as our nation grieves over the tragic gun violence in Boulder and Atlanta, with the latter being part of an alarming trend of increased violence against the AAPI community. We must stand with our AAPI neighbors and make it clear that hate and racism has no place in NH or our country. And moving forward, my NH Senate Democratic colleagues and I will continue to advocate for common sense gun reform, and against legislation that seeks to undermine community safety by rolling back gun restrictions.

We will also continue working to ensure that amidst continued economic hardship, folks don't lose their home. Applications for rent and utilities assistance are now open at capnh.org—feel free to pass this along to any friends or neighbors you think this might benefit! Eligibility guidelines are as follows: “At least one person in your household has qualified for unemployment benefits, had their income reduced, had significant costs, or had other financial hardship due to COVID-19. (You do not need to be receiving unemployment benefits payments to qualify.)”

The household must be at risk for homelessness, be paying more than 30% of their income for rent and utilities, or live in unsafe or unhealthy housing, as well as meet certain income requirements.”

Along with these efforts, I've had the chance to speak at several exciting community events and see the unanimous passage of legislation I'm prime-sponsoring. Here's the full latest from the last few weeks:

Legislative Update

Next-Gen Lawmaking Bill Passes Unanimously: After great bipartisan work, amendment and discussion, the SB 95 omnibus bill on local meetings sailed through the Senate, 24-0. This legislation included a key bill I am leading to retain the digital meetings we have seen during the pandemic! Municipalities asked for this as a continuing option, and we have seen such great increased participation in meetings across the state. More to come as we work to pave the way toward Next-Gen lawmaking!

Renter Assistance Passes the Senate: SB 126, the bill I am prime sponsoring to expand renter assistance, cleared the Senate! With so many families struggling, this bill will establish

critical guardrails to keep folks in their homes by extending time to pay and avoid eviction and expanding access to local aid.

Folks Testify in Support of SB 107 at House Hearing:

Another great hearing for my bill on relief for newly-opened small businesses: six small businesses and the Portsmouth Chamber testified, and there was unanimous support from the other 60 people who signed in! Small businesses provide so much for our state—jobs, entertainment, and community. This bill would help protect their immense impact!

Events Recap

NHHS Dems Women’s History Month Panel: Last week I joined an amazing group of women to celebrate #WomensHistoryMonth. As always, the New Hampshire High School Democrats put on a great event—I’m constantly inspired by seeing the future of NH women leaders in action!

New Politics LGBTQ+ Journey Continues: At New Politics’ LGBTQ+ Journey Continues, we had the chance to discuss some of the challenges unique to public servants who come from a service background and identify as LGBTQ. For those interested in running, there is plenty of support out there from great organizations like New Politics and Our Moment PAC! And, of course, from elected officials like me who are always happy to help :)

Stay Work Play NH’s Advocacy Training on Housing: Great training event on how we can tackle our housing crisis. Having worked in housing advocacy for over a decade, it is always heartening to see such incredible advocates working across NH. My best advice for folks looking to jump in: bring yourself! You love your community, let that shine through.

Looking Ahead

As we continue to make significant progress toward ending the pandemic, Governor Sununu recently announced a new vaccine timeline. As of yesterday, folks between the ages of 40-49 can begin signing up for an appointment; those between the ages of 30-39 (like me!) can start tomorrow. And all Granite Staters 16+ can sign up beginning on April 2nd. Sign up online:

<https://vini.nh.gov/providers/s/>

Lastly, I want to share some exciting personal news. This past Thursday, we had our adoption hearing for little miss! We were legally advised to do so, as not all places may accept our marriage, and thus my claim to be her mother. This despite the fact that I carried, birthed, and nursed her for the majority of her life.



It is time that we recognize all families in every way that we can - to have our family be treated the same as everyone else because we are the same. Love is love, and family is family, and Logan is my daughter - now on paper as in real life!

Stay safe and best wishes,
Rebecca

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