

REBECCA PERKINS
KWOKA
STATE SENATE

Hi everyone,

Last week, we had our first in-person session! It felt like the first day of school getting to go to Concord and work with my colleagues for the first time in person. Here we are on the Senate floor:





With key legislative deadlines coming around the corner, we have plenty of work ahead of us. Here are some of the highlights:

Legislative Update

HB 177 Voted Down: Monday, I voted to reverse the ITL recommendation on HB 177, a bill that would help protect our state parks and the immense impact they have on our local economy and communities. Depending on what happens at the floor vote on

Thursday, unfortunately, the bill is likely to be retained until next session. In the meantime, my colleagues and I will continue to advocate for the protection of our state's environment.

Housing Assistance Bill Passes Out of Committee: Great news out of the House Judiciary Committee—SB 126, the bill I'm leading to expand renter assistance, was passed unanimously! A favorable vote on the House floor will send these important guardrails to the governor's desk.

Abortion Bills in the Senate: On May 4th, 150 people testified for almost 9.5 hours in The Senate Finance Committee [heard 9.5 hours' worth of testimony](#), last Tuesday from about 150 people, and a total of about 220 individuals signed up to testify. Legislation to restrict access to reproductive healthcare continues to make its way through the Senate and we need to remain vigilant in educating our communities on why these bills are dangerous. Planned Parenthood has put together a great list of resources and actions to take. Take a look and share with your circles!:

- **WATCH:** [“Abortion Helpline, This is Lisa”](#): 13-minute documentary
- **ACT:** [Tell the Biden Administration to lift the Title X federal gag rule](#)
- **READ:** [“Proposed restrictions on reproductive health care funding loom large in budget debate”](#)
- **SHARE:** [Tweet explaining what HB625 \(abortion ban\) is](#)
- **READ:** Pastor Heath's op-ed about the harm of HB233 in [Seacoast Online](#)
- **SHARE:** The corresponding [Tweet lifting up Pastor Heath's op-ed](#)

Events Update

Anti-Diecast Workshop Series: StayWorkPlay!!! and New

Anti-Racist Workshop Series: StayworkPlayNH and New Hampshire for Anti-Racist Education had their first of four webinar series on anti-racist action to take in our state. Be sure to tune in to the next one on Thursday, May 27th at 6:30 p.m. Register at

<https://t.co/i2CNILohQG>.

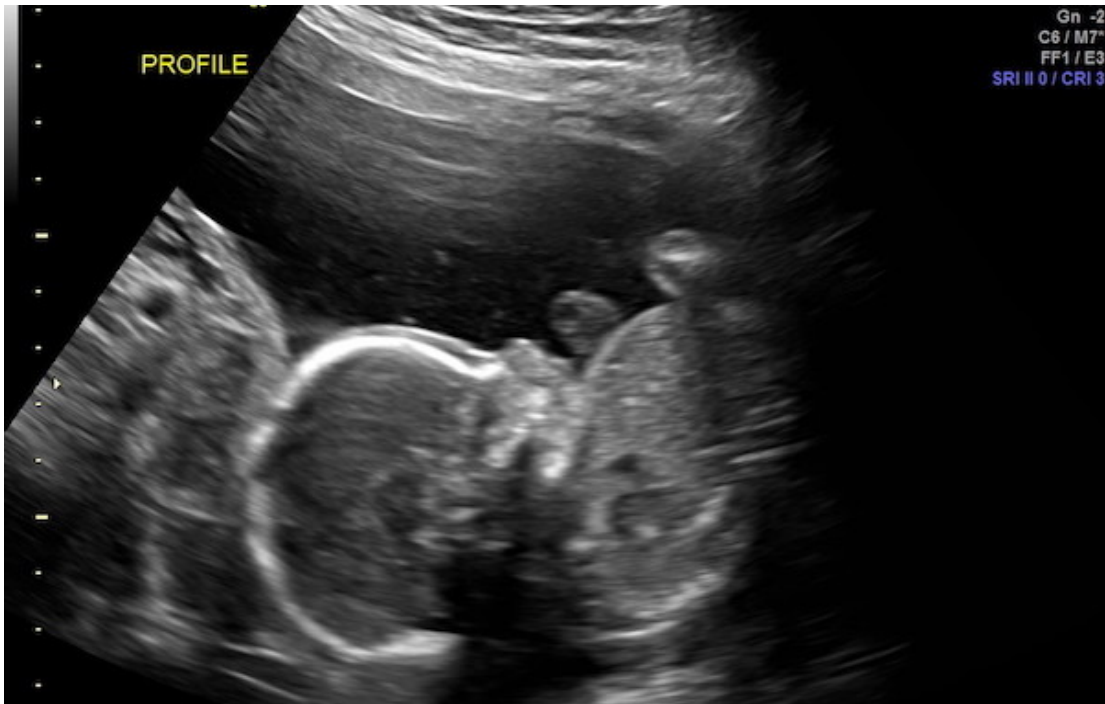
American Rescue Plan Community Event: I joined 603 Forward, Rights & Democracy, NH Youth Movement, and Granite State Progress last Thursday to discuss what the American Rescue Plan will provide for our state and how we move forward. A big shout out and thank you to our NH Delegation for securing over \$1.4 billion in state and local relief funding through the ARP! Our county will receive \$60,000,000, including \$12,000,000 for Portsmouth—crucial relief to help our communities recover. It will save programs, create new jobs, and support struggling families as we continue to move forward.

Looking Ahead

For folks looking to get vaccinated, there will be mass J&J clinics every Saturday in Dover, Newington, Nashua, and Salem. One shot and you're done! Visit <https://vaccines.nh.gov> to sign up.

I am also excited to announce that I have been selected to join the NewDEAL, a national group of local leaders committed to equitable and sustainable economic growth. I am looking forward to working with a unique group of leaders across the country to bring innovative solutions back to NH!

Lastly, I'd like to share some personal news – our little family is expanding! I am pregnant and due in late August. Katelyn and I are thrilled and looking forward to welcoming another little one –we don't know the gender! – into our family and community.



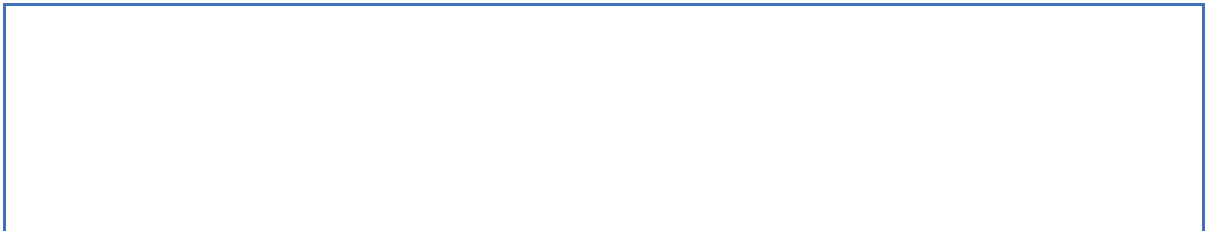
So far, we have been happy and healthy and multitasking as young families do. There are young families across our state getting involved in their communities while balancing work, life, and raising a family. Yet these families, especially working moms, don't always get the credit that they deserve. I hope we can start recognizing their accomplishments and better support them in their endeavors.

As always, yours in service and community,
Rebecca

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