



REBECCA PERKINS **KWOKA** **STATE SENATE**

Hi,

As we're right in the midst of many bills being heard, but not many votes yet, I thought it might be fun to do something different: a week in my life as Senator, and what a week last week was!

Monday

- **CNN Article:** In the morning, exciting news! CNN released a feature this past week that interviewed local elected officials across the country who are fighting against abortion bans in the run-up to the 2022 midterms. I was so proud to be chosen as one of the folks they featured—check it out [here!](#)



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As Roe v. Wade hangs in the balance, Democratic candidates prioritize abortion rights in 2022

By [Rachel Janfaza](#), CNN

Published 6:05 AM EDT, Mon April 18, 2022





Clockwise, from top left: Rochelle Garza, Josh Shapiro, Aramis Ayala and Lauren Book

In many ways, this article is an unfortunate reminder that our rights remain up for debate not just in New Hampshire but in states across the country. We are over four months into our own ban, which disregards the overwhelming majority of Granite Staters that support access to abortion. We must always remember that these issues are not just “issues” or “talking points” - they could not be more real for people. Especially in the case of abortion care. The stories are truly heartbreaking, and keep me motivated to work hard to protect a woman’s right to consult with her doctor - and no one else. In addition, bans such as ours especially harm marginalized communities.

New Hampshire

Republican Gov. [Chris Sununu](#) signed into law last year a 24-week abortion ban that also mandates ultrasounds prior to the procedure. The law went into effect in January.

State Sen. Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, running for reelection

State Sen. Rebecca Perkins Kwoka was 24 weeks pregnant as the Granite State legislature debated the 24-week abortion ban legislation.

Moved by how such a ban could potentially affect her, she gave a floor speech, urging her colleagues to oppose the bill.

“My rights actually were being changed by the legislation we were debating,” Perkins Kwoka said. “I didn’t think my colleagues thought it would really apply to a woman like me who was sitting in the chamber.”

“It particularly felt like, today, I’m a mom, and I’m a woman, and I’m capable of all of these complex decisions. What’s different after week 24? Why tomorrow, you know? Am I capable of different decisions?” she said. “Those were some of the thoughts that I had as we had this floor debate.”

Perkins Kwoka, who is running for reelection this year, said abortion rights have “certainly been something that the constituents are paying attention to.”

“I have had women stop me in parking lots, talk to me in line when I’m getting coffee, send me emails, send me text messages that are like, ‘Thank you for fighting for us on choice.’ Women in my mom’s generation are saying I cannot believe that you still need to be fighting this fight on our behalf, but thank you for doing it,” she said.

But, we also have some good news on the reproductive rights front: HB 1609 passed the Senate last week, which adds an exception for fatal fetal diagnoses and narrowed the ultrasound

mandate. This is proof that our voices - our stories, our experiences - do matter, and we must continue speaking up for what's right.

- **Election Law and Municipal Affairs:** On Monday afternoons, we have Committee up in Concord. At this stage of the session, we are finishing our hearings on House bills, and voting on those pieces of legislation to send them to the Senate floor with our recommendation.

Tuesday

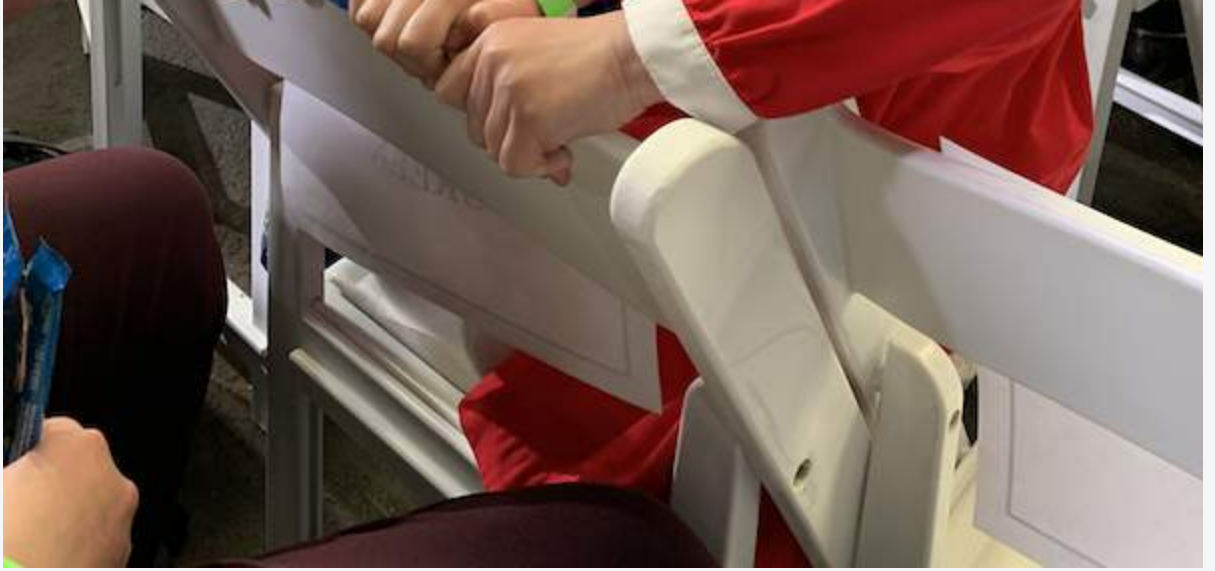
- **President Biden was in town!** What an amazing event it was, and what a neat chance for **my girls to meet the President!** We waited at the event for the President to arrive, and waited while he answered press questions outside. We waited in the hallway backstage, and waited as those in front of us entered the room with the President. When it was our turn, Logan was starstruck! She stared at the President, and he got down to speak to her and said hello. She said "Hello, President Biden!" like we had practiced! He gave her a challenge coin, and held her for the photo with our family. What a moment to remember, and I can't wait to see the photos (we don't have them yet!)





We also got to see lots of our friends, including Senators Fuller Clark, Soucy and Sherman, Mayor McEachern and his family, and Assistant Mayor Kelley!







- **Turning Basin legislation:** The same day President Biden was visiting was the same day my bill concerning the funds for the turning basin passed the House. Last year, we had to protect the federal funds in the state budget for this upgrade, and this year we ensured that funds were reimbursed for milestone payments made. These ships - now up to 765 feet long - were turning around in a basin 800 feet wide! I am proud to be a part of the infrastructure upgrades President Biden visited to speak about. This legislation is key to maintaining our working port, and will provide opportunities for future changes in shipping and potentially, offshore wind.

Wednesday

- **Oyster River Solar Tour:** Had a great time last week visiting Oyster River Middle School with Senator Hassan and Congressman Pappas, led by awesome student tour guides! It's great to see the steps the school has taken to become a LEED Certified net positive building. Oyster River serves as a great example of local, low-cost solutions we can take to combat climate change.





- **Backyard Farming Initiative:** I attended a great meeting in Lee on ways to invest in and promote local farming. Great to see these initiatives “cropping up” throughout our communities.
- **Safe Water Advisory Group:** I attended our Portsmouth advisory group planning the Safe Water Forum on May 3rd. You can find more details and [register here](#).

Thursday

- **Senate Session:** On Thursdays, we have Senate. This Senate was extra special though - it was take your family to Senate day! The Perkins Kwoka family took over the Chambers, and got to see where Momma does her work. Everyone up at the State House was so kind, and gave them a great tour. They got to see my office and visit the Committee room where I sit for Energy and Natural Resources.





- At the end of session, we took the vote on HB 1609 I mentioned above - restoring the rights of women across the state to make their personal decisions.
- **Exeter Office Opening:** Thursday night I attended the office opening for the Exeter office of the Coordinated Campaign - starting early to ensure we can elect Democrats up and down the ballot in 2022!

Friday

- **Haven Breakfast for Kids:** On Friday morning, I had the chance to attend the Haven Breakfast for Kids and learn about Haven's work in the community! They are doing a wonderful job with kids as young as kindergarten, talking with them about consent, safety, and talking to a safe adult.
- **Constituent Meeting:** In the afternoon, I had a meeting with a constituent about a minor change to one of our liquor commission laws which would support small catering businesses - bills for next year are already starting!
- **Drift Art House show:** My friend had an art exhibit opening Friday night! Our whole group of friends went to see his painting up on the wall, and support him. The Drift Art House is downtown, and provides working space for artists in addition to exhibit space.

Saturday

- **Rockingham County Summit:** We joined other organizers from Rockingham County to hear how we will be organizing and supporting our candidates in our corner of the state this year.
- **Earth Day in Durham:** Our family looked at electric vehicles and learned what Durham is doing as part of the new Community Power Coalition.
- **Mommas' Date Night:** Katelyn and I went to see Once at the Seacoast Repertory Theater, where Katelyn is on the Board. We saw it last year, so we have seen Once twice! We highly recommend it - the story and the music are beautiful.

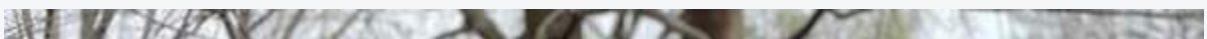
All in all it was a great, but busy, week. It is such a pleasure to serve this District, meet our residents and hear of all they do.

Colby 2056?

From our family to yours,
Rebecca and crew

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If you believe in the work I'm doing, please support my campaign with a donation.

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\$50

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