

REBECCA PERKINS KWOKA STATE SENATE

Hi,

Last week's Senate session hit with a one-two punch to our communities. We once again had a chance to codify Roe into law, with HB 88 making its way to the Senate floor. The Senate version of the bill failed earlier this session but this bill had made its way out of the GOP-led House. But yet again, my Republican colleagues chose to vote it down. They seem to not understand the urgency, even on the heels of the Texas ruling that threatens access to an important form of reproductive care.

And last week, we learned that a 25-year old New Hampshire man posted a credible threat to "shoot up" Portsmouth High School. Sen Altschiller and I stood on the Senate floor to acknowledge his apprehension. It's our duty as elected officials to do everything we can to stop gun violence and protect our children. Earlier this session, we passed SB 244, which would intensify the punishment for acts of terrorism like this one. It's imperative that the House agrees and sends this bill to the Governor's desk.

Gun violence continues to be a pressing issue in the nation. Just in the past 95 days, there have been 128 mass shootings, the majority of them being on school grounds. Delaney Nadeau (Oyster River '24) helped lead a walkout to end gun violence on April 5, 2023.



"We walked into school today, and we walked out in a movement to recognize and call for change as we honor those who never got to walk out," - Delaney Nadeau

We must address this issue to ensure the safety of our fellow students. School should be a place where students go to learn, not to worry about your safety. Thank you so much Delaney Nadeau and all of our Seacoast members who are active on this issue for your work.

The Budget is here!

Everything You Need To Know About NH Budget for Fiscal Years 2024-2025:

Last Thursday, the House passed a proposed \$15.9 billion budget for the fiscal years 2024 and 2025 on a voice vote that is now headed to the Senate. Once the Senate has passed its version of the budget, the House has the option of "concurring" (agreeing) with the Senate's changes, or requesting a Committee of Conference to hammer out their differences. If both the bodies agree on a final version, then it will head to the governor for signature or veto.

The House budget is separated into three different bills: HB 1, the operational budget, which funds state agencies and departments; HB 2, The "trailer bill", which includes additional appropriations and policy changes; and HB 25, the capital budget, which covers infrastructure.

Key Takeaways

(based on the "As Amended by the House" versions of HB 1 and HB 2 of which are subject to change throughout the budget process in the Senate)

The Good:

- Appropriates \$30 million in affordable housing funding
- Expands Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months
- Increases Medicaid rates to more than \$40 million in

- Increase in Medicaid rates to more than \$40 million in additional spending.
- Ensuring that schools with low-income students are prioritized in the education funding formula.
- Strikes down the expansion of the education freedom account, and reduces the annual appropriation for EFAs down to \$20 million
- A 10% wage increase for state employees survived

The Not So Good:

- The passage of an accelerated phase out of the Interest & Dividends tax to the benefit of only the most well-off in our state
- Moves school building aid, special education aid, and other public school funding from the Education Trust Fund to the General Fund.
- \$20 million increase in school building aid failed, and removed \$75 million appropriated for school building aid
- Legalizing cannabis failed to be included in HB2

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to keep key priorities like funding for affordable housing and postpartum support in the budget, two key priorities that I've led this session and that have seen overwhelming bipartisan support!

Looking Ahead

With Spring upon us, there are many exciting events that have occurred and are coming up in our community!

Portsmouth 400th Parade



Walk, cheer, and make a glorious noise at Portsmouth's 400th annual parade! There will be many marching bands, soldiers, VIPs, floats, dancers, and submarines. If you would like to participate in the parade make sure you register by May 15th by filling out this [form](#).

Saturday, June 3, 2023

11:00 AM 12:00 PM

Kick-off at Plaza 800 800 Islington Street
Portsmouth, NH, 03801

Alphabet prom



Seacoast Outright hosted a dance for high school students with DJ Sunshine. Follow Seacoast Outright for more!

2023 Rockingham County Democrats Clambake

Join Democrats from around Rockingham County to raise money for the 2024 Elections! Community gatherings like these will be so crucial as we make a big push to take back the NH House and Senate. The event begins at 6 pm on May 6, 2023—get your tickets [here](#)!

Cross Roads House 21st Annual Benefit by the Sea



Cross Roads House plays a crucial role in our Seacoast community by providing shelter for houseless individuals and families. Support their efforts by getting your tickets [here!](#)

Black Maternal Health Panel



Black Lives Matter Seacoast, Reproductive Freedom Fund of New Hampshire and the Loving Health Center held a Panel Discussion + Q&A regarding Reproductive and Maternal Health featuring Dr. Ndidi Amutah-Onukagha last Sunday. This is Black Maternal Health Month, so please contribute [here](#) or check out the recording when available!

Panel on the Housing Crisis in New Hampshire



Housing affordability is a national issue affecting millions of low-income families across the United States. With over 10 million low-income families who struggle to make ends meet, this issue must be addressed. Everyone should have access to affordable housing!

If you are interested in the housing crisis, join Michael Swack as he moderates a virtual discussion on this current crisis and the measures we can take to address this issue.

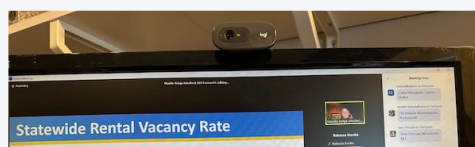
Date:
Thursday, May 4, 2023
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
in Zoom

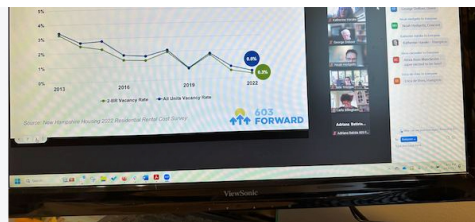
Find more information [here](#) and register [here!](#)

"Taking Action to Address The Housing Crisis"



I joined 603Forward last Thursday for a webinar regarding the housing crisis here in New Hampshire. This is one of the most pressing issues affecting our young Granite Staters. We discussed the Housing Champions Bill as well as ways to take action in your community!





MomsCaucus Brunch 🍽️👩👧👦

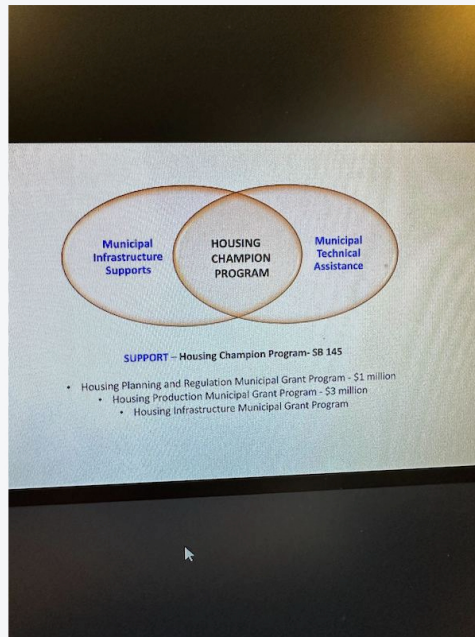


MomsCaucus held an in-person brunch in Manchester on Sunday, April 16th at 11:30 AM. I unfortunately had to be with family at the last minute, but some of our elected Moms got to enjoy a lovely Sunday morning together!



Housing Caucus

We had Housing Caucus this past Monday, and a great turnout to discuss the bills that have made it through Crossover, the budget asks, the different strategies they each address in the housing crisis, and next steps. Thanks all for joining!



Spotlight

A huge congratulations to Holly Fermon on winning the NHIAA & NHADA Division 4 Scholarship and NH State Scholar Athletic Scholarship. Making New Hampshire proud – keep up the good work!

Applications for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)

The NH Department of Energy recently announced the release of \$8.8 million EECBG grants for cities and counties

that were previously ineligible for these funds. EECBG grants can be used for a wide variety of projects that lower energy costs, reduce carbon emissions, or improve energy efficiency.

To find out which municipalities are eligible, check out [here](#). And more information on the application process can be found on the EECBG Competitive Program [Application Hub](#).



Lastly, here are a couple of pictures of my kiddos opening up their eggs on Easter Sunday! Hope all who celebrate had lovely holidays, and we are looking forward to Spring!





Best,
Rebecca
[603-793-1076](tel:603-793-1076)
voterebeccanh@gmail.com

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

<input type="button" value="\$25"/>	<input type="button" value="\$50"/>
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FOR STATE SENATE

P.O. Box 1256, Portsmouth, NH 03801-1256

Bernice Brody, Treasurer
3 Hillside Drive, Portsmouth, NH 03801

