
Updates from Senator Creem - July 15th

Senator Cindy Creem <cynthia.creem@masenate.gov>
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To: amysangiolo@gmail.com

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Dear Friend,

On Wednesday, I proudly voted with the Senate to pass abortion protections to safeguard our providers and those seeking reproductive care in the Commonwealth to the maximum extent possible.

In the post-Roe era, we are already seeing anti-choice activists exploring ways to control lawful healthcare activity in states like Massachusetts. It is important that we take these efforts seriously and take action to prevent out-of-state interference with the lawful delivery of health care in our state.

[This legislation](#) contained many provisions from a FY2023 budget amendment passed by the Senate earlier this year that I co-sponsored, including the creation of a statewide standing order to require insurance to cover the cost of emergency contraception at pharmacies.

Two notable amendments I cosponsored were also adopted in the final bill. The first would require public universities to provide access to abortion medication, while the second aims to clarify the law governing abortions after 24 weeks to ensure that women are not inappropriately referred out of state for abortions that should be covered under current state law.

However, passing this legislation does not mean this conversation is over. This issue is ongoing, which is why the Senate created a working group to study and recommend ways to protect fundamental reproductive and other substantive rights

under threat by the Supreme Court. The working group will also examine guidance on late-term abortions and data privacy in relation to reproductive care.

I will be joining the working group and collaborating on potential state legislative responses to recent Supreme Court decisions. Stay tuned.



Transportation Bond Bill

This week, the Senate also passed a [transportation bond bill](#) that authorizes more than \$10 billion in improvements for highways, roads, electric vehicle infrastructure and public transit.

I was proud to secure an \$85 million bond authorization for a transformative project that will bring the Auburndale, West Newton, and Newtonville commuter rail stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, while also ensuring that there are platforms serving both sets of tracks at all three stations. The project, which will also require the securing of federal funds, will dramatically improve the frequency and reliability of transit service in Newton, helping us reduce traffic congestion, deliver on the promise of transit-oriented development, and achieve our climate goals.

I want to thank Representative Khan for her years of tremendous advocacy in support of this project. It's been great collaborating to get this bond funding authorized!

The Senate also adopted amendments I filed to authorize funding for a bike path and other pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in Wellesley, improvements to Pettee Square in Newton, and complete streets redesigns of major transportation corridors in Brookline.

More Legislative Highlights!

On Monday, the Senate passed three animal rights bills that will allow [animals used in research to be adopted](#), discourage [illegal hunting practices](#), and improve the [safety of puppies and kittens during breeding, sale, and boarding](#).

SENATE BILLS  **PASSED!**

S.2992 PROTECT RESEARCH ANIMALS

S.2993 ILLEGAL HUNTING PRACTICES

S.2994 HEALTH & SAFETY OF PUPPIES/KITTENS

And, last week, the Senate passed a [landmark early education bill](#) to expand access to early education and care across the Commonwealth.

Our current early education and care system is failing too many families and early educators across the state. Fortunately, this bill passed by the Senate aims to improve equity for workers, families, and children through reforms including, increasing state investment in our early education and care providers, creating an early education workforce pipeline to promote early educator training and retention, and providing a framework for expanding subsidies to better address the unmet needs of families.

These bills now head to the House for consideration.

And, lastly, the Senate and House negotiators have reached an agreement on the FY2023 budget, which we will be voting on next week, along with economic development legislation.

As the end of the session approaches, many bills will be passing between the chambers and I'll continue to share updates as they become available.



This week, I also had a wonderful time visiting the Elm Bank Reservation in Wellesley for an event hosted by the Charles River Regional Chamber of Commerce. I am thankful to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for overseeing this beautiful community resource. I highly recommend a visit!

Additional Updates and Resources

St. Mary of Carmen Society's Italian-American Festival - The annual Italian-American Festival is happening this week (July 13th-17th) at Pellegrini Park in Newton. More information is available at the [following link](#)!

Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Grant - The Town of Brookline was awarded a Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish a new cross-jurisdictional shared services arrangement with Newton and Belmont.

Need a COVID Test? - Find a COVID testing location [near you](#).

Looking for a Local Vaccine or Booster? - Locate a [vaccine distribution center](#) in your area.

My office can be reached by phone during office hours (617-722-1639). We are operating under a hybrid model and enjoying our time back in the building together. Email messages may be sent directly to me any time at Cynthia.Creem@MASenate.gov.

Please visit my [website](#) for additional information and resources. You can also stay informed with real-time updates by following me on [Twitter](#). And, if you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, please invite them to [subscribe](#).

Take care,



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