

## REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS

### Year End Greetings



As we turn another page on our 2020 calendars, I think we can collectively look back and agree that it will be nice to put this unusual year behind us. But before we do that, I'd also like to shine a light on some of the good that was accomplished.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our daily schedules, our social lives and family time; it also upended the Massachusetts legislative session this year. Despite the unforeseen changes in our schedule and legislative priorities, my House colleagues and I worked hard to meet the unique challenges that 2020 presented.

Before the pandemic, we were on track to pass an historic **transportation bill**, similar in scope and ambition to the landmark **investment in public schools**, known as the *Student Opportunity Act*, that the legislature enacted in 2019. Instead, however, my colleagues and I had to redirect our efforts to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. We passed major legislation that included provisions to **extend unemployment benefits, protect public health**, and institute landmark provisions for **remote voting in the House** and **mail-in voting for local, state and federal elections** held in 2020. The emergency legislation also included one of the strongest moratoriums in the country **protecting tenants and homeowners from eviction and foreclosure** and created **opportunities for restaurants** to serve alcohol, beer and wine for carry out service.

Working with our colleagues in the Senate, we also set out to address important healthcare, economic, climate and policing reform issues with new, comprehensive legislation. Additionally, I'm also proud of the important legislation that was enacted earlier in the 191<sup>st</sup> Session, including nation-leading legislation to **modernize tobacco control and ban all flavored tobacco; reduce distracted driving**; protect college students by ensuring **higher education financial stability and oversight; ban conversion therapy for minors**; ensure no student in-need would go hungry by requiring **breakfast after the school bell**, and provide supplemental funding for **women's reproductive health** organizations as a result of federal cuts to the Title X program, which was included as part of a supplemental state budget. We voted to help protect the most vulnerable children and families in the Commonwealth by lifting a **decades-old family welfare cap** and passed legislation creating a care registry to **protect persons with intellectual or developmental disability from abuse**. To address the complex health and wellness needs of the Commonwealth's 1.4 million children, the House led efforts this session passing comprehensive legislation to ensure increased access to services and a more holistic approach to **children's health and wellness** supports.

It was quite a year, but our work continues. I welcome your input and opinions on bills that are before the House and you can always monitor and track the status of legislation at <https://malegislature.gov/>. I'll also provide an update on what passed and how it will affect you as a senior in the Commonwealth. Now let's get started with a New Year and a new legislative session!

**Contact Rep. Hogan:** If you need assistance or would like to contact me, please call me at (617) 722-2199 or email me at [Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov](mailto:Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov).

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and enjoyable holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial "K" and a trailing flourish.

Kate Hogan, State Representative

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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