

Dear Friends of 15th Suffolk,

We continue to be grateful for all you're so generously doing to encourage one another and to stay healthy during the coronavirus outbreak.

Addressing COVID-19 hardships remains the top priority of the Massachusetts legislature. As of April 27th, legislators filed over 100 COVID relief and recovery bills. Rep Nika cosponsored 70+. Read on for local and state COVID-19 resources and announcements, and a link to our office [COVID-19 Legislative Tracker](#).

If you have questions or concerns about policy or constituent needs and resources, don't hesitate to reach out at the contact information below.

Local Volunteer and Donation Opportunities

- **THANK YOU for raising over \$4000 in Food and Supplies for 15th Suffolk Neighbors:** We were able to deliver masks and PPE to over 150 youth and elders. Thank you to the sewers, delivery volunteers, and to Wentworth Institute of Technology! We continue to help our Tenant Task Forces and community partners to safely collect and distribute food and supplies to elders, people with disabilities, and school children. To contribute, Venmo Krista your donation at @kmagnuson. Krista buys the gift cards on your behalf, and we deliver them to our four public housing developments and beyond as needed. Don't have the Venmo app? You can drop off grocery or other gift cards (denominations of \$25 or less please) to Rep Nika's house. You can email nika.elugardo@mahouse.gov to make sure she's home. Rep Nika lives at 32 Sheridan Street #1 in Jamaica Plain.
- NEXT WEEK the Office of Councilor Kenzie Bok seeks volunteers to distribute **over 1,000 boxes of fresh produce** to residents of Mission Park on Huntington Ave. on Wednesday May 6th and Friday May 8th from 8:30am - 11:30am! Volunteers will be given masks and gloves. Please sign up [here](#) if you'd like to volunteer. Email Lauren.Brody@boston.gov with questions.
- [Brookline Safety Net Fund](#) provides emergency funding for rent, utilities, food and other needs to anyone who lives, works, or attends school in Brookline. That includes Brookline's METCO families, small business owners,

and employees – regardless of immigrant documentation status. Assistance is available in multiple languages. **To make a donation, click [here](#). If you need support, call 617-277-8107.**

State and City Announcements and Resources

- **Governor Charlie Baker** issued an emergency order extending the closure of all public and private schools through the end of the school year, and the closure of all non-emergency child care programs [until June 29, 2020](#) in an effort to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth. Read the Orders here;
 - [K-12 School Order](#)
 - [Child Care Program](#)
- The **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** (DESE) will issue updated guidelines for schools to support remote learning efforts through the duration of the school year, including expanded STEM learning, and will prepare recommendations to strengthen summer learning opportunities for students.
- The **Massachusetts Department of Higher Education** (DHE) is deferring scheduled repayments for its No-Interest Loan Program for a duration of four months to support relief efforts during the COVID-19 public health emergency. These deferments will help approximately 12,000 students that participate in the \$5 million program annually funded through the repayment of loans.
- **Mayor Martin J. Walsh** and the **Boston Public Health Commission** (BPHC) launched a [new mapping tool](#) to help Boston residents find locations offering COVID-19 testing. The City of Boston is partnering with community health centers to increase access to testing, particularly in neighborhoods experiencing higher rates of COVID-19. Residents are encouraged to call the Mayor's Health Line at (617) 534-5050 to help with health insurance applications, navigating Boston's health care system, and with COVID-19 questions. **Testing is free regardless of insurance or immigration status.** Be sure to call the site first!
- [Six meal sites](#) in the City of Boston are now serving adults, in addition to children and youth, Monday through Friday.
 - The YMCA at Egleston Square in Roxbury, the YMCA at Oak Square in Brighton, and the YMCA on Bremen Street in East Boston are open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- BCYF Leahy Holloran in Dorchester and BCYF Mattahunt in Mattapan are open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- The Mary Ellen McCormack in South Boston is open 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Local Resources, Announcements, and Events

- **Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;** Rosie's Place has compiled a [list of resources](#) for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, the Brigham and Women's Hospital has the [Passageway Program](#), and there is a [robust network of DV programs](#) at the Boston Public Health Commission's Family Justice Center.
- **Project Bread's** FoodSource Hotline is open six days a week and our staff is prepared to answer any questions families may have, in 160 languages. You can call them at **800-645-8333**.
- Enjoy Mission Hill **TRILLFIT's** free [workout classes](#) from the comfort of your home. Intergenerational family friendly classes available.
- To provide "state-of-the-science" information and keep us all connected during this time, **Boston University School of Public Health** launched a [Coronavirus Seminar Series](#), airing every Thursday at 4 PM EST.

COVID-19 Legislation Update

Rep Elugardo cosponsored about 70 COVID relief and recovery bills covering issue areas including, but not limited to, wages and employment, cash assistance, small business and nonprofit relief, decarceration, and safe elections. Below we highlight a few bills. View the current full list by issue area [here](#). The Rep is working with Rep Connolly, City Life/Vida Urbana, the Renters Rising Coalition, and others to advocate for additional housing legislation to address recovery needs after the recently passed moratorium on evictions and foreclosures ends. Read the moratorium legislation [here](#).

- **HD.5036:** An Act to provide equal stimulus checks to immigrant taxpayers, *Representative Christine Barber*
- **HD.5040:** An Act relative to providing relief for micro businesses for the duration of executive order 591 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, *Representative Carlos González*

- **H.4652:** An Act regarding decarceration and COVID-19, *Representative Lindsay Sabadosa*
- **H.4622:** An Act to provide short-term relief for families in deep poverty, *Representative Marjorie C. Decker*
- **H.4667:** An Act relative to long term care facility and elder housing COVID-19 reporting, *Representative Ruth B. Balse*
- **HD.5042:** An Act assisting non-profits to provide for COVID-19 unemployment benefits, *Representative Paul McMurtry and Representative Nika Elugardo*
- **HD.5031:** An Act providing hazard pay for essential workers in the COVID-19 emergency, *Representative Maria Duaine Robinson*
- **HD.4945:** An Act providing for emergency cash assistance in response to COVID-19, *Representative Tami L. Gouveia*
- **H.4634:** An Act providing emergency access to equity and justice for all in response to COVID-19, *Representative Liz Miranda*
- **HD.5014:** An Act to enact emergency financial protections and forbearance for consumers and small business during the COVID-19 pandemic, *Representative James M. Murphy*
- **HD.5038:** An Act to provide liability protections for contractors, sub-contractors and unions during the COVID-19 Pandemic, *Representative Paul W. Mark*
- **HD.5048:** An Act relative to compensation for paramedics and emergency medical technicians providing ambulance services during the COVID-19, *Representative Claire D. Cronin*
- **S.2655:** An Act concerning business interruption insurance, *Senator James B. Eldridge*
- **HD.5012:** An Act relative to credit rating protection, *Representative James M. Kelcourse*
- **HD.5026:** An Act establishing vote by mail in 2020, *Representative Adrian Madaro*

- **HD.5039:** An Act relative to emergency paid sick time, *Representative Paul J. Donato*
- **S.2653:** An Act relative to voting by mail and early voting, *Senator Cynthia Creem*

For constituents, advocates, or anyone else looking to get in touch, you can reach the office at **617-722-2582**, or **isabel.torres@mahouse.gov!**

You can follow us on social media on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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