



DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

With the completion of a full six months as the North Bay's State Assemblymember, I can hardly believe how fast the time has gone by and how much we have already accomplished together. We've just passed a major milestone with the conclusion of the year's Assembly House of Origin deadline, where every bill has to pass out of its respective "house of origin" such as the Assembly or the Senate.

I'm proud to report that we passed 14 bills out of the Assembly! I'm looking forward to getting our legislation to the Governor's desk. As always, I've been holding a lot of meetings, hearing from constituents, and traveling our beautiful district. I'm excited to share these updates with you in this month's newsletter!



AD 12 UPDATES

UPDATE: Bills Passed Successfully

There Ought to be a Law Winner

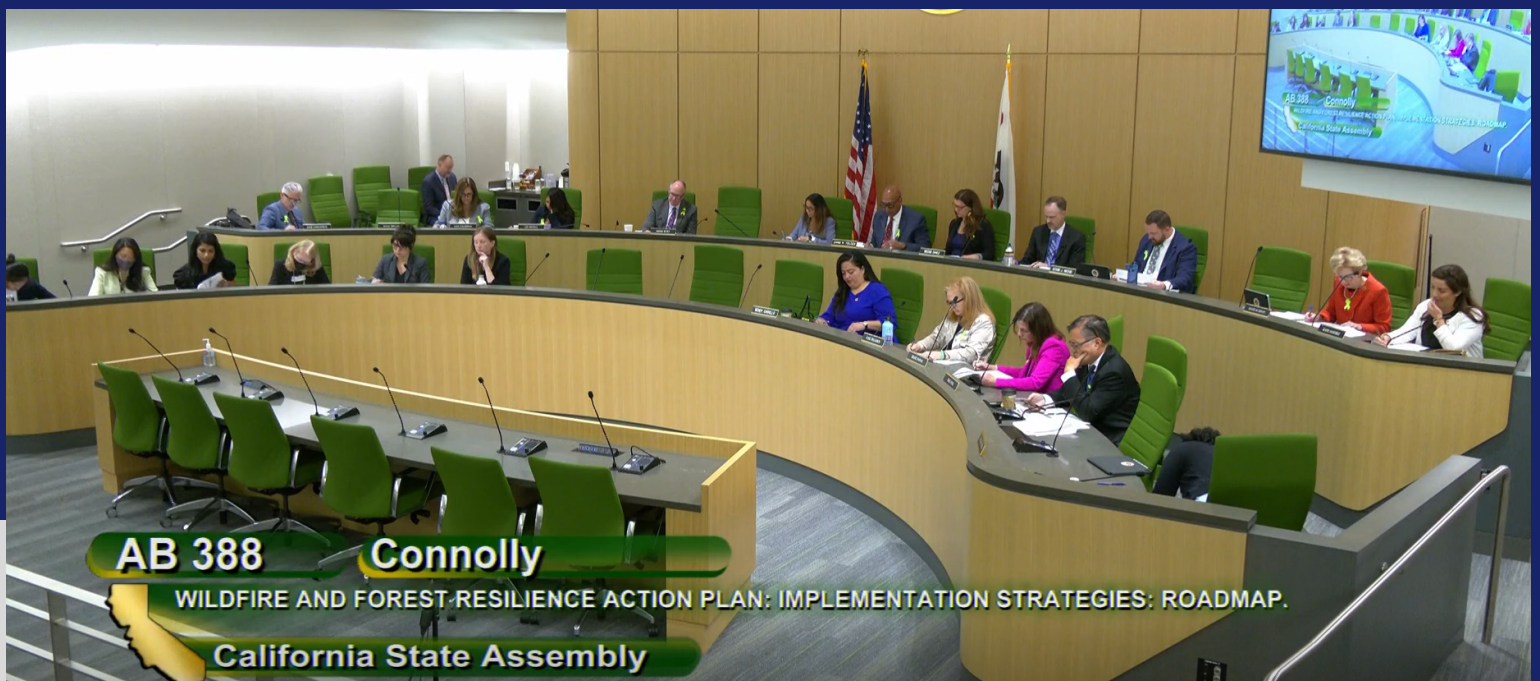
First 100 Days Podcast

Visit from Representative Justin Jones

Bill Highlight: teen suicide prevention

End Gun Violence Press Conference

District Snapshots



BILLS PASSED OUT OF THE ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS & ASSEMBLY FLOOR UPDATE

Thousands of bills are introduced in the Legislature each year. Every year, scores of bills instantly pass or are held back in the State Assembly's Appropriations Committee. It's part of a twice-yearly procedure known as the suspense file hearing. The process releases hundreds of bills to the Senate and Assembly floors, where they can go up for debate before the entire chamber of lawmakers. I'm pleased that a majority of my bills made it out of the Appropriations Committee and have passed a full vote on the Assembly Floor.

Below is an update on which bills have passed and will now be heading to the State Senate. If they pass the Senate, the bills will then be sent to the Governor for his signature into law, or his veto. I am confident that these important bills have the substance and support to make it all the way!

BILLS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED!

AB 92: prohibits the sale of body armor to dangerous individuals who are also restricted from purchasing firearms.

AB 99: restricts the use of toxic pesticide spraying in communities that have banned or restricted pesticide use.

AB 388: expedites the allocation of wildfire grants to local communities.

AB 319: strengthens protections for mobile home residents.

AB 404: streamlines the pathway for small farmers to gain official organic certification.

AB 405: updates the inefficient paper-based registration and payment process system for organic businesses, to an online system.

AB 408 (joint author): proposes a \$3.4 billion bond for the November 2024 ballot to invest in creating a more equitable and climate resilient food and farming system.

AB 620: requires health plans to cover medical nutrition therapy for metabolic and digestive diseases.

AB 935: strengthens enforcement for the flavored tobacco ban to prevent teens from accessing dangerous and addictive products.

AB 953: creates a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program to reduce air pollution and the risk of deadly strikes on whales.

AB 998: issues a report on older biomass facilities to identify opportunities for modernization and emissions reduction.

AB 1109: restricts the sale of the deadly chemical - sodium nitrite - to teens to prevent its tragic use in suicides.

AB 1132 (joint author): extends the limits on fees a city or county may charge for residential and commercial solar energy systems.

AB 1567 (joint author): places a \$15 billion climate resilience bond before the voters on the March 5, 2024, Primary Election ballot.



THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW CONTEST WINNER!

As a North Bay resident for over 25 years, I know how engaged, passionate, and informed our constituents are. That's why I made it a priority to launch our "There Ought to be a Law" contest - where constituents submit proposals for new state legislation to improve the lives of Californians and address the issues most important to Marin and Sonoma County.

After reviewing over 200 ideas from AD 12 constituents, we chose Abby Young's submission about improving 529 college saving plans for kids. A resident of Mill Valley, Ms. Young is the Manager of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Climate Protection Program. With her help, we authored Assembly Bill (AB) 1589, which would allow parents to receive a tax deduction from investments in college savings plans.

I was happy to welcome Abby to a breakfast in our Capitol office for winning the contest. We had the opportunity to talk about legislation, the Dipsea Race, and how we can make college more affordable.

We will be hosting another round of the contest *next year* so be sure to think of more ideas for legislation *you* want to see enacted in the Golden State!

FIRST 100 DAYS PODCAST

I was thrilled to be invited on the *Blueprint for California Advocates* podcast hosted by Kristina Bas Hamilton, the founder and CEO of KBH Advocacy, an advocacy firm dedicated to supporting progressive issues.

In the episode, we delved into my first few months in the Assembly and discussed the learning curve all new members face when they arrive at the Capitol as they learn to navigate the complexity of the California's legislative process to make good on campaign promises.

If you'd like to listen to the episode, [click here](#).





WELCOMING REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN JONES

It was an honor to introduce Tennessee Representative Justin Jones to the State Legislature and recognize him on the Floor of the State Assembly. Rep. Jones made national headlines when he was expelled from the Tennessee State Legislature after calling for gun reform during a protest on the chamber floor. Rep. Jones and his colleague Rep. Justin Pearson were both expelled from the legislature for protesting for more gun safety laws after the horrific mass shooting in Nashville.

On the Floor of the Assembly, we honored Rep. Jones after passing a resolution condemning the Tennessee House for the expulsions and for its attempt to silence the two black lawmakers. Jones, who grew up in Oakland, has been traveling the country, advocating for gun violence prevention legislation nationwide.

It was a great experience to meet and discuss issues with such an inspiring young legislator. If you'd like to see coverage of the press conference, [click here!](#)





BILL HIGHLIGHT: TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION AB 1109 PASSES ASSEMBLY FLOOR!

After reading [news coverage](#) on the rising cases of teen suicides linked to a deadly chemical called *sodium nitrite*, I knew I had to author legislation to address this issue.

In February, I introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 1109, which prohibits online retailers from selling sodium nitrite to anyone under the age of eighteen and restricts these companies from selling the chemical in purity levels above 10 percent. Throughout the country, Poison Control centers have [reported](#) a 253 percent increase in self-poisoning with nitrites and a 166 percent increase in fatalities. At low-levels of purity (10 percent and below) sodium nitrite is commonly used as a food preservative. However, consuming the compound in high-levels of purity can cause fatal poisoning.

While there is no legitimate use for sodium nitrate in concentrations of purity above 10 percent, major online retailers have been selling it at levels of purity up to 99 percent. Consequently, it has become a tragically frequent method of committing suicide by teenagers.

I'm pleased to report that AB 1109 passed out of the Assembly receiving 75 votes and bipartisan support. Now, we will work to pass this important bill through the Senate and get it signed into law by the Governor!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ ADDIS ▲ AGUIAR-CURRY ▲ ALANIS ▲ ALVAREZ ▲ ARAMBULA ▲ BAINS ▲ BAUER-KAHAN ▲ BENNETT ▲ BERMAN ▲ BOERNER ▲ BONTA ▲ BRYAN ▲ CALDERON ▲ CARRILLO, J. ▲ CARRILLO, W. ▲ CERVANTES ▲ CHEN ▲ CONNOLLY ▲ DAHLE ▲ DAVIES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ DIXON ▲ ESSAYLI ▲ FLORA ▲ FONG, M. ▲ FONG, V. ▲ FRIEDMAN ▲ GABRIEL ▲ GALLAGHER ▲ GARCIA ▲ GIPSON ▲ GRAYSON ▲ HANEY ▲ HART ▲ HOLDEN ▲ HOOVER ▲ IRWIN ▲ JACKSON ▲ JONES-SAWYER ▲ KALRA ▲ LACKEY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ LEE ▲ LOW ▲ LOWENTHAL ▲ MAIENSCHIN ▲ MATHIS ▲ MCCARTY ▲ MCKINNOR ▲ MURATSUCHI ▲ NGUYEN ▲ ORTEGA ▲ PACHECO ▲ PAPAN ▲ PATTERSON, JIM ▲ PATTERSON, JOE ▲ PELLERIN ▲ PETRIE-NORRIS ▲ QUIRK-SILVA ▲ RAMOS ▲ REYES ▲ RIVAS, L. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ RIVAS, R. ▲ RODRIGUEZ ▲ RUBIO ▲ SANCHEZ ▲ SANTIAGO ▲ SCHIAVO ▲ SORIA ▲ TA ▲ TING ▲ VALENCIA ▲ VILLAPUDUA ▲ WALDRON ▲ WALLIS ▲ WARD ▲ WEBER ▲ WICKS ▲ WILSON ▲ WOOD ▲ ZBUR ▲ MR. SPEAKER
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Assembly Third Reading
AB 1109 Connolly

FILE:60
▲ AYE 68 ▼ NO 0 VOTE:Majority





END GUN VIOLENCE PRESS CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, May 31, I joined my colleagues on the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, including Co-Chairs Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, Buffy Wicks, and Mike Gipson, as well as gun violence survivors and volunteers to recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and highlight the passage of key gun violence prevention legislation.

At the press conference, I highlighted the passage of my bill - AB 92 - which will prevent dangerous individuals from purchasing military-grade body armor, an item that has become increasingly used by mass shooters to protect themselves against law enforcement.

We also celebrated the passage of AB 28, which will create a new excise tax on firearm manufacturers, firearm dealers, and ammunition vendors in California. The proceeds from those taxes will be directed towards efforts and programs that protect Californians from mass shootings and gun violence, including school safety measures, violence intervention programs, and gun violence prevention.

I was proud to stand with young California activists fighting for a safer future, Moms Demand Action, and other volunteers who are on the frontlines advocating for common-sense gun violence prevention policy.

Watch a video of my full remarks at the press conference by clicking [here](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2023
Contact: Alicia Isaacs
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California State Assembly Passes Firearm Tax to Fund School Safety and Gun Violence Prevention Efforts

Measure Would Impose Excise Taxes on the Sale of Guns and Ammunition, Use Proceeds to Fund School Safety and Violence Intervention Programs

SACRAMENTO, CA — Today, the California State Assembly advanced legislation that would impose a new excise tax on firearm manufacturers, firearm dealers, and ammunition vendors in the State of California. The proceeds from these taxes would be directed towards efforts to better protect Californians from mass shootings and gun violence, including school safety measures as well as violence intervention and prevention programs. Authored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D - Woodland Hills), Chair of the Legislature's Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, Assembly Bill (AB) 28 secured the votes of more than two thirds of legislators.

"It's shameful that gun manufacturers are reaping record profits at the same time that gun violence has become the leading cause of death for kids in the United States," said **Assemblymember Gabriel**. "This bill will fund critical school safety measures and proven violence prevention programs that will save lives and protect communities across California."

The tax, which is estimated to raise over \$160 million annually, will channel funds to the [California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program](#) as well as school mental health services and safety measures, firearm investigation and clearance rate initiatives, firearm relinquishment programs for domestic abusers and other prohibited persons, trauma-informed services for victims of gun violence, and firearm safety education.

"This bill is a transformative approach in tackling gun violence and a crucial step to improve the safety of all California families," said **Renia Webb**, a volunteer with the **California Chapter of Moms Demand Action**. "We are grateful for our gun sense champions and community partners who worked so hard to pass this comprehensive bill that seeks to make our communities safer and target the root causes of gun violence. We urge the Senate to do the same so we can prevent senseless acts of gun violence from tearing our communities apart."

DISTRICT SNAPSHOTS: CAPITOL VISITS!

One of my favorite parts of representing the North Bay is having constituents and local groups come visit our Sacramento office to discuss the issues most important to them and our community. Here are some snapshots from recent visits in the Capitol.



UC BERKELEY & LOCAL STUDENTS

U.C. Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ, Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of Berkeley Law, and local students from the North Bay came to Sacramento for their advocacy day. It was great to hear about the issues most important to my alma mater, and to get an update on the exciting improvements the UC has made to expand access to quality higher education.



PARENT VOICES OF MARIN

Parent Voices is a parent-led, parent-run grassroots organization fighting to make child care accessible and affordable to all families. Parent Voices Marin traveled to the Capitol to discuss their priorities and advocate for important legislation and funding for working families in our community.



NORTH BAY LABOR COUNCIL

Our local representatives from the North Bay Labor Council came to Sacramento to meet for their annual advocacy day. Their unwavering dedication to fighting for workers rights is truly inspiring. Together, we committed to continuing to push for policies that prioritize the well-being of our hardworking communities.



SANTA ROSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

I had the opportunity to discuss local priorities with members of the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber in my Capitol office. We talked about ways to increase support for our local businesses in the North Bay and help them recover after the pandemic.



DISTRICT SNAPSHOTS: TOUR WITH ASSEMBLY SPEAKER DESIGNATE ROBERT RIVAS

In June, Assemblymember Robert Rivas will officially take over as our 71st Speaker. Rivas, who represents San Benito, Monterey, and part of Santa Cruz, is the grandson of immigrant farmworkers and is the first Speaker to represent a mostly rural area of California for the first time in modern history. As he gears up for the role, Rivas chose four districts around California to visit and learn about. I am thrilled that he chose AD 12 as one of those districts. To introduce him to the beautiful, unique, and important parts of the North Bay, we toured a local watershed and water treatment plant at Lake Lagunitas, followed by a visit to one of the Straus Family farms - an organic dairy in Petaluma. Below are some snapshots from the tour!



As always, my door is open and my staff are available to assist you. Feel free to contact me through my website, or by calling one of my offices.

With gratitude,

Damon

Damon Connolly
Assemblymember, 12th District



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