



DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we begin a new year, I want to extend my gratitude for your continued support and engagement with my office in both Marin and Sonoma County.

This January newsletter, the 13th issue, marks the beginning of my second year serving as the North Bay's State Assemblymember. This opportunity is the privilege of a lifetime and I look forward to the work we will accomplish together moving forward.

For this issue, I want to recap some of our priorities going into the new legislative session, as well as new district updates. I hope you enjoy and stay tuned for announcements on plans for this new legislative session!



AD 12 UPDATES

New Bills Introduced

Fixed Utility Charge Press Conference

“There Ought to be a Law” Contest

District Updates

Awards and Scorecards

NEW BILLS INTRODUCED

On January 3rd, the California State Assembly went back into session after the winter recess. We hit the ground running, introducing my first new bill on the very first day of the legislative session. As I continue assembling my new bill package, I aim to continue to target the issues closest to our community in Assembly District 12. The deadline to introduce new bills is on February 16th, and we will be introducing additional legislation before then. A recap of bills I have introduced in 2024 to date can be found below:



AB 828 protects endangered wetlands and access to clean drinking water for small and disadvantaged communities by allowing these communities to use their average annual water usage without being subject to excess fines.



AB 1778 addresses the increasing rate of e-bike collisions from children riding at high speeds by prohibiting individuals under the age of 16 from riding a class 2 e-bike and adhere to proper use of a helmet.



AB 1790 strengthens sexual harassment protections at California State University (CSU) campuses by implementing the recommendations outlined by the California State Auditor's report.



AB 1822 requires that any defendant incompetent to stand trial on a misdemeanor sex offense undergo competency restoration so that they can stand trial and do not have their cases dismissed because of loopholes in court procedure.



AB 1864 strengthens the regulations for pesticide use within 1/4 mile of a school site, requiring thorough documentation with respect to the timing, notification, and method of application of the pesticides.



AB 1926 expands healthcare coverage for metabolic disorders to include enteral nutrition treatment options for patients with digestive and inherited metabolic disorders, saving money statewide.



AB 1999, co-authored with Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, repeals the income-graduated fixed utility charge implemented by the California Public Utilities Commission.



FIXED UTILITY CHARGE PRESS CONFERENCE

NEW LEGISLATION JOINT-AUTHORED WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER JACQUI IRWIN REPEALS INCOME-BASED FIXED UTILITY CHARGE

On January 30th, I participated in a press conference announcing the introduction of a new bill, AB 1999, which repeals the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) income-graduated fixed utility charge. I am co-authoring this bill with Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and legislative colleagues representing districts throughout the state.

The new fixed utility charge is another decision that will unfairly burden ratepayers and further increase costs on working families. This proposal is both unjust to low energy using households and harmful to the important incentives to conserve energy at home. We cannot move backwards on California's clean energy future.

The CPUC has authorized regulated utilities to charge residential energy customers a fixed, income graduated rate. However, this proposal deviates from the energy conservation-based model long promoted by the CPUC. Even under some of the lower proposed flat rates, analyses show that those who consume more electricity will receive a discount at the expense of a low electricity user. An income based fixed utility charge could remove the incentive for the kind of energy conservation that is needed in order to avoid environmental ramifications or energy network complications such as rolling blackouts. Further, this decision has been made without public participation hearings or consideration of its impacts on rooftop solar energy system policies.

This new legislation will repeal the income-graduated fixed utility charge authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission. This bill acknowledges that while a fixed charge may be needed, a policy shift of this magnitude should not move forward without sufficient time for public participation hearings, and that any fixed rate being considered must be in line with national rates.

A link to the press conference video can be found [here](#).

“THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW” OVER 300 IMPACTFUL IDEAS FROM AD12

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW

— 2024 —



Thank you for sharing your “There Ought to be a Law” billideas. Your engagement and creativity will potentially make a significant impact on our community.

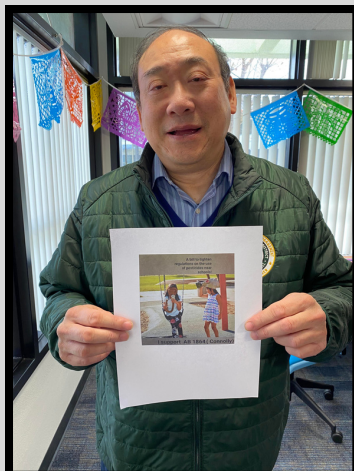
With over 300 submissions, our community’s abundance of fantastic ideas for California law is impressive. Your enthusiasm and dedication to positive change are inspiring. Each submission is being carefully considered, and the winning bill idea, to be announced soon, has the potential to become law across California.

Thank you for being an essential part of this initiative. Your commitment to making our community better is commendable. Stay tuned for updates, and let’s continue to work together for positive change in California.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the winning bill idea in the coming weeks!

GREENFIELD CAREER DAY

On Career Day at a school in Greenfield (Monterey County), Everyday Impact helped spread the word among students, teachers and administrators about AB 1864, my new bill that tightens the regulations on pesticide use near schools.



DISTRICT UPDATES: SNAPSHOTS

Though the Assembly went back into session in Sacramento at the beginning of January, I have still had many great opportunities to attend events, tours, and productive meetings with constituents throughout the North Bay in both Marin and Sonoma Counties. Here are some snapshots of some of the meetings and events my office participated in over the past month. As always, our door is open, if you want to schedule a meeting or send an event invite, please reach out through our website by clicking [here](#).



PRESENTING NOVATO'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD AT "PAINT THE TOWN RED" FOR NOVATO'S BIRTHDAY



RECEIVING THE ADVOCATE FOR HEALTHCARE JUSTICE AWARD FROM SEIU-UHW



FIRST FRIDAY COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE IN PETALUMA



TOUR OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE WITH THE BAY AREA CAUCUS

AWARDS AND SCORECARDS



**ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION AWARD
FROM AUDUBON CALIFORNIA AND
CLEAN WATER ACTION**



**CLIMATE ACTION LEADERSHIP AWARD
FROM MCE**

**Reproductive Freedom Champions
State Assembly**

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry	Wendy Carrillo	Tina McKinnor
Rebecca Bauer-Kahan	Ash Kalra	Blanca Rubio
Buffy Wicks	Eloise Gómez Reyes	Dawn Addis
Pilar Schiavo	Sharon Quirk-Silva	Alex Lee
Gail Pellerin	Akilah Weber	Luz Rivas
Marc Berman	Stephanie Nguyen	Damon Connolly
Cottie Petrie-Norris	Joaquin Arambula	Diane Papan
Sabrina Cervantes	<u>Mia Bonta</u>	Isaac Bryan
Lisa Calderon	Laura Friedman	Lori Wilson
Tasha Boerner	Matt Haney	
Jim Wood	Mike Gipson	

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL CALIFORNIA

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM CHAMPION
100% SCORECARD FROM
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL CA**

Planned Parenthood
Act. No matter what.
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

**PPAC's 2023 Legislative Scorecard
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE CHAMPIONS
CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY**

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE CHAMPION
100% SCORECARD FROM PLANNED
PARENTHOOD AFFILIATES OF CA**

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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