

DAMON CONNOLLY

Assemblymember, District 12

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

I want to extend my gratitude for your continued support and engagement with my office in both Marin and Sonoma Counties.

This May newsletter, the 17th issue, covers this past month serving as the North Bay's State Assemblymember. May marks the end of bills being heard in their house of origin, so it was a busy month in Sacramento!

I'm proud to report that we passed 16 bills out of the Assembly, and this legislation will head on to the Senate! As always, I have been holding meetings, hearing from constituents, and spending time in our beautiful district, and I am excited to share these updates with you!



AD 12 UPDATES

Bill Updates

Budget Wins

**Q&A with the Insurance
Commissioner**

**Rally for a Clean Air
Budget**

Memorial Day in AD 12

District Updates

Capitol Updates

BILLS PASSED OUT OF THE ASSEMBLY

Thousands of bills are introduced in the Legislature every year. Bills then travel through their respective policy committees, and finally are either passed or held in a twice-yearly procedure known as the suspense file hearing. The process releases hundreds of bills to the Assembly and Senate floors, where they can go up for debate and a vote before the entire chamber of lawmakers.

In the final week for legislation to be heard in its house of origin, all of my bills being considered on the Assembly Floor passed! My full list of bills that have passed out of the Assembly and now will make their way through the Senate are:



AB 2416 expands the Safer From Wildfires Program



AB 2196 codifies and expands the Beaver Restoration Program



AB 2734 improves the Healthy Soils Program



AB 2143 moves code sections dealing with fairs to Food and Agriculture Code



AB 1864 strengthens the regulations for pesticide use near schools



AB 1790 strengthens sexual harassment protections at CSU campuses



AB 99 restricts the use of RoundUp on state highways



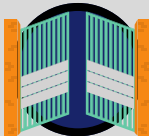
AB 1778 prohibits individuals under 16 from riding a class 2 e-bike



AB 2968 requires improvements to defensible space and evacuation protocols in schools



AB 828 protects endangered wetlands and access to clean drinking water



AB 2149, also known as Alex's Law, establishes specific standards for large vehicular gates



AB 2298, joint authored with Asm. Hart and Asm. Bennett, expands the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies program



AB 2897 expands the definition of a Community Land Trust



AB 1926 expands healthcare coverage for metabolic disorders



AB 1274 adds to the issues under the recommendation of the CA Youth Empowerment Commission



AB 2251 authorizes school districts to exempt students with absences related to physical or mental health from additional graduation requirements

BUDGET WINS

To close out this month, I am celebrating some key budget victories secured in the newly released Joint Legislative Budget Plan (2024-2025), which preserves funding for four key programs that were proposed to be cut or eliminated entirely in the Governor's May Revise budget proposal. Through collaborative effort with my legislative colleagues and advocates in the Assembly Budget Committee and the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy and Transportation, we were able to successfully save funding for the following programs:



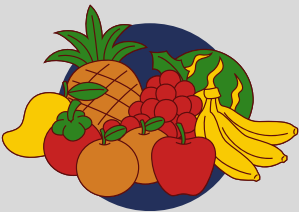
Marine Mammal Center has received an annual allocation since 2015 of \$2 million from the Legislature, which it uses to fund twelve marine mammal rescue organizations up and down the California Coast that rescues and rehabilitates stranded and injured marine mammals.



The Developmental Services Provider Rate Reform was on track to increase rates for providers who deliver care to adults and children with developmental disabilities to address the widespread workforce shortage of direct care staff. The Governor's May Revise budget proposal would have delayed increasing compensation for these vital service providers, which could have disrupted care for thousands of California's most vulnerable residents. The Legislature rejected this delay in support for service providers caring for children and adults with developmental disabilities.



The Active Transportation Program is the state's primary funding source of local projects that encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as walking and biking. Three projects in the North Bay were at risk of losing funding under this cut, including: the San Rafael Canal Crossing Project, Central Marin Regional Pathways Gap Closure Project in Corte Madera, and the Canal Neighborhood Active Transportation Enhancements Project.



Lastly, the California Nutrition Incentive Program encourages low-income individuals using nutrition benefits to purchase locally grown, healthy California fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts by providing incentives to shoppers at certified farmers markets and small businesses. These incentives are also available to low-income seniors. A study conducted by the University of California, Nutrition Policy Institute, found that a majority of CNIP participants are women, 56 percent identify as Latino/a, and on average have 2 children ranging from ages 0 to 5.



Q&A WITH THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

Over the last year, the Assembly Insurance Committee held several informational hearings examining the instability within the insurance market. At the Assembly Insurance oversight hearing on May 15, I had the opportunity to question Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara to shed light on the homeowners insurance crisis and take a closer look at the Insurance Commissioner's Sustainable Insurance Strategy.

In September 2023, Governor Newsom issued an executive order urging Insurance Commissioner Lara to take quick action to address issues within the insurance market and expand coverage options for consumers. The Insurance Commissioner responded by introducing the Sustainable Insurance Strategy, which requires a commitment from insurance companies to write 85% of their statewide market share to wildfire distressed communities, allows for the creation and use of catastrophe models, expands the FAIR Plan commercial coverage limits, and implements further reforms targeted at stabilizing the insurance market.

Assembly District 12 is part of a region that has experienced some of the worst wildfires in recent history, and communities and residents spend thousands of dollars making properties less risky for insurers. However, our residents are still struggling to find affordable insurance.

The Safer from Wildfires Program was developed as a ground-up approach wildfire resilience, and achievable steps for community members to save money on insurance for hardening their homes against wildfires. In conversation with the Insurance Commissioner, I urged for the importance of ensuring that both the Sustainable Insurance Strategy and the Safer from Wildfires Program are tooled so that individuals are receiving direct insurance benefits for hardening their home, and that we are simultaneously reducing the risk of disaster for more vulnerable communities. One of my bills, AB 2416, updates and strengthens the Safer from Wildfires program by requiring the California Department of Insurance to periodically review the Safer from Wildfires regulations to include additional wildfire mitigation measures.

In search of assurance that every possible step is being taken to help the millions of Californians struggling to secure affordable insurance, I inquired about the deadline for the Sustainable Insurance Strategy, and asked a variety of questions related to the millions of Californians currently struggling to find affordable insurance. We discussed the public input that the department has received on catastrophe modeling, the current backlog of insurance rates and how it's being cleared, and how to keep insurers from dropping people who are doing mitigation work to protect their homes.

From catastrophe modeling to the Safer from Wildfires program, watch the full Assembly Insurance Committee oversight hearing [here](#).



RALLY FOR A CLEAN AIR BUDGET

It was a pleasure to participate in a rally held by the Climate Budget Defense Coalition on the steps of the Capitol urging Governor Newsom and the legislature to restore budget funding for programs that deliver clean air, clean cars and healthy homes for Californians. I spoke in support of California's continued investment in fighting climate change and the end of the wasteful oil and gas subsidies, and urged for continued investment in clean air through the budget and a climate bond to ensure that California continues to take decisive action in the fight against climate change. As a member of the Climate Bond Working Group designing and advocating for a comprehensive climate bond, I will continue to fight to end subsidies for our biggest polluters and bring new funding to combat climate change for our great state.

CLEAN EARTH 4 KIDS ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION AWARD

It was a true honor to be awarded as a Clean Earth 4 Kids Environmental Champion! I am so thankful for this organization's tireless dedication to protecting children's health and future, clean air and water, public health, and environmental justice. I pledge to continue to advocate for a clean earth and environmental protections for our children and for the generations to come.





MEMORIAL DAY IN AD12

On Memorial Day our AD 12 community came together to remember the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to our nation. It was an honor to attend the Marin County Memorial Day Observance and to participate in the Mill Valley Memorial Day Parade to honor all who served.



DISTRICT UPDATES:

SNAPSHOTS

Even though I'm staying busy up in Sacramento during the week, I greatly value my time at home connecting with constituents in AD12. I have 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](#).



**SPEAKING AT SONOMA VALLEY
DEMOCRATS SPRING SOCIAL AND
FUNDRAISER**



**JEN PSAKI IN CONVERSATION AT
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY OF CA TALKING
ABOUT HER NEW BOOK**



**HOSTING AN EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS BOOTH IN SAUSALITO**



**SAUSALITO FLOATING HOME
ASSOCIATION DAY IN THE PARK**

CAPITOL UPDATES

SNAPSHOTS

It's especially exciting when I have the opportunity to meet with constituents from AD12 lobbying out in Sacramento! Here are some snapshots of some of the meetings and events my Capitol 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](#).



**DISCUSSING WATER'S EDGE LEGISLATION
WITH HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB STUDENTS**



**SPOKE AT THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
OF REALTORS LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON**



**DISCUSSING HOUSING STABILITY WITH
COMMUNITY ACTION MARIN**



**CALIFORNIA DOMESTIC WORKERS
COALITION EVENT AND SCREENING**



**MEETING WITH THE NORTHERN CHAPTER
OF PEASE OFFICERS RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA**



**MEETING WITH CAMPUS LEADERSHIP
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY**

CAPITOL UPDATES

SNAPSHOTS



REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL
LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION



CONNECTING WITH CALPIRG STUDENTS
ON THEIR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY



MEETING WITH CONSUMER ATTORNEYS
OF CALIFORNIA



DISCUSSING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
WITH THE HABEMATOLEL POMO OF
UPPER LAKE TRIBE



STAR WARS DAY AT THE CAPITOL



LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR APPRECIATION
DAY

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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