

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

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

This June newsletter, the 30th issue, covers the past month serving as the North Bay's State Assemblymember. With the conclusion of our House of Origin deadline, all Assembly bills are now in the State Senate, and making their way through their respective policy committees.

For this issue, I am excited to share updates on legislation, the Sonoma State Commitment, the California state budget, a legislative audit, local resources, new district updates and more. I hope you enjoy and stay tuned!



AD 12 UPDATES

Bill Updates Sonoma State Commitment Budget Agreement June Resolutions Legislative Audit No Kings Local Resources District Updates Capitol Updates

BILL UPDATES

With the conclusion of our House of Origin deadline on June 6th, all Assembly bills are now in the State Senate and vice-versa. As we approach summer recess in the California State Legislature, every bill must pass out of their Senate policy committees by July 18^{th!} Each piece of legislation in my bill package is currently being considered by their respective Senate policy committees, and updates on each of these bills can be found below:





AB 1 strengthens the Safer from Wildfires program to offer insurance relief to people taking steps to harden their homes.

PASSED out of Senate Insurance Committee



AB 258 increases future funding for fairs to improve operation and emergency response.

PASSED out of Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee



AB 846 streamlines wildfire preparedness permitting.

PASSED out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee



AB 419 expands awareness of educational and civil rights for immigrant students.

PASSED out of Senate Education Committee and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee



AB 456 protects mobilehome owners when looking to sell their property. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee



AB 540 clarifies and reforms civil procedure to make civil courts more efficient.

Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee

BILL UPDATES





AB 393 protects civil service physicians and psychiatrists working in prisons. **PASSED** out of Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee



AB 1177 improves CalFIRE staffing, so they can better respond to emergencies.

PASSED out of Senate Governmental Organization Committee



AB 929 protects wetlands and small community water systems.

PASSED out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee



AB 947 enhances the Healthy Soils Program, which incentivizes farming practices that improve soil health.

PASSED out of Senate Agriculture Committee



AB 1096 streamlines lead testing in schools.

Referred to Senate Environmental Quality Committee



AB 1140 authorizes a pilot program for safety improvements in prisons by utilizing single-occupancy cells.

PASSED out of Senate Public Safety Committee



AB 1440 extends pesticide protections for agricultural workers.

Referred to Senate Environmental Quality Committee



AB 806 requires mobilehome park owners to allow cooling devices.

Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee



SONOMA STATE COMMITMENT

After months of turmoil at Sonoma State University, I was gratified to stand with the North Bay Legislative Delegation and CSU leadership to announce the launch of the Sonoma State Commitment initiative. The initiative marks a turning point for the entire North Bay region, building brighter futures and stronger communities for all.

The historic initiative will be the start of the University's next chapter and long-term turnaround plan, which will provide tens of thousands of students in the North Bay region—and from every corner of the Golden State—with life-changing educational opportunities, promising economic futures, and stronger communities.

The initiative will start with a \$45 million state investment which will grow and stabilize SSU's key programs, and restore some faculty positions and academic degrees at the campus. Key components of the Sonoma State Commitment include: building a first-of-its-kind career center to connect students and graduates with local employers, launching an aggressive recruitment campaign to expand college access for thousands of students, investing in new academic degrees to address regional and statewide workforce needs, growing SSU's nursing program to meet the growing demand from patients, regional hospitals and health centers, restoring some key faculty positions to ensure academic success, and helping fund Sonoma State's Athletics program over the next few years.

I am impressed by the collaboration of campus stakeholders, faculty, leadership, and most all, SSU students, for speaking up and standing proud for the future of all Seawolves. This wouldn't have happened without the leadership of the entire North Bay legislative delegation, and I look forward to continue supporting and shaping SSU's success story for years to come.

The long-term recovery plan is the result of months of collaboration and community engagement with state leaders, and represents a turning point for SSU, which has been the home of the North Bay's brightest minds for generations.



BUDGET AGREEMENT

In the midst of Congressional Republicans potentially passing a shameful budget bill that guts social services and threatens our most vulnerable, the California Legislature has passed a balanced and forward-looking state budget that protects critical services, invests in our future, and reflects our values, particularly in the face of economic uncertainty and Federal chaos. As your representative in the State Assembly, I was proud to advocate for a budget that prioritizes wildfire prevention, healthcare, education, housing & homelessness prevention, food assistance, and more.

California's budget fights to protect opportunity and affordability, including preserving healthcare programs for people targeted by GOP cuts and protecting social services to those who are most vulnerable. Among the critical services saved and funding secured in the state budget includes:



Rejects major cuts to IHSS and long-term care



Funds COLA for childcare



\$52 million for food banks



\$209 million for housing and homelessness prevention



\$1 billion to prevent and fight future wildfires



Increases per pupil funding to over \$25,000 per student and rejects ongoing cuts to UC and CSU



Modifies proposal for premiums for UIS adults on Medi-Cal



Modifies proposed enrollment freeze for new Medi-Cal enrollments by undocumented adults



Rejects proposed cuts to Planned Parenthood and women's health providers



Preserves \$100 million to support crime survivors



JUNE RESOLUTIONS

This month, I've been proud to coauthor a series of resolutions that reflect the values we fight for every day – equity, justice, and dignity for all. These resolutions aren't just symbolic, but serve as a reflection of our shared vision for a more just and inclusive California. I'm grateful to partner with colleagues and community leaders who are committed to real progress, and I look forward to continuing this work together.



ACR 90 recognizes June 19th as Juneteenth, a day of reflection, remembrance, and recommitment to the ongoing fight for racial justice. Juneteenth marks the day when the last enslaved Black Americans in Galveston, Texas were finally informed of their freedom, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Together, we remember and reflect on this powerful reminder that while legal slavery ended, the fight for racial justice and true equality remain ongoing.



HR 43 proclaims June 2025 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month, and urges all Californians to join in celebrating the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. Pride is both a joyful celebration and a call to action. Across the country, we continue to see coordinated attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, from attempts to roll back protections to the targeting of transgender youth. In the face of this, we must be unwavering in our support. This resolution affirms our commitment to building a future where everyone can live openly, safely, and with pride.



LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

On June 18th, I successfully passed a legislative audit proposal that aims to improve public health, especially in our farmworker communities, by looking at the use of toxic pesticides and safer alternatives. This audit will help us better understand the enforcement and oversight relationship between the Department of Pesticide Regulations and California Agricultural Commissioners to ensure that pesticide use does not come at the expense of the health of our communities.

In California, we have a two-tiered system of state and local regulators that are responsible for protecting our communities from pesticide harm, and this audit will give an independent review of how well that system is working. This audit is about making sure that the laws we have on the books are working as intended, that our regulators are being effectively resourced, and that our communities are being protected.

Restricted materials are some of the highest risk pesticides used in California, and both the Department of Pesticide Regulations and the California Agricultural Commissioners have a role to play in regulating their use. This audit, focused on restricted materials, will provide a narrowly-scoped check on how the state's pesticide use laws and regulations are working at the state and local levels to protect human health and the environment.

NO KINGS

On June 14th, I stood with our Petaluma community at the No Kings protest. We are facing unprecedented attacks on our freedoms, democracy, and working families at the hands of the Trump Administration. I was proud to join our community in uplifting the voices of Californians, and demanding justice and accountability from our federal government. Petaluma residents sent a clear message – we are the resistance and we are here to stay!









This month, I also had the opportunity to stand with Everytown at the State Capitol in support of the work being done across the state to prevent gun violence. Friday, June 6th was National Gun Violence Awareness Day, and I pledge to continue to stand with survivors, advocates, and families who are fighting for a future that is free from the fear of gun violence.

LOCAL RESOURCES



NAMI Marin County & NAMI Sonoma County provide resources and advocacy for those struggling with their mental health Crisis Line: 988

(415) 444-0480 (800) 950-6264



Legal Aid of Marin & Legal Aid of Sonoma provide low income and vulnerable residents with access to high quality, effective legal services. (628) 253 - 575(707) 542-1290



<u>Canal Alliance</u> provides affordable and comprehensive immigration legal services in Marin County. (415) 306-0437



The Multicultural Center of Marin provides resources to prepare community members to assert their rights. (415) 526-2486



Marin Housing Authority & Marin Health and Human Services assist residents in finding affordable housing. (415) 491-2525



Latino Service Providers provides a variety of resources to Latinx residents in Sonoma County. (707) 837-9577



Center for Domestic Peace provides refuge, resources, and support for those experiencing domestic violence. (415) 924-6616



<u>Community Action Marin provides services to help residents meet basic needs.</u> (415) 526-7500



Community Action Partnership Sonoma County provides multi-generational support for families. (707) 544-6911



Marin Center for Independent Living provides peer-led, person-centered, one-toone care navigation and other social services. MARIN CIL (415) 459-6245



Enterprise Resource Center is a mental health drop-in center providing immediate assistance to individuals facing mental health challenges. (415) 457-4554

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 <u>here</u>.



JOINED RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT WINDSOR STATION



DISCUSSED CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION WITH THE OAKMONT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION



CELEBRATED THE WESTERN WEEKEND PARADE IN MARIN COUNTY



SANTA ROSA CHILD IN THE WILD EVENT

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 <u>here</u>.



CONNECTED WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALIADOS HEALTH



HOSTED AN AD12 CONSTITUENT AND VETERAN IN MY CAPITOL OFFICE



CONNECTED WITH THE CALIFORNIA IRISH CONSUL GENERAL, MICHEÁL SMITH, IN MY CAPITOL OFFICE



MET WITH THE CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN BIKING COALITION



BEGAN HEARING SENATE BILLS IN THE ASSEMBLY ESTM COMMITTEE



HONORING SUZANNE FORD ON THE ASSEMBLY FLOOR

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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San Rafael

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Petaluma

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Santa Rosa

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