



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Representative Kane receives committee assignments for 2021-2022 session

Shrewsbury legislator will continue to play a key role on public health issues

BOSTON – House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading) has re-appointed State Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) as the Ranking Minority Member of the Joint Committee on Public Health for the 2021-2022 legislative session, and has also named her as the Ranking Minority Member of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

“As a member of the House of Representatives, Hannah has been a tireless advocate for improving the delivery of health care services and ensuring equal access for all residents of the Commonwealth,” said Representative Jones. “Due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, public health issues will continue to dominate the Legislature’s agenda this session, and I expect Hannah to play a key role in determining how the state responds to the many challenges facing our health care system.”

Representative Kane has been a member of the Public Health Committee since she was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2015, and served on the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health from 2016 to 2018. During the 2019-2020 legislative session, she was a lead sponsor of legislation promoting enhanced collaboration between local boards of health and regional school districts, which was signed into law last year as Chapter 72 of the Acts of 2020.

Representative Kane was also successful last year in advocating for the inclusion of language relative to cancer clinical trials and rare diseases in a comprehensive health care reform law that was signed into law on January 1. The new law will make clinical trials more accessible while reducing harmful economic and racial disparities by allowing cancer patients participating in a clinical trial to be reimbursed for reasonable travel and accommodation expenses.

The new law also includes Representative Kane’s proposal to create a Rare Disease Advisory Council to advise the Governor, the Legislature and the Department of Public Health on the incidences of rare diseases in

Massachusetts. Rare diseases are defined as any condition that “affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States, has status as an orphan disease for research purposes, or is known to be substantially under diagnosed and unrecognized as a result of lack of adequate diagnostic and research information.”

In addition to serving on the Public Health and Health Care Financing committees, Representative Kane has also been appointed as a member of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, which she last served on during the 2017-2018 session. She has also been named to the newly-formed Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights and Inclusion, which will be responsible for reviewing current laws and new proposals with an eye on “dismantle(ing) systemic racism and promot(ing) equitable opportunities and outcomes for all residents.”

“I am grateful to the Minority Leader for his confidence in me and the opportunity to serve in leading roles for our caucus on these critically important committees,” said Representative Kane.

A member of the Shrewsbury Coalition for Addiction Prevention and Education, Representative Kane also serves on the Central MA Opioid Task Force. In November of 2019, she received the Massachusetts Public Health Association Legislative Leadership Award in recognition of her work to promote a more effective, efficient and equitable local public health system. Her hometown of Shrewsbury is part of a regionalized public health model partnership with the City of Worcester and other neighboring towns.

Later this month, Representative Kane is scheduled to speak virtually about the creation of the state’s Rare Disease Advisory Council as part of Biogen’s Lunch N’Learn program and at the NORD (National Organization for Rare Disorders) Rare Action Network of MA virtual lunchtime event. Last November, she joined with MassBio President & CEO Bob Coughlin in a one-hour virtual webinar streamed on YouTube live to discuss the Advisory Council and her cancer clinical trials proposal, both of which were endorsed by MassBio.

Representative Kane represents the Eleventh Worcester District, which is comprised of the town of Shrewsbury and precincts 4 and 5 in Westborough.

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