



# Office of Representative Hannah E. Kane *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*For Immediate Release*

Contact: Charlyce Bozzello 617-722-2430, charlyce.bozzello@mahouse.gov  
July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

## **State Representative Hannah Kane Reports on her first 100 Days in Office**

Last Friday marked the 100th day in office for State Representative for the 11th Worcester District Hannah Kane. Eager to contribute as the most junior member of the legislature, Kane wasted no time getting involved on Beacon Hill.

Shortly after being sworn in, Representative Kane was appointed to the Joint Committee on Transportation, the House Committee on Personnel and Administration as well as the House Committee on Redistricting.

As a member of the Transportation Committee, her primary focus has been on MBTA reform and reviewing the Governor's legislation to Fix the T. While the revised bill released by the Committee is now pending in House Ways and Means, the committee was able to provide in the FY16 budget several of the major elements of the reforms the Governor requested, most notably the creation of the Fiscal & Management Control Board and a three-year suspension of the law governing privatization of state services commonly referred to as the Pacheco Law, which will allow the MBTA with more flexibility in determining whether certain operations can be outsourced at a savings to the state's taxpayers.

Another milestone has been the passage of the FY16 budget which the Governor signed into law on Friday. Despite having to deal with a \$1.8 billion deficit, the budget contained no new taxes, did not take a draw from the state's Stabilization "Rainy Day" Fund and held spending growth to 3.5%, while prioritizing increased education funding and local aid to our cities and towns, increased funding for transportation, homelessness and substance abuse treatment, as well as increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Although barely sworn in before the house budget process began, Representative Kane was able to file an amendment in the budget for \$2.24M for vocational school transportation funding. This funding, which came out of the Joint Conference Committee at \$1.75M reimburses school districts such as Shrewsbury that are mandated by the state to provide transportation but do not receive regional school transportation funding since they are not a member of the Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School, and instead pay tuition for students to attend. In FY14, Shrewsbury had received nearly \$90,000 in reimbursement funding for their transportation costs to Assabet from the state.

Prior to budget amendment in the House, this line-item had not been included in the Governor's filed budget or in the original House Ways and Means filed budget, and the line-item had been zeroed out in the FY15 budget as part of the 9C cuts last fall.

In addition to her committee and budget work, Representative Kane has been appointed to both the Financial Literacy Task Force as well as the Central MA Opioid Task Force. The Minority Leader chose Kane as his designee to work on Treasurer Goldberg's Financial Literacy Task Force aimed at improving Massachusetts' current failing grade for financial literacy in residents. She is a member of the sub-committee focused on K-12 education. The task force is due to deliver a report with recommendations to the Treasurer by November.

Worcester County District Attorney Joe Early asked Rep. Kane to join the Central MA Opioid Task Force. She is currently serving on the Treatment and Recovery sub-committee focused on making recommendations that will improve access to and success rates of our substance abuse programs. The sub-committee includes providers, medical professionals, law enforcement and representatives from the Worcester County Sheriff's office, people in long-term recovery and members of organizations helping substance abuse users seek help.

Keeping true to her campaign promise to combat the opioid issue in Massachusetts, Representative Kane spoke at the opening of a new state-of-the-art, 100 bed residential treatment facility in Westborough. She read a tragic poem titled "Heroin" written by Natalie Cribari as a warning to her younger sister - Natalie wrote it 3 months before she overdosed and died. The poem conveyed the devastating effect addiction can have, especially on young people.

In an effort to further discussion on the negative impact of drug abuse, Representative Kane co-hosted a Legislative Briefing with Representative Kim Ferguson (R-Holden) at the State House titled "Impacts of Marijuana Legalization/Commercialization." This briefing was held in anticipation of a November 2016 ballot question on the legalization of marijuana. The briefing featured speakers from a youth marijuana prevention summit that Rep. Kane and Rep. Ferguson had attended which was hosted by the MA Prevention Alliance and held at Assumption College. When asked why the briefing was important, Rep. Kane said, "Looking to the experience of Colorado where marijuana use was recently legalized, we believed it was important to start the conversation here now about the negative impacts on our youth, health, society, public safety, as well as the fiscal consequences to the state of increased use."

Not only active on Beacon Hill, Kane has worked to impact her district directly. She secured \$250K for Dean Park capital improvements - working with Senator Moore who originally included the project in the 2014 Environmental Bond Bill. Securing this funding in the Governor Baker's Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2016 came just in time for the park's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

In April, Kane met with the MA DOT to discuss the status of various local projects and to request re-prioritization of the Shrewsbury's Maple Avenue road paving and sidewalk repairs. This work was undertaken in late June and is essentially complete.

Rep. Kane also collaborated with area legislators and Congressman McGovern's office to restore the I-495/Rte. 9 and I-495/I-90 interchange improvement projects to the list of regional infrastructure priorities. This outcome was reached after learning that the projects were in jeopardy of being removed from the list of projects prioritized for state-wide infrastructure investment. The team working together was very grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration and Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack for swiftly re-prioritizing these 2 projects.

An active and committed community member, Rep. Kane was involved in several events throughout Shrewsbury and Westborough in her first 100 days. She had the chance to speak at the Westborough Memorial Day Observance and walk in the parade. She also hosted an Armed Forces Day Event at Veteran's Inc. in Shrewsbury to thank active and retired men and women for their service. Her House and Senate colleagues that represent communities in the Central MA Veteran's Service District spoke at the event as well, as did local students and guest speaker Secretary of Veterans' Services Francisco Ureña who was introduced by Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.

Rep. Kane has also been involved with students in her district. She participated in a Service Learning opportunity with the Shrewsbury High School student volunteers. She and her daughter Caitlin planted summer squash at the Community Harvest Project in North Grafton with many SHS students. Rep. Kane was also sure to present citations to 6 Eagle Scouts in Westborough and Shrewsbury, as well as to mark the retirements of a 44-year member of the Shrewsbury Fire Department and Shrewsbury's long-time Town Counsel.

Rep. Kane also began her monthly TV show "Conversations with Hannah." Her first episode was on the nearly complete Burns Bridge and the second episode was filmed at the Shrewsbury Farmer's Market and included a discussion with the market managers and Commissioner of Agricultural Resources John Lebeaux. An upcoming episode will be filmed in Westborough at the Farmer's Market with Phil Kittredge of the Westborough Food Pantry as a guest.

As for future initiatives, Representative Kane will be hosting the Inaugural Hannah Kane Charity Classic golf tournament which will be held on Monday, August 17th at The Haven in Boylston. The tournament will raise funds for the Westborough Food Pantry, St. Anne's Human Services and Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services. Although there is already a full field of 144 golfers, donations are still being accepted for these charities. If you would like to

donate an auction item, be a sponsor, or attend the reception, please contact Tournament Chair Beth Casavant at [bethcasavant@gmail.com](mailto:bethcasavant@gmail.com).

Rep. Kane will also be hosting a second annual charitable event along with Matt Beaton, Beth Casavant and John Masiello, during the Spirit of Shrewsbury festivities. This year the Shrewsbury Public Library Capital Campaign will be the beneficiary of the proceeds from the "Let Your Spirit Build" fundraiser held on Thursday, September 24th at Ski Ward, starting at 7pm. The event will feature DJ Jim Vuona. To be a sponsor or buy tickets, you can contact Rep. Kane at [RepHannahKane@gmail.com](mailto:RepHannahKane@gmail.com).

For opportunities to speak with Hannah personally as she heads into her next 100 days, "Coffee with Hannah" will begin in September. One morning a month, Hannah will visit a local coffee shop and look forward to meeting anyone who wants to talk about an issue in an informal setting. This will be in addition to her monthly office hours in Shrewsbury and Westborough for residents who wish to discuss an issue or problem they need help with in a quieter environment. The upcoming times and locations can be found on her home page on [RepHannahKane.com](http://RepHannahKane.com).

You can reach out to Representative Kane's office by contacting her Legislative Aide Charlyce Bozzello or Rep. Kane Directly. Their email addresses are [Hannah.Kane@mahouse.gov](mailto:Hannah.Kane@mahouse.gov) and [Charlyce.Bozzello@mahouse.gov](mailto:Charlyce.Bozzello@mahouse.gov), and their office number is 617-722-2430.



Rep. Kane and fellow transportation Committee Members at Hearing for Governor's MBTA reform bill.



Rep. Kane speaking at opening of Spectrum's new treatment facility in Westborough



Rep. Kane with Parks and Cemetery Commissioner Jim Brown and Parks Director Angela Snell in Dean Park.



Rep. Kane addressing veterans at Armed Forces Day Event at Veteran's Inc., Shrewsbury



Rep. Kane speaking at Westborough Memorial Day observance



Rep Kane recording "Conversations with Hannah" at the Shrewsbury Farmer's Market