



Senator Linda SANBORN

DISTRICT 30

Proudly representing Gorham and most of Scarborough and Buxton in the Maine Senate

Dear Friend,

After countless personal conversations with people in Scarborough, Gorham and Buxton, I came to Augusta with the goal of working together with my colleagues to make real change for Maine people. This session was marked by a tone of civility and respect, and Democrats and Republicans in the Senate sat beside each other instead of being divided by a partisan aisle.

“ I came to Augusta with the goal of working together with my colleagues to make real change for Maine people.”

Our efforts were refocused on protecting the environment, investing in small businesses, supporting working people, laying the groundwork for the success of our children and helping Maine seniors.

We passed a budget that provides \$130 million in property tax relief without raising taxes. We expanded the Property Tax Fairness Credit, increased the Homestead Exemption and made significant steps toward fully restoring revenue sharing. This means more Mainers can afford to stay in their homes and make ends meet.

We fought to make health care more affordable and more accessible. As a former family physician,

I know how important it is to fix our broken health care system. The budget provides sustainable funding for voter-approved MaineCare expansion to provide health coverage to an additional 70,000 low-income, working Mainers. We also passed laws to prevent insurance companies from discriminating against Mainers with preexisting conditions, stood up to “Big Pharma” by passing our sweeping prescription drug reform package, and made it easier for you to get health insurance.

We created the first-in-the-nation statewide earned paid time off policy, with strong bipartisan support in the Senate. No one should worry about losing their paycheck if child care is unexpectedly canceled, if their aging parent has a health scare, or if they have to deal with a flat tire. This bill provides Mainers with some breathing room if and when the unexpected happens, while also protecting small businesses.

These are just the highlights. Looking back this year, I believe we did a lot of good work to make Maine a better place to live, work, raise a family and eventually retire. But I know there is still a lot of work left to do. I promise to keep fighting for your health, family, job and wallet in Augusta next year.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me about the issues that matter to you. Thank you all for your input. It's an honor to serve you in Augusta.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda F. Sanborn".

CONTACT LINDA:

MAIL

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

PHONE

Office: (207) 287-1515
Cell: (207) 939-2879

ONLINE

Linda.Sanborn@legislature.maine.gov
www.mainesenate.org

Looking out for the health and well-being of children

The health and well-being of our children is critical to our future. This year, we passed vital laws to make sure our kids are safe and healthy both at home and in school — by addressing lead exposure and testing, banning vaping in school, and removing a senseless rule so kids can apply sunscreen while they're at school without needing a note from home.

We took steps to help children manage their own well-being, by providing families and teachers with support to help kids with behavioral challenges, adding mental health education to the curriculum, and funding a study to improve our anti-bullying laws.

I was so proud to co-sponsor a bill that bans the dangerous practice of conversion therapy for children in Maine. I'm relieved we were able to take this step in protecting our LGBT youth.

With reports of our broken child protective system mounting, I knew we needed to make changes. I co-sponsored a bill that adds staffing and funding to the office reviewing reports of child abuse. Finally, I sponsored a law to help homeless youth get timely access to the health care they need.

Fighting for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors

Domestic violence and sexual assault victims need all the support we can offer so they can pull their lives back together.

This year, we passed a law expanding the statute of limitations for prosecuting sex crimes from just 8 years to 20 years. **Our new state budget also includes the first increase in funding for sexual assault and domestic violence services in almost 20 years.** A bill supporting this funding was cosponsored by 126 lawmakers, both Democratic and Republican.



Walking in the Scarborough Memorial Day parade with (left to right) Reps. Chris Caiazzo and Shawn Babine, of Scarborough

Delivering on prescription drug relief

Too many Mainers are struggling to afford the prescription drugs they need to survive. At the same time, drug companies and middlemen are making outrageous profits on the backs of hardworking people. It doesn't have to be this way. This year, I joined my colleagues to support a suite of prescription drug reform bills, which earned unanimous, bipartisan support in the Senate. These new laws will make medicine more affordable and more accessible, increase price transparency and hold corporate middlemen accountable.

I'm proud that we were able to go beyond simple fixes and bring real change and accountability to a dysfunctional system.



With Casey Maddock, a Scarborough High School student who was recently appointed to the Maine State Board of Education

Investing in the next generation of Mainers

This session, lawmakers made serious investments in young Mainers' education so they can become successful leaders and workers.

The state budget provides \$18 million for the School Revolving Loan Fund to repair crumbling buildings. It also builds a bridge to a \$40,000 statewide minimum teacher salary by 2022. While I wish it was more to reflect what teachers truly deserve, it's a good start.

Hungry kids can't learn. This session, we standardized the online application for free school meals and made it statewide, expanded "breakfast after the bell" programs, prohibited shaming students who can't pay for meals, and made sure more kids in need get free lunches.

We added \$2.5 million in Career and Technical Education funding and passed a measure to study creating a four-year career training program in high schools. We also increased funding for the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine System and Maine Maritime Academy, to help keep tuition down.

“Thanks to Sen. Sanborn’s work, the new state budget includes \$130 million in property tax relief for hardworking Mainers, seniors, families and small businesses — including an increase in revenue sharing. This will lower tax bills and ensure stable funding for police, emergency response services, roads, schools and other town services.”

- Virginia Wilder Cross, Gorham Town Councilor



With a group of Doctors for Maine’s Future scholarship recipients

Health care is a right, not a privilege for the wealthy

Access to quality affordable health care is about giving you the freedom to have control over your health, your life and your future.

From the start of this session, making health care more affordable and accessible for all Mainers has been our top priority. We’ve passed legislation to protect Mainers with preexisting conditions and preserve the patient protections in the Affordable Care Act, such as coverage for hospitalization, ambulances and maternity care.

This session, we also updated family planning laws and fought to expand access to reproductive health care. Government and insurance companies should not get between a patient and their doctor.

I sponsored a new law to improve primary care spending and better understand how we can lower costs to deliver more efficient and effective health care services.

I also sponsored a bill to continue funding the Doctors for Maine’s Future Scholarship program. This program provides scholarships to medical students at University of New England and the Tufts-Maine Track program. It’s a critical investment in the future of our health care workforce and the health of our communities.

Finally, the Legislature funded Medicaid expansion, which was approved by Maine voters in 2017.

Keeping our promise on property tax relief

Mainers need property tax relief. That’s why lowering property taxes has been one of my top priorities this session. I’m proud to report that this year, we delivered.

On the Appropriations Committee, we crafted and passed a strong, bipartisan budget that provides \$130 million in property tax relief for hardworking Mainers, seniors, families, and small businesses without raising taxes.

We expanded the Property Tax Fairness Credit to provide relief to an additional 13,000 Mainers. Seniors can save up to \$1,200 in property taxes and eligible working Mainers and families can save up to \$750 on property taxes or rent.

We increased the Homestead Exemption to \$25,000 — a \$5,000 increase from the previous year. This means Maine homeowners can take \$25,000 off the value of their home when calculating their property tax bill.

We began restoring revenue sharing, which means municipalities will have more funds to help stabilize property tax rates and fund essential services.

In addition, we added \$111 million in education funding, which will reduce the amount of school funding raised through property taxes. Outside of the budget, we also

passed a law that provides a direct refund of \$100 to those who qualify for the Homestead Exemption.

Reducing property taxes is the number one concern I heard about when knocking on doors in Gorham, Scarborough and Buxton, and I’m pleased we were able to make sure more of your money stays in your wallet.



At the bill signing for the bipartisan budget, which funds \$130 million in property tax relief for Mainers

2019 Legislative Update
Senator Linda Sanborn
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
www.mainesenate.org
(207) 287-1515



With my partner, Jeff,
in the Senate Chamber

SURVEY: Your voice and your ideas matter!

1. What should be our biggest priority next year?

- Making health care more affordable
 - Improving our economy
 - Supporting education, especially career tech
 - Protecting Maine's natural resources
 - Investing in good-paying, green energy jobs
 - Other (please specify)
-

2. What do you think Maine needs to do to strengthen our economy?

- Invest in career and technical education
 - Support companies to create good-paying jobs
 - Support new emerging industries
 - Retain and grow manufacturing jobs
 - Other (please specify)
-

3. What is the biggest challenge you and your family face when it comes to health care?

- Cost of prescription drugs
- Cost of health care coverage
- Lack of transparency and accountability
- Lack of medical professionals in our area

Other (please specify)

4. What do you think presents the largest challenge for education in Maine?

- Student debt
 - Inadequate funding for public schools
 - Inadequate funding for career tech
 - Lack of support for teachers
 - Other (please specify)
-

5. Which of the bills we passed this year was most important to you or your family? If none, do you have any bill ideas for next year?

Thanks for your feedback. Please reach out if you ever need assistance.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please visit mainesenate.org to sign up for my email updates.