



# Senator Stacy BRENNER

DISTRICT 30

Proudly representing the people of Gorham and Scarborough



Welcoming Physician Assistant Angela Leclerc of Gorham and son Ashton, who was honored for his athletic achievements, to the Senate!



Honoring the UMaine Women's Basketball Team, 2024 America East Conference Champions, in the Senate.



Congratulating Emma Homa, Captain of the Gorham Co-op Varsity Girls Ice Hockey Team on a stellar season!

Dear Neighbor,

It has been my sincere honor and privilege to represent constituents like you in the Maine Legislature this session and I take my responsibility to our community very seriously. I believe it is my duty to seek out and listen to what our neighbors have to say and bring their priorities to Augusta. At the heart of what I do as your representative in the Senate is advocate for your needs and ensure that they are heard over the agendas of lobbyists and special interests.

This session, I was proud to introduce and support new laws that make health care more affordable and accessible, address the housing crisis, protect our freedoms, and ensure the well-being of veterans and older Mainers. Some of the top highlights from this session were:

- We protected income tax breaks for retirees.
- We stood up for Maine Dairy Farmers.
- We improved access to lifesaving medication and worked to close pharmacy deserts.

This is good work but we still have a lot to do to make Maine a better place to work, live and raise a family. I will continue to fight. As always, I look forward to hearing from you. This is your seat. I work for you.

“ I’ll always be here to fight for working people in Augusta.”

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# Protecting reproductive rights

Across the country, judges and politicians continue to restrict the reproductive rights of Americans. Fortunately, my Senate Democratic colleagues and I have remained vigilant and are committed to protecting Mainers' reproductive rights.

In the first full legislative session after the U.S. Supreme Court reversed federal protections for abortion, many states took action. In **Maine, we took steps to protect and expand access abortion and reproductive care. We also soundly defeated bills that would have eliminated or restricted access.**

This year, I was proud to support the Reproductive Rights Amendment. This measure sought to clarify the fundamental right to reproductive autonomy, including abortion, under Maine's Constitution. Unfortunately, the bill did not receive two-thirds votes in the Senate or House, so Mainers won't get the opportunity to weigh in at the ballot box.

Two other bills which would have funded critical family planning services and supported the state's health care system and would have increased access to contraception. A majority of lawmakers supported these bills, but they did not secure funding. We must try again.

## Making health care more affordable

Too many Mainers struggle to pay for basic, essential health care. **Our system is both complex and expensive, putting people in situations where they need to choose between paying for necessary care and other necessities like groceries, rent, and utilities. That's why we passed legislation that will improve our health care systems for Maine families.**

We passed my bill making it easier for physical therapists and social workers to be able to join interstate compacts, encouraging more providers to practice in Maine from other states. We worked to eliminate pre-approvals for physical therapy appointments from insurance companies that stood in the way of access to care.

We also worked to improve maternal and newborn health. My bill became a new law requiring insurance companies to cover donor breast milk. Access to donor breast milk is important to ensuring all new babies can thrive in Maine.



Recognizing the stellar student athletes from the Gorham High School Class of 2024! I know they will go on to do great things!



Congratulating Parker Mateja of Wentworth School in Scarborough for his incredible track and field achievements this season.



I got to welcome Portland Symphony Orchestra leaders to the state house and had the chance to learn from them.

## Investing in the next generation

Maine kids deserve the best education and training possible so they can grow up to become successful adults. This starts early. Last year, I supported measures that will help our child care system better meet the needs of workers, families and employers. The increased wage stipends took effect earlier this year and will help workers afford to remain in the child care industry. **I also supported a law that allows more families to qualify for child care assistance. This will ensure more parents can fully participate in the workforce.** Another key initiative allows child care workers to get help paying for their own child care. I'm hopeful it will serve as an incentive for these professionals to continue educating young children. Both of these initiatives took effect July 1.

To keep our promise to local schools and property taxpayers, I supported a budget that fully funds the state's share of K-12 public education funding. We also set \$30 million in the Education Stabilization Fund for use in the event of an economic downturn. This session, the Legislature also supported modest wage increases for education technicians and school support staff. Lawmakers raised wages for ed techs to 125 percent of the minimum wage and raised wages for support staff to 115 percent of the minimum wage. This represents just a step in the right direction.

“On a range of policies, Senator Brenner has been a thoughtful and effective collaborator with leaders on both sides of the aisle. We worked successfully on protecting Maine people from PFAS, saving Maine’s youth camps from excessive regulation that threatened to shut them down, and improving the functioning of the Board of Environmental Protection, to name a few.”

— Sen. Rick Bennett R-Oxford

## Striving for climate resilience

In Maine, our natural resources, our communities and our economy all depend on each other. It’s why I am proud to support policies that protect Maine’s environment and our way of life. As the Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and a member of the Maine Climate Council, I believe we must seriously address climate change from many angles.

This session, I worked on a bill to encourage Maine to site solar energy projects on PFAS-contaminated lands. This partnership can help make our farmers whole while helping Maine reach important renewable energy goals. I am proud that this idea won bipartisan support and went into law this year.

To address gaps in laws protecting natural resources and preventing erosion, we worked to improve enforcement of existing laws and cut red tape in the permitting process, making it easier for municipalities and people to prepare for and respond to damaging storms and flooding.

We created a new fund that will help conserve coastal sand dune systems while at the same time allowing the state to continue to explore the clean energy possibilities associated with offshore wind development. I will continue to push for common sense solutions to combat climate change and work to make Maine a leader in renewable energy.



Congratulating Kirantee Sangsap and Studio Choo11 in Scarborough for being named Maine Home-based Business of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration Maine District Office.

## Rebuilding working waterfront and coastal communities

Whether it is erosion, flooding, or high winds, the worsening impacts of climate change are here. After the severe winter storms devastated Maine’s coastal communities and working waterfronts, my colleagues and I took swift action.

To start, we cut red tape in the permitting process, making it easier for municipalities and people to prepare for and respond to damaging storms and flooding. As one of our final actions, we allocated \$60 million in financial assistance and storm relief.

This funding fills gaps required for rebuilding and recovery, and the programs are designed to support the needs not covered by FEMA and other federal and state programs. It includes critical funding for our commercial working waterfront, business recovery and resilience, and long term resilience efforts for public infrastructure projects. You can view all these resources in the Maine Flood Resources and Assistance Hub at [maine.gov/flood/](http://maine.gov/flood/).

While Maine responds to these devastating storms, we must also look to the future. The newly established

Infrastructure and Rebuilding Commission will be central to this work. I look forward to reviewing its recommendations and working together, including private homeowners, to ensure that Maine’s economy and infrastructure become more resilient. It is vital that we continue to support our communities and working waterfronts.



Catching up with nurses and advocates for health care workers in the halls of the state house.

# 2024 Legislative Update

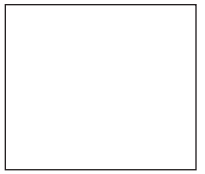
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## Your voice matters. Send me your feedback!

Hearing from constituents, like you, is vital to my work in Augusta. Please fill out the survey below (or just send me your thoughts) to help shape next year's legislative agenda!

1. What is the biggest challenge facing you and your family?

- High energy costs, including electricity and gas
- Access to health care and affordable medication
- Rising rents, mortgages, and property taxes
- Inflation and the rising cost of living
- Lack of good-paying jobs
- Finding quality, affordable child care
- Other (Please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the biggest threat to our economy?

- Need for more qualified workers
- Lack of affordable housing options
- Extreme weather conditions/climate change
- Attacks on our heritage industries
- Lack of supports for families
- Wages not keeping pace with inflation
- Other (Please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How can we build a stronger Maine?

- Improve access to affordable health care
- Invest in training, education, and child care
- Address high energy and housing costs
- Grow Maine's energy independence
- Protect our natural resources
- Create and support good-paying jobs
- Other (Please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What bills would you like to see brought before the Legislature next year?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How can I better represent you in Augusta?

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Thank you for your comments and feedback!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To complete this survey online, go to  
[www.mainesenate.org/2024Survey](http://www.mainesenate.org/2024Survey)