



April 2019

Dear Friend,

Greetings from Augusta! We're more than halfway through the legislative session, and I have lots to report.

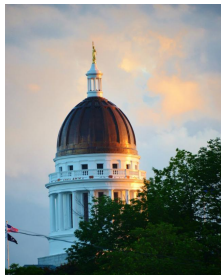
Dozens of bills have made it through committee and to the House floor. **Over 40 of those bills have made it all the way to Gov. Janet Mill's desk** and have been signed into law.

This includes **LD 278, An Act Regarding Pay Equality**. This law will help to reduce the pay gap that exists between women and men, by limiting employers' ability to access a potential employee's salary history. Governor Mills also signed a bill worked through my committee, **LD 91, An Act to Eliminate Gross Metering**. This law will help incentivize the long-awaited growth of the solar industry in Maine.

On a personal level, I have been advocating for a number of bills that I know are important to many of you. Earlier this month, I **spoke on the floor of the House in support of LD 289**, which will prohibit the sale of polystyrene food containers. You can view my full floor speech [here](#). I also rose in support of **LD 944, An Act to Ban Native American Mascots in Public Schools** ([view speech here](#)) and testified on **LD 1313, An Act To Enact the Maine Death with Dignity Act**. This legislation would provide relief to terminally ill Mainers, and ensures that they can handle their illness on their own terms.

I've also spoken up in opposition to bills that do not benefit our district. Last week I testified along with folks from the Camden Snow Bowl to oppose a bill that would have created unnecessary paperwork for small ski areas. I'm glad to say the committee hearing the bill agreed with us and the bill was defeated.

While we've made a lot of progress, we still have plenty of bills left to debate. Pretty soon my Energy, Utilities and Technology committee work will end and we'll add more and more days of session in hopes of passing as much good legislation as we can. That means there's still a lot of time left to hear what you want and need from me. Please reach out with any ideas or feedback you have.



If you'd like to keep up to date with all of my activities in Augusta, you can follow me on [Facebook](#) to learn more. Better yet – come join me at the State House for a morning!

As always, it is an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Vicki

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Advocating for the Islesboro Ferry continues



On April 13, I was on Islesboro to join Kim Grindle, Stan Makara, Bill Boardman, Donna Seymour, Sandy Oliver and others to meet with Transportation Commissioner Van Nott. I'm headed out to the island again tomorrow for Town Meeting.

Familiar faces at the State House



Beth Ward, Duncan Matlack, and Holly Edwards joined me at the State House on April 18.

Shining a light on District 94

I've been pleased to celebrate some milestones in our community by submitting legislative sentiments honoring the retirement of West Rockport Postmistress Cindy Leonard, the 100th birthday of Louise Bedell of Camden, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of The Camden Herald. Please let me know if you have a significant occasion you'd like me to bring to the Legislature's attention.

The High Cost of Prescription Drugs

Join me at a community conversation about this issue on Saturday, May 4th, 10:00-11:30 am at the Hope Town Office Community Room. Sponsored by AARP, the meeting will feature your legislators from Knox County and provide an opportunity for you to share your thoughts about this important issue.

Send your kids to the State House

When the House is in session, the **Honorary Page program** is a great opportunity for students to participate in and learn about the legislative process. If you know an elementary or high school student who would like to serve as an Honorary Page, let me know!! I'd love to show them around the State House.

Free fruits and veggies for eligible seniors

If you are a Maine resident over 60, you may be eligible to receive free weekly farm shares from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. Read more about the Maine Senior Farm Share Program [at this link](#).

Still paying off student debt?

If you work in a STEM field, Alford Leaders can help. The Alford Leaders student debt reduction program provides student loan repayment assistance to people who live in Maine and work in a science, technology, engineering or math occupation at a Maine-based employer. The **current application** period is open until May 15.

