



# Representative **VICKI DOUDERA**



May 5, 2022

Dear Amy,

After many long days spent at the State House, the Legislature has nearly finished its work for the 2020-2022 term, and there is much to report.

To help with the increasingly high costs of goods and services caused by global events like the war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the pandemic, we passed legislation to provide direct relief to the people of Maine. The supplemental budget we approved includes **\$850 direct relief checks** that will be mailed to over 850,000 tax filers starting this June. The budget will also provide income tax breaks for retired Maine residents, expand property tax relief and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to help 100,000 Maine families make ends meet.

Investments in education are investments in Maine's future, so I am proud that we passed legislation this year to significantly support Maine's schools and bring down the cost of higher education. The supplemental budget provides **two years of free community college** for all students in the high school graduating classes of 2020 through 2023, freezes in-state tuition at

the UMaine System and creates the Education Stabilization Fund to ensure the state continues to meet its obligation of funding 55% of public K-12 education costs. We also passed bills to support Maine's career and technical education programs to help students train to fill gaps in our workforce.

Everyone deserves to have affordable and accessible health care, and this year we passed many bills to help more people get the care they need. After the Legislature voted last year to expand dental coverage to over 200,000 Mainers, this year we funded a measure to rebuild Maine's school-based oral health program. We also approved funding to expand access to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to an additional 40,000 Maine kids and passed legislation to bolster Maine's behavioral health programs. I was also proud to vote in favor of legislation to move towards using international pricing to reduce prescription drug costs.

To address Maine's shortage of affordable and available housing, the Legislature approved a bill that allows Maine property owners to build accessory dwelling units in residential areas and up to two units on a lot zoned for single-family housing. The supplemental budget also provides \$22 million to create an Emergency Housing Relief fund to address homelessness and help people with disabilities, mental health challenges and substance use disorder access supportive housing.

On top of all that, we made history by advancing legislation to support the rights of our Wabanaki neighbors, took action to protect our elections from outside interference and passed much-needed legislation to address contamination from PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," in our water and land.

After such a busy legislative session, I am grateful to spend time back home in our towns. I hope to see you soon – perhaps at the Ukrainian Relief concert mentioned below. As always, it is an honor to serve you in the Maine Legislature.



Warm wishes,

Vicki

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## DIRECT RELIEF CHECKS

To provide financial relief to the people of Maine, the Legislature approved sending more than 850,000 Mainers \$850 direct relief checks. The first round of checks will be mailed in June. To find out if you qualify, [click here](#).

To receive your check, you must file a state income tax before October 31, 2022. If you receive social security, don't regularly file or have questions about how to

## HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR UKRAINE

Please join me on May 22 at 2 PM at the Strand Theatre for a free concert to help the people of Ukraine. Donations for UNICEF will be taken at the door and in advance on this [fundraising page](#). We are hoping to raise \$10,000 so please donate even if you can't attend.



**SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022**  
**2-4PM @ THE STRAND THEATRE**  
*345 Main Street, Rockland*

A free concert of hope and strength  
Donations taken at the door for **UNICEF**

**UKULELES FOR UKRAINE**

**HUMANITARIAN AID THROUGH THE POWER OF MUSIC**

**FEATURING THE TALENTS OF:**

<i>David Dodson</i>	<i>Caely McVearry</i>
<i>Alice Limoges</i>	<i>Bella Barnes</i>
<i>Ukes Rock</i>	<i>Camden-Rockport</i>
<i>Midcoast Ukes</i>	<i>Elementary Students</i>

Hosted by State Rep. Vicki Doudera & The Strand Theatre.  
For more information call The Strand Theatre at 207.594.0070

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## LEGISLATIVE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



THE APPLICATION DEADLINE HAS  
BEEN EXTENDED TO JUNE 1, 2022!

# MAINE LEGISLATIVE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Legislature annually recognizes one student from each county with a \$1,000 scholarship. To be eligible, students must be accepted to or enrolled in accredited Maine colleges for graduate or undergraduate degrees.

The deadline for Maine Legislative Memorial Scholarship applications has been extended to June 1, 2022! Each year, the Legislature recognizes one student from each of Maine's 16 counties with a \$1,000 scholarship. To be eligible, students must be currently pursuing or planning to pursue education at a two- or four-year degree-granting Maine college or technical school.

To learn more and apply, [click here](#).

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## WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

May is National Wildfire Awareness Month! As the weather is getting warmer, the risk of wildfires is also increasing. Maine's wildfire season usually begins in March and ends in late November, with the majority of wildfires occurring this time of year. Maine averages 550 wildfires annually, and over 90% of those are caused by people.

To learn more about wildfires in Maine and how to prevent them, [click here](#).

- To view current wildfire data and activity, visit [www.maine-fireweather.org](http://www.maine-fireweather.org)
- To request a free online burn permit, visit [www.maine.gov/burnpermit](http://www.maine.gov/burnpermit)



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