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Representative Kane receives committee assignments for 2023-2024 legislative session
Shrewsbury legislator is re-appointed as ranking member on Public Health, Health Care Financing committees

BOSTON – House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading) has re-appointed State Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) as the Ranking Minority Member of the Joint Committees on Public Health and Health Care Financing for the 2023-2024 legislative session.

The Shrewsbury legislator, who was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2015, has also been named as the Ranking Minority Member for the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs and will serve as a member of the House Ethics Committee.

“Throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic, Hannah played a pivotal role in determining the Legislature’s response to this unprecedented and challenging public health crisis,” said Rep. Jones. “Her longtime advocacy efforts to ensure that all residents of the Commonwealth have access to quality, affordable health care is something that will continue as she resumes her committee work in the new legislative session.”

Rep. Kane has been a member of the Joint Committee on Public Health since 2015 and the Ranking Minority Member on the committee since 2017. She was first appointed as the Ranking Minority Member of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing in 2021, and this session will be serving on the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs and the House Ethics Committee for the first time.

A member of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health from 2016 to 2018, Rep. Kane has sponsored several key public health initiatives that were signed into law, including a 2020 law to promote enhanced collaboration between local boards of health and regional school districts. In November of 2019, she received the Massachusetts Public Health Association Legislative Leadership Award in recognition of her work to promote a more effective, efficient and equitable local public health system. Her hometown of Shrewsbury is part of a regionalized public health model partnership with the City of Worcester and other neighboring towns.

Two Rep. Kane-sponsored initiatives relative to cancer clinical trials and rare diseases were included in a comprehensive 2021 health care reform law. In addition to allowing cancer patients participating in a clinical trial to be reimbursed for reasonable travel and accommodation expenses, the law created a Rare Disease Advisory Council to advise the Governor, the Legislature and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on the incidences of rare diseases in the Commonwealth.

In June of 2021, Rep. Kane received a Rare Impact Award from the National Organization for Rare Disorders in recognition of her leadership role in creating the advisory council. She currently serves as Rep. Jones' designee on the council.

Rep. Kane was honored with the Vic Karaian Award from the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association in May of 2022 in recognition of her leadership and primary sponsorship of the Statewide Accelerated Public Health for Every Community Act (SAPHE 2.0).

Rep. Kane is the co-chair of the bipartisan and bicameral Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators and a State Director for the national Women in Government Foundation. Last fall, she launched the MA Legislative Caucus on Cancer Awareness with (now former) Rep. Thomas Golden.

In March of 2021, Rep. Jones appointed Rep. Kane to serve as his designee on the Commission on Malnutrition Prevention Among Older Adults. Established in 2016, the 17-member Commission is responsible for studying the effects of malnutrition on older adults and determining the most effective strategies for reducing it. As part of its directive, the Commission works to develop policies promoting proven, effective malnutrition prevention interventions, including community nutrition programs, medical nutrition therapy and oral nutrition supplements. Rep. Kane is a Co-founder and Co-chair of the Legislature's Food System Caucus, and looking forward to serving as the Ranking Minority House Member on the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs.

In 2016, Representative Kane was presented with the Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB) Harvester Award in recognition of her partnership with the WCFB to help feed hungry people today, while working to create hunger-free communities of tomorrow. In March of 2019, Hannah was recognized by the Worcester County Bar Association as a Public Official of the Year for her bi-partisan work on the Healthy Incentives Program, which helps SNAP clients maintain a more nutritious diet with access to fresh fruits and vegetables locally grown. Her annual charity golf tournament, which is now in its seventh year, has raised over \$500,000 for non-profit organizations in her district, including St. Anne's Human Services/Food Pantry and the Westborough Food Pantry.

Rep. Kane is currently in her fifth term as a legislator. She represents the 11th Worcester District, which is comprised of her hometown of Shrewsbury and Precinct 4 of Westborough.

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