

STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN G. XIARHOS

# BEACON HILL BRIEF

October In-Review

November 6, 2023



Friends,

Welcome to the October edition of my monthly newsletter where you can review some of last month's highlights as your 5th Barnstable State Representative. For a more in-depth breakdown, I release a report every week sharing my weekly highlights across our district.

As always, my office remains committed to having constituent services as our number one priority. If you are having issues with Unemployment, the RMV, or any other state agency, please contact us directly and we will assist you in whatever way we can. I can be reached at my email:

Steven.Xiarhos@mahouse.gov or by phone: (617) 722-2488. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours in Service,



## WELCOME



# JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY HEARING

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10/4/23



## 'LITTLE Z' HOMECOMING ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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10/8/23



## REP. X MEET & GREET HOUSE PARTY IN SAGAMORE BEACH

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10/12/23



## FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION RIDE ACROSS CAPE COD

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10/15/23



# CONTACT US:

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Legislative Aide

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State Rep. Steve Xiarhos  
MA State House, Room 542  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02133

# OFFICE HOURS:

Friday, November 24, 2023

West Barnstable Fire Station  
9:30 to 10:30 AM

Sandwich Public Library -  
MacKnight Room 11:00 AM to  
12:00 PM

Bourne Veterans Memorial  
Community Center 12:30 to 1:30  
PM

# SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: @XiarhosForRep

Instagram: @XiarhosForRep

Twitter: @X4Barnstable5th

Website: xiarhosforrep.com



## PUBLIC SAFETY PRESS CONFERENCE EVENT AT THE STATE HOUSE

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10/17/23



## K9 KITT MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY IN BRAINTREE

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10/19/23



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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10/24/23



## SANDWICH ARTS ALLIANCE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

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10/27/23



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# HAPPY 110TH BIRTHDAY MS. MADELENE!



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On October 31st, I was deeply honored to attend the birthday celebration of Bourne's very own Madelene Barstow Jackson as she turned an incredible 110 years old at Bourne Manor.



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Madelene's faithful daughter Gail, told us that Mighty Maddy's secret is to never speak badly of anyone, stay positive, and take time to smile and laugh every day. Great advice for us all!

A special thank you to the town of Bourne Selectboard, the Bourne Council on Aging, the Massachusetts State Senate, and the Massachusetts House of Representatives for the special proclamations and kind words.  
**HAPPY 110TH MADELENE BARSTOW JACKSON!**



## Rep. Xiarhos Opposes Gun Reform Bill

*Legislation will negatively impact law enforcement and licensed gun owners*

**BOSTON** – State Representative Steven Xiarhos recently opposed a major gun reform bill, saying it will do nothing to reduce crime and will instead have a negative impact on lawful gun owners in the Commonwealth by infringing on their Second Amendment rights.

House Bill 4135, An Act modernizing firearm laws, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 120-38 on October 18. In voting against the bill, Representative Xiarhos cited a number of concerns, including the process used to bring the bill to the House floor, the lack of information on how much it will cost, and the restrictions it will place on law enforcement officers that will severely compromise their ability to perform their job.

The gun bill has drawn strong opposition from the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MCOPA), whose members recently voted unanimously to oppose the bill. The Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) also opposes the bill.

One of the biggest concerns cited by the MCOPA is that the bill's "prohibited areas" provision – which was included in response to last year's Supreme Court decision in the case of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* – contains no comprehensive carve-outs for off-duty and retired police officers. An amendment adopted during floor debate only partially addressed this issue in a very narrowly defined manner.

Retired Chief Mark K. Leahy, who currently serves as the MCOPA's Executive Director, also noted that the gun registration requirement included in House Bill 4135 "will do nothing to reduce gun violence or reduce gun deaths," and instead emphasized the need to focus on "the swift and vigilant prosecution of the criminals engaging in these felonious acts, and a renewed embracing of what 'mandatory minimum sentences' means."

On MCOPA's opposition to the bill, Representative Xiarhos said "As you well know, I am a former Deputy Chief of Police with 40 years of experience. I take special note that the bill was opposed unanimously by all 351 municipal police chiefs in this state, as well as 100 university campus police chiefs. These officials are not only the ones responsible for gun licensing but are on the front lines of enforcement. I think it's profound that they all oppose this bill".

Representative Xiarhos noted that Massachusetts already has some of the strictest firearms laws in the country, along with the lowest rate of deaths associated with gun violence. He said the vast majority of gun-related crimes are committed with illegal weapons and not with legally owned firearms, adding that the focus of the bill should be on punishing those who break the law rather than targeting law-abiding citizens.

Representative Xiarhos criticized House leadership for doing an end-run around the joint legislative committee process by attaching the gun bill to a supplemental spending bill in the House Ways and Means Committee and reporting it "in part" with only the gun bill language included. He also criticized the lack of a fiscal note detailing the costs of the legislation, which is required under House Rules for any proposal that is expected to cost more than \$100,000 to implement.

House Bill 4135 now moves to the Senate for its consideration.

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# Republican Legislators Join Forces to Seek State Reimbursement For Municipal Costs of Sheltering Migrants



**BOSTON, Mass.** - State Representatives Steve Xiarhos (R- 5th Barnstable) and Peter Durant (R - 6th Worcester) are joining forces to propose legislation to reimburse cities and towns for municipal costs incurred to support migrants.

According to the bill—HD4610—cities and towns would be eligible for state reimbursement for "their actual and documented costs of providing food, clothing, housing, health care, security and public safety, education, and employment assistance to any migrant, refugee, or other person according to the state of emergency declared by the Governor on August 8, 2023." Regional school districts also would be eligible for reimbursement.

The legislation also directs the state to provide monthly reports on the number of migrants being housed by the state town-by-town, together with an accounting of costs to shelter those migrants. As part of the report, the state would be required to specify how many migrants are being housed in hotels, motels, publicly-owned buildings, and private buildings and residences.

"This bill provides equity to Massachusetts cities, towns, and regional school districts for the crushing costs they are being asked to pay in order to support a sudden influx of migrants into our state," Xiarhos and Durant said in a joint statement. "These costs take away from essential local services for Massachusetts citizens on the local level and place unwanted strain on property taxpayers.

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Xiarhos and Durant say that they are in the process of notifying colleagues of their legislation and hoping to add co-sponsors to it over the coming days.

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# JOIN US!

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## NOVEMBER OFFICE HOURS

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  - 11:00am-12:00pm
- Bourne Veterans Memorial Community Center
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(617) 722 - 2488

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To schedule a meeting with Rep. Xiarhos,  
please email his Legislative Aide, Stuart,  
at [Stuart.Daniels@mahouse.gov](mailto:Stuart.Daniels@mahouse.gov) or call (617) 722 -2488