

STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN G. XIARHOS

BEACON HILL BRIEF

November In-Review

December 11, 2023



Friends,

Welcome to the November 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

NERO'S LAW TRAINING WITH SANDWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT

11/3/23



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERALD SOCIETIES

11/4/23



CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

11/7/23



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT FANEUIL HALL

11/10/23



CONTACT US:

Email:

Representative Xiarhos -
Steven.Xiarhos@mahouse.gov

Legislative Aide
Stuart Daniels:
Stuart.Daniels@mahouse.gov

Telephone:

(617) 722-2488

Mail:

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Friday, December 29, 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

OPERATION FLAGS FOR VETS VETERANS DAY 2023

11/12/23



EFSB PUBLIC COMMENTS HEARING AT CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

11/14/23



SANDWICH THANKSGIVING DAY 5K

11/23/23



JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY FIREARMS HEARING

11/28/23



CONTACT US:

Email:

Representative Xiarhos -
Steven.Xiarhos@mahouse.gov

Legislative Aide

Stuart Daniels:

Stuart.Daniels@mahouse.gov

Telephone:

(617) 722-2488

Mail:

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Friday, December 29, 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

Rep. Xiarhos Supports Long-Term Care Reform Bill to Protect Patients, Expand Workforce

BOSTON – State Representative Steven Xiarhos is backing long-term care legislation that contains enhanced protections for patients as well as expanded training provisions for the industry’s workforce.

House Bill 4178, An Act to improve quality and oversight of long-term care, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on November 15 by a unanimous vote of 158-0. The bill reflects several of the reforms recommended in the 2020 report filed by the Nursing Facility Task Force, which was charged with “evaluating ways to ensure the financial stability of skilled nursing facilities; considering the role of skilled nursing facilities within the continuum of elder care services; and addressing current workforce challenges.”

Representative Xiarhos said the bill will help to address persistent staffing shortages at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities and ensure proper safeguards are in place to prevent and contain infectious disease outbreaks among patients.

In light of the COVID-19 global pandemic, which disproportionately impacted older residents in nursing homes, House Bill 4178 requires all long-term care facilities in Massachusetts to develop a customized outbreak response plan. This plan must include clear policies for testing protocols; isolating infected and at-risk patients; notifying residents, their families, visitors, and staff about any contagious disease outbreaks; implementing outbreak response measures; and notifying public health officials of any outbreaks that occur.

Representative Xiarhos said H4178 also strengthens the AG’s ability to crack down on long-term care facilities that are found liable for abusing or neglecting their patients by increasing financial penalties five-fold and expanding the statute of limitations governing when the AG can bring civil charges from two years to four years. Under the bill, fines will increase

dependent on cases in which bodily harm, sexual assault, or death results.

In addition, House Bill 4178 enhances the Department of Public Health’s ability to monitor long-term care facilities and to take decisive action when violations occur. This includes providing DPH with the power to limit, restrict, suspend, or revoke a license for cause and to appoint temporary managers to help bring facilities into compliance with acceptable standards. All long-term care facilities will also be subject to at least one resident-centered inspection per year to gather information about the quality of services provided at the facility and to determine its compliance with state and federal requirements.

Representative Xiarhos noted that House Bill 4178 also contains provisions for supporting employees working in long-term care facilities. The bill directs the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to establish and administer workforce training grant programs for:

- supervisory and leadership training;
- skills advancement for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and other entry-level workers; and
- career pathways to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN)

These grants can be used to cover tuition costs, childcare and/or transportation stipends, licensing costs, and/or general stipends for program participants...

#



Letter to the Energy Facilities Siting Board on the Mid Cape Reliability Project (11/15/23)



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Steven G. Xiarhos
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

5th Barnstable District
BARNSTABLE • SANDWICH •
BOURNE

Energy Facilities Siting Board
The Department of Public Utilities
1 South Station, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Urgent Concerns Regarding the Mid-Cape Reliability Project

Dear Energy Facilities Siting Board,

I trust this message finds you well. I am writing to you as the State Representative of the 5th Barnstable District, representing the interests of 45,000 citizens in the towns of Bourne, Sandwich, and Barnstable.

Having attended the Public Comment Hearing on the Mid-Cape Reliability Project Change at Cape Cod Community College last evening, I feel compelled to convey the deep concerns resonating among many of my constituents regarding the proposed project.

The environmental impacts, spanning air emissions, noise, traffic, waste, electric and magnetic fields, wetlands, water quality degradation, visual intrusions, and potential risks to public health and safety, have become focal points of contention within our community.

It is my duty to express the collective plea of my constituents that the Energy Facilities Siting Board carefully consider the gravity of these concerns and exercise prudence in evaluating the potential consequences of the Mid-Cape Reliability Project. The controversy surrounding the project raises questions about its ability to provide a reliable energy supply with minimal environmental impact and at the lowest possible cost.

In light of the outlined issues and the evident discord within the community, I respectfully urge the Board not to approve the proposed project until these concerns are adequately addressed and a comprehensive reassessment is conducted.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that your thoughtful consideration will contribute to a decision that prioritizes both the energy needs of our unique and irreplaceable Cape Cod region and the well-being of our constituents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven G. Xiarhos".

Steven G. Xiarhos
5th Barnstable District
Former Deputy Chief of Police
Gold Star Father

THANKSGIVING DAY IN 5TH BARNSTABLE

To celebrate Thanksgiving this year, I was grateful to have joined in on Sandwich's Thanksgiving Day 5k, uniting for a cause that strengthens our community. To see the commitment to supporting local charities like the Cape Cod Military Support Foundation, Bourne Food Pantry, and Sandwich Food Pantry was truly commendable.



I spent the remainder of the holiday alongside family and friends as well as three young United States Marine Lance Corporals – from Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky—who shared their Thanksgiving away from their families alongside mine. Grateful to Shovel Town Flag Company of Easton, Massachusetts and Big Nick's Ride for the Fallen for gifting each of them a beautiful handmade American flag to take back home.

Deeply thankful for the warmth shared with family and friends, and wishing you all love and cherished moments this Thanksgiving.

