

# BECCA RAUSCH

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SENATOR RAUSCH FILES BOLD LEGISLATIVE PORTFOLIO

*Priorities include reproductive health and justice,  
good democracy and governance, and intersectional equality*

Boston, MA – Senator Becca Rausch (D-Needham) filed a wide-ranging legislative portfolio in her first State Senate term, prioritizing advancements in reproductive health and justice, transparency and good governance, intersectional equality, supporting families, and the environment. “I made a commitment to my constituents,” Rausch said. “They want bold leadership from their State Senator. I am less than a month into the session and I am already delivering on that pledge to generate positive change.”

“As we commemorate the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, I am particularly proud to have filed SD.2200, the Pregnant Persons’ Health Act, which would generate significant reproductive justice advancements in Massachusetts, including vesting in pregnant persons an affirmative right to access abortion and abortion-related health care services and protecting that right against undue interference,” said Rausch. The Senator’s reproductive health and justice agenda also includes legislation to reduce pregnant persons’ health disparities, expand access to midwifery services, and provide gender-neutral diaper changing stations in public accommodations.

Senator Rausch has also filed numerous bills to promote good democracy and governance. The first bill she filed, SD591, would require all presidential primary candidates to disclose four years of federal income tax returns in order to appear on the ballot, and move the state primary date from September to June. Of particular importance as the decennial census approaches, Senator Rausch also filed legislation to create a statewide census equity commission, to ensure a complete, accurate, and equitable count of all residents, with particular focus on traditionally undercounted communities. Other good governance elements include no-fault absentee voting, modernization of the central registry of voters, ranked choice voting, and comprehensive information governance for public bodies subject to the Public Records Law.

As part of her intersectional equality portfolio, Senator Rausch sponsored broad reaching civil rights and anti-discrimination legislation, including SD1875, An Act to promote efficiency in co-parent adoptions. “It is unjust that only certain co-parents, such as people in same sex marriages, must spend thousands of dollars and countless hours affirming their parental rights,” said Rausch. “We can remedy this by simply streamlining the co-parent adoption process, while simultaneously creating efficiency in our judicial system.” Senator Rausch also filed legislation to create comprehensive civil rights for persons experiencing homelessness and SD1412, to create an independent commission to investigate claims of identity-based and sexual harassment and assault on Beacon Hill.

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*Senator Becca Rausch was elected to the Massachusetts State Senate on November 6, 2018, to represent the residents of the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District.*