

LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1, 2018

Time flies, doesn't it? This Friday, March 2nd, marks the halfway point of this legislative session and another week closer to the end of the 2017-2018 Legislative Biennium. All bills, with a few exceptions, must be reported out of their final committee by Friday, March 2nd, or they will not be considered by the opposite chamber without that chamber's rules approval.

I want to fill you in on some of the important pieces of legislation that are being worked on at your State House. Contacting your legislators will help boost or stifle the opportunity for passage. **Your engagement is part of our democracy.**

S.289: A bill that would require state contractors to abide by net-neutrality provisions in order to win contracts with the State. S. 289 passed the Senate on February 2nd and is now being debated in the House.

S.40: This bill will raise the Vermont minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 with gradual and steady increases each year. After 40 years of an economy that shifts wealth to the top 1%, S.40 will help struggling Vermonters start to recover and will attract a stronger workforce to our state. S.40 passed the Senate on February 16th and with your help will be taken up in the House after crossover.

S.261: This bill aims to reduce sources of childhood trauma and toxic stress while also strengthening the Agency of Human Services' ability to support these children. S.261 is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Read more about this important bill on the back.

We are all devastated by the Parkland, FL high school shooting. It is yet another in a long line of preventable tragedies. We need to do more to stop these horrific events from happening. This issue is complex. To solely intervene at the point of gun safety is not enough. The root causes for a person to commit such an atrocity need to be addressed (see S.261 as an example). The legislature is working on bills that work on gun safety and the other important aspects of this difficult issue. You can find more information on the back.



(Over)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 8:30-10:00AM

'Coffee with Constituents.'

Lt. Governor's Office, State House, Montpelier

March 5 7:00PM

Hinesburg Town Meeting
CVU, 369 CVU Road, Hinesburg

March 6 Town Meeting Day

March 19 7:30AM

Lamoille Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Breakfast. Lamoille
County Mental Health Services
72 Harrel Street, Morrisville

March 20 5:15PM

We Are All in This Together:
Victories and Solutions in
Vermont Agriculture-Panel
Discussion. Vermont Law
School, Chase Center, Royalton

March 21 12:00PM

'Lunchtime Town Hall'

Live on Facebook @VTLtGov

This live event takes place every Wednesday at noon!

March 22 5:30-8:00PM

Lt. Gov. Movie Series "From the Ashes." Free and open to the public. Pizza served before and a panel discussion after.
Statehouse, Cafeteria,
Montpelier

March 23 8:30-10:00AM

'Coffee with Constituents' hosted by Lt. Gov. Zuckerman in his office at the Statehouse.

This event takes place every Friday!

**For a complete list of events please visit our website:
www.LTGov.vermont.gov**

STATEMENT ON GUN REFORM MEASURES

I have supported universal background checks for many years and Wednesday, February 21st, I was proud to stand with the Attorney General and the House and Senate leaders to announce the process of reforming our gun laws to increase public safety in Vermont. I was also pleased to see Gov. Scott come out in support of gun control and I look forward to working with him to address the other underlying causes as well. The full Senate is debating and voting on language to: require universal background checks, give law enforcement power to remove weapons when they perceive an imminent threat, and more. The conversation has changed and debate is moving because constituents like you are sharing your ideas, making your voices heard, and asking for action. If you would like to read my full statement or watch the press conference you can find them on my website (www.LtGov.vermont.gov) under the 'Press Releases' section.

FACEBOOK LUNCTIME TOWN HALL

I host a **Lunctime Town Hall everyday Wednesday at noon** on Facebook. Three weeks ago, on February 7th, I hosted Senator Virginia Lyons and Claire Kendall, co-executive director of the Family Center of Washington County, as we talked about her bill, S. 261 and Adverse Childhood Experiences (Ace's). To watch that episode, or others, visit the 'Videos' section of my Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/VTLtGov/>. Don't forget to tune in for future episodes!

UPDATE FROM SENATOR PEARSON ON S. 105

By Senator Christopher Pearson

S.105 seeks to protect consumers from contract agreements that make us give up our rights to utilize a product or service. This is standard practice in most contracts where we are not given the option to negotiate the terms. For example, we "sign" contracts by simply clicking "I agree" and are denied the right to sue when we have a grievance (think Equifax). S.105 outlaws the unjust option of being forced to present a complaint in front of a company hired arbiter. Additionally, Vermonters are often forced to seek recourse by travelling far outside the state within a narrow window of time. S.105 deems these terms unconscionable and says that they are unenforceable in Vermont. We would be one of the first states to pass a bill that protects its consumers from such harmful contracts. S.105 passed the Senate unanimously and is now in the House.

VNRC - CLIMATE EFFORTS IN VERMONT

Despite broad consensus that Vermont must tackle the challenge of climate change, our state's contribution to carbon pollution is rising. In short: Our rhetoric far outpaces our actions. There is no time to waste in changing this trajectory. Just last month temperatures at the North Pole were by far the highest winter temperatures recorded ever. Recently the Vermont Natural Resources Council put together an in-depth report related to climate and clean energy efforts in Vermont. In this overview, you will also learn more about a new communications approach designed to keep climate-concerned Vermonters across the state more abreast of what's happening — or what's not happening — in key arenas and how you might help make needed progress on these issues. To read the report, visit my website (www.ltgov.vermont.gov) and scroll to the bottom of the page where you will find it in the 'Resources' section.