



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

On Wednesday, I was sworn in with thirteen other women in the Senate, making up the first-ever women's majority in the Senate Democratic Caucus. As Senator, I'm excited to deliver results for SD 36 and families across the Commonwealth. I have introduced a slate of legislation to support public education, improve the lives of Virginians, lower the cost of living, ensure students are prepared for the challenges ahead, advocate for criminal justice reform, address the mental health crisis, and support first responders.



## Legislation that I have introduced this session

[SB 225](#) Requires that parents receive a letter from their school reminding them about the importance of storing weapons safely so children can access them. We need to do everything we can to prevent gun violence

SB 385 This bill will require the Department of Education establish a work group with experts, professionals, and educators to study the use, integration, and effects of AI technology in our schools and universities.

SB 387 Requires that public schools and teachers are trained and possess narcan to assist students experiencing an overdose.

SB 388 Requires that all mandatory fees are disclosed. This bill will ensure that ticketmaster tells you what you're paying up front. No more confusion on other services because you don't know the real price/

SB 389 This bill re-establishes the Autism Advisory Council.

SB 390 Ensures that children and adults with epilepsy who die under circumstances that are labeled "SUDP", get the autopsies they deserve so we can understand more about these sudden and unexplained deaths so that we know more to prevent these tragic deaths.

SB 391 Ensures that both state and municipal employees, like our firefighters, have the same protections as other people in Virginia when using prescribed CBD products.

SB 392 Mandates that all Emergency Room departments in Virginia have at least one physician present in the ER at all times.

SB 393 Makes diversity and gender balanced board of directors part of the scoring requirement for companies looking to receive a state funded Major Employment Investment

SB 395 Ensures that our student athletes across the state will have a mental health screening during their yearly sports physicals. Helping address the mental health crisis that our students are facing by checking in with them at every chance we have is one way that we can save lives.

SB 586 Requires schools to use alternative approaches with students instead of suspending or expelling them. Working with our students to keep them in school is a top priority.

SJ 26 Studies the cost and impact of our current felonization structure of certain drugs to ensure that we are approaching the drug epidemic in the most appropriate way while ensuring the safety of our communities.

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# Bill Hearing Alert!

**SB 388 - Mandating the  
disclosure of all Junk Fees**

Will be heard on  
Wednesday 1/17 in the  
Senate General Laws  
Committee



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**Life During the First Week in Session**



We gavelled in at noon Wednesday and I was honored to take the oath of office. It has been a whirlwind of activity in my office: meeting new people, new colleagues, and my constituents. My work started immediately, hearing a full docket in the Education and Health Committee. As a former school board member, educator, and mom, I could not think of a better way to start this Session. This week while meeting with constituents, I also met with Justice Forward Virginia and Moms Demand to discuss their legislative priorities for Session.

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## Meet My Staff



Kat Thames, Chief of Staff  
Alex Kellum Legislative Aide  
Caitlin Bennett, Legislative Aide  
Madison Coyne, Legislative Intern  
Colleen Dee Administrative Assistant

I am so excited to get to work with my incredible team!

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**SD 36  
Resolution  
Nominations**

Please send nominations for  
Commending and Memorial  
Resolutions to  
[info@stellapekarsky.com](mailto:info@stellapekarsky.com)

Nominations can include: A new business that has opened in the community, a local group that has started a new project, an individual that has received an award, or, at the family's request, a memorial resolution honoring the life of a constituent in the district, and more!

**Please send all nominations to:  
[info@stellapekarsky.com](mailto:info@stellapekarsky.com)**

While a resolution cannot be guaranteed for all nominations due to the volume we receive, I am looking forward to honoring some of the incredible constituents I will soon represent.



**VIRGINIA HOUSE DEMS**      **VIRGINIA SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**

**VIRGINIA HOUSE AND SENATE DEMOCRATS  
ANNOUNCE FIRST BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR  
2024 SESSION**

**HJ1/SJ1: Constitutional amendments for Reproductive Choice**

**HJ2/SJ2: Automatic restoration of Voting Rights**

**HB1/SB1: \$15 Minimum Wage**

**HB2/SB2: AR-15 Assault Firearm Ban**

Virginia House and Senate Democrats announced the first bills and resolutions for the 2024 General Assembly Session which includes legislation to address the minimum wage, the gun violence epidemic, restoration of rights, and abortion access. [Read the joint press release for more information on our priorities.](#)



**Schedule a meeting with me in Richmond and reach out to our office about legislation that is important to you!**

Email: [senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov)  
Phone: (804) 698-7536

Richmond Office  
201 North 9th Street Room, 621  
Richmond, VA 23219

Richmond Direct Mail  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

**Cheers,  
Stella Pekarsky  
Senator, District 36**

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*Friends of Stella G Pekarsky  
PO BOX 231191 CENTREVILLE, VA 20120*

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