



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

This week, I attended my first Companion Animals Sub-Committee hearing, cast my first votes in committee and on the floor, and presented my budget amendments for the 2024 Session.



Your Democratic Senate Caucus!

Budget Amendment Requests

On Thursday, I presented my priority budget amendment requests to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. These priorities include:

Re-establishing the Virginia Autism Advisory Council. This new council is larger than the previous Autism Advisory Council, and would be comprised of 16 members, 12 of which are non legislative citizens. The Council would provide an opportunity to discuss and advocate for issues that arise in the Autism community.

Providing funding for restorative alternatives in Virginia's public schools. This would add evidence-based restorative practices to the list of alternatives to suspension and to consider these alternatives before resorting to exclusionary discipline to ensure that our students are in school learning.

Establishes a work group headed by the Board of Education, in collaboration with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to study and make recommendations on guidelines for the use and integration of AI technology in education.

Second Week in Session



Last week I had my first Companion Animals Sub-Committee meeting and I voted on bills that strengthened animal protections. I also heard bills in Local Government, Education and Health, and Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committees ranging in topics including emissions regulations, charter amendments, free student lunch in our public schools.

Meeting with Constituents



I met with friends from the Hamkae Center.

I met with advocates from New Virginia Majority, including renters who discussed the impact of rising rent prices.



I was thrilled to have CASA visit to advocate for immigrant and working-class families.



I had the opportunity to meet with multiple medical professionals and discuss ways to better serve our communities to ensure Virginians have access to health and dental care.

UK Labour Party Delegation



On Thursday, along with my colleagues Sen. Saddam Salim and Del. Irene Shin, I met with candidates from the UK Labour Party running for Parliament to share advice and experiences running campaigns in difficult races. I really enjoyed meeting the delegation and celebrating our historic friendship.

Visit My Office



This week I had the opportunity to decorate my office with items that highlight the people that inspire me; Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Kamala Harris, and Barack Obama.

“Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg



SD 36 Resolution Nominations

Please send nominations for
Commending and Memorial
Resolutions to
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

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.



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

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