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**Contact:** Caroline Sherrard

**Phone:** (617) 722-1555

**SENATOR RAUSCH AND REPRESENTATIVE SABADOSA FILE BILL TO  
COMBAT SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AND ASSAULT ON BEACON HILL**

Boston, MA – Senator Becca Rausch (D- Needham) and Representative Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton) filed a bill protecting members of the State House community from workplace harassment in the wake of allegations of sexual assault against Representative Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham).

“Every place of work should be free from sexual harassment and assault; the State House is certainly no exception,” stated Senator Rausch. “When any member of the House of Representatives assaults, harasses, demeans, or disparages a member of the State House community, that member disrespects every colleague in the community, diminishes the voices of every voter who cast a ballot in a legislative election, and affronts every constituent in the Commonwealth.”

“It is impossible for the State House to pass legislation protecting the residents of Massachusetts from sexual assault and harassment if we cannot protect our legislators and aides from it,” said Representative Sabadosa. “It’s time to get serious about ridding the building of this culture, and the only way to do that is through a truly independent agency that understands the unique complexities and power dynamics that exist here.”

SD.1412, An Act promoting equality and respect in the legislature, also filed as HD.2713, creates an independent commission to investigate and report findings on complaints of sexual misconduct and intersectional, identity-based discrimination. The commission will provide a formal complaint process for State House personnel who experience or witness workplace harassment. Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) filed the initial version of this legislation in the 190<sup>th</sup> legislative session. He is a cosponsor of this session’s legislation.

“It’s critical that we create a healthy and safe workplace environment for everyone, and we do that by holding perpetrators of sexual abuse and harassment accountable,” Senator Eldridge said. “I’m grateful to Senator Rausch and Representative Sabadosa for filing this critical bill.”

“I believe we have arrived at a tone-setting and culture-changing moment,” Senator Rausch said. “It is imperative that we protect every single staffer and member of the state legislature, and set an example for the rest of the Commonwealth.”

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