

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 27, 2022

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Media Release

Democrat Senator Valarie Lawson announces her campaign for reelection to Senate District 14 in East Providence

East Providence, RI – Senator Valarie Lawson announced today that she is running for reelection for the District 14 Senate seat in East Providence.

“I am so proud of the work we have done over the last few years that has really helped make people’s lives better,” stated Senator Lawson. “More than any year since I’ve been in the Senate, this past year was so rewarding and energizing due to the number of impactful policies we implemented and bills we passed. I’m running for re-election to continue this work on behalf of the great people of the City of East Providence and the State of Rhode Island.”

Lawson continued, “Specifically, we passed a number of policies that put real money back into people’s pockets. We implemented a child tax credit that gives a \$250 tax break per child to all parents who qualify. We eliminated the state income tax on veterans’ military pensions. We increased the pension tax exemption from \$15,000 to \$20,000, saving money for seniors on a fixed income. And we are ending the car tax so Rhode Islanders will no longer receive a car tax bill after 2023.”

“As a public school teacher, I’m so proud of our investments in education and schools,” said Lawson. “This November, Rhode Island voters will have the chance to approve a \$300 million school construction bond that will help further rebuild and modernize our school buildings. As we have seen with the new East Providence High School, these investments have such a positive impact on how our kids learn and how our teachers teach and make the quality of life better in our communities.”

“We also dedicated \$250 million for affordable housing, \$30 million of which will go to down payment assistance for those who qualify. Homeownership and even renting an apartment has become out of reach for far too many Rhode Islanders. Our actions will help create more housing supply and work to make simply having a place to live more affordable.”

“In the face of loud opposition, we passed critical gun safety legislation to help protect our children, schools and community members from the gun violence that has become all too common across our country. While legislatures in many other states sat back and did nothing, we

took bold action to help prevent gun violence here in Rhode Island by banning high capacity magazines, raising the age from 18 to 21 to buy firearms and ammunition, and prohibiting people from openly carrying loaded rifles and shotguns in public. This important legislation will save lives.”

“I am also especially proud of the foresight we had in the Senate to pass the Reproductive Privacy Act, which codified Roe v. Wade into state law and ensures all Rhode Island women’s reproductive freedoms are protected. I will continue to fight for a woman’s right to make her own reproductive and medical decisions.”

Senator Lawson was also the prime sponsor on a bill that establishes a retail Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) incentives pilot program to be administered by the Department of Human Services. The program will promote healthy food access and nutrition among Rhode Island SNAP recipients, as SNAP households will receive fifty-cents credit on their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card for each one dollar spent on eligible fruits and vegetables at participating retailers. This program will help more than 100,000 Rhode Islanders lead healthier lives.

She sponsored legislation that directs the public institutions of higher education to adopt and execute a process to accept the advanced placement subject test scores of students who obtain a three or better in any advanced placement course for college credit. This allows students to get college credits for AP work done while in high school.

Senator Lawson also sponsored legislation that provides mandatory insurance coverage for treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.

Here in East Providence, Senator Lawson worked to include \$35 million in the state budget for proposed improvements to the South Quay Terminal. This will create a large, integrated, and centralized hub of intermodal shipping designed to support the offshore wind industry. This project will help protect our environment and create jobs for East Providence and Rhode Island residents.

Senator Lawson also passed legislation that extends the current revaluation date in the city of East Providence from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022, ensuring assessments for residents are fair in light of major fluctuations in the housing market.

“We had a very productive session, but there’s still work to be done,” concluded Lawson. “I look forward to continuing my service to the great people of East Providence for another term in the Senate.”

To learn more about Val’s campaign, visit www.ValLawson.com.

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