


**DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 23(b)(3)**

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION	
Name of public employee:	Sonia Chang-Diaz
Title or Position:	Senator
Agency/Department:	Massachusetts Senate
Agency address:	24 Beacon Street State House Boston, MA 02133
Office Phone:	(617) 722-1673
Office E-mail:	Sonia.Chang-Diaz@masenate.gov
	<p>In my capacity as a state, county or municipal employee, I am expected to take certain actions in the performance of my official duties. Under the circumstances, a reasonable person could conclude that a person or organization could unduly enjoy my favor or improperly influence me when I perform my official duties, or that I am likely to act or fail to act as a result of kinship, rank, position or undue influence of a party or person.</p> <p>I am filing this disclosure to disclose the facts about this relationship or affiliation and to dispel the appearance of a conflict of interest.</p>
APPEARANCE OF FAVORITISM OR INFLUENCE	
Describe the issue that is coming before you for action or decision.	<p>The Senate will debate S2564, An act relative to immediate COVID-19 recovery needs, on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, and the debate will include an amendment that I filed to establish an equity and accountability review panel to oversee the spending of money received from the federal government to address COVID-19 and its effects.</p> <p>One of the ex officio members of the panel would be the commonwealth's chief digital officer or their designee, who will not be compensated for their service on the panel. Because of a vacancy in the chief digital officer position, my husband is currently serving as acting chief officer.</p>
What responsibility do you have for taking action or making a decision?	I am the sponsor of the amendment to establish the equity and accountability review panel.
Explain your relationship or affiliation to the person or organization.	If the amendment is adopted by the Senate and eventually becomes law, and if my husband remains acting chief officer, he will be on this panel or appoint someone to serve as his designee.

How do your official actions or decision matter to the person or organization?	If he serves on this panel, my husband would take on the extra duties associated with it. The amendment does not provide for the members of the panel who are appointed by virtue of their position to receive compensation for their service on the panel, so my husband will not receive any compensation as a result of this amendment.
Optional: Additional facts – e.g., why there is a low risk of undue favoritism or improper influence.	<p>The amendment does not provide for any compensation for serving on the panel to members who are appointed by virtue of their position; as a result, the amendment would provide no compensation or other benefit to my husband if he remains chief digital officer if and when the panel comes into existence.</p> <p>The statutory mission of the Chief Digital Officer, per MGL c7D §4C, is 'to improve the public facing web presence and related services for executive department offices and agencies'. Given this mandate, the chief digital officer is an important official to have on this panel and this mandate is the sole reason for the position's inclusion on it.</p>
If you cannot confirm this statement, you should recuse yourself.	<p>WRITE AN X TO CONFIRM THE STATEMENT BELOW.</p> <p><u> X </u> Taking into account the facts that I have disclosed above, I feel that I can perform my official duties objectively and fairly.</p>
Employee signature:	
Date:	11/8/21

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Not elected to your public position – file with your appointing authority.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.