The wonderfully engaged, bright, and energetic students in the “Advocacy for Policy Change” course bring new ideas and new energy to public policymaking.

Grounded in a realistic look at what it takes to advocate for and make significant change in the public arena, they dig into difficult “real world” problems and meaningfully interact with the state’s change agents and would-be (or should-be) change agents.

I have no doubt that their probing questions, insights and ideas have made me a better legislator, and help make for better policy in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As a Brandeis University alum, I am particularly gratified to have had the opportunity over the past six years to help establish and nurture this valuable course, which continues the Brandeis tradition of active engagement with the pressing issues of the time.

It is, in equal measure, exciting and important to see this program now ready to go national. We’ve created a great model here at Brandeis and the Massachusetts State House, and now are ready to use this experience to seed similar programs in other state capitals and to host a national conversation about improving our policies and our politics.

Representative Kaufman hosting the students of “Advocacy for Policy Change” at the Massachusetts State House, March 3, 2015.