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 to help establish and nurture this valuable course, which continues the Brandeis tradition of active engagement with the pressing issues of the time.

I am honored to also serve as the Distinguished Legislator for ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, a national expansion of the important work we have been doing at Brandeis University. We’ve created a great model here at Brandeis and the Massachusetts State House that is now inspiring and supporting engaged citizens across the nation. The network of students, faculty, activists and legislators we are building in ENACT is more important than ever, and I am excited to be a part of its growth and development.

Jay Kaufman is a member of the International Advisory Board of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life.

The students of “Advocacy for Policy Change” with Representative Kaufman’s colleagues at the Massachusetts State House, March 1, 2017.