



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Eddie Day Pashinski

121ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

MARCH 2010

27 East Wing • P.O. Box 202121 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2121 • (717) 783-0686

152 S. Pennsylvania Ave. • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 • (570) 825-5934

Web site: www.pahouse.com/Pashinski • E-mail: epashinski@pahouse.net



Rep. Pashinski demonstrates his support of the United Steelworkers union at a rally in the state Capitol.

Rep. Pashinski works to make Route 309 in Ashley safer

Following a series of meetings with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation officials, Rep. Pashinski said several steps are being taken to slow down drivers on northbound Route 309 in the area where a fatal accident occurred.

A series of rumble strips have been installed across a 500-foot segment of the passing lane of northbound Route 309. Rep. Pashinski said transportation officials are asking motorists to slow down and obey the 45 mph speed limit. Larger speed signs and other advisory signs have been installed at the location.

Rep. Pashinski complimented PennDOT for responding so quickly to address this hazardous situation.

Head Start receives funding

The Luzerne County Head Start was the recipient of \$487,197 in federal stimulus funding to support early childhood education services, and Rep. Pashinski was on hand for the announcement, along with U.S. Rep. Paul Kanjorski.

Both Rep. Pashinski and Congressman Kanjorski visited the Beekman Street center and met with staff, families, and children to discuss the importance of high-quality services in preparing children to do well in school.

Rep. Pashinski said the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is creating and saving jobs throughout the region.

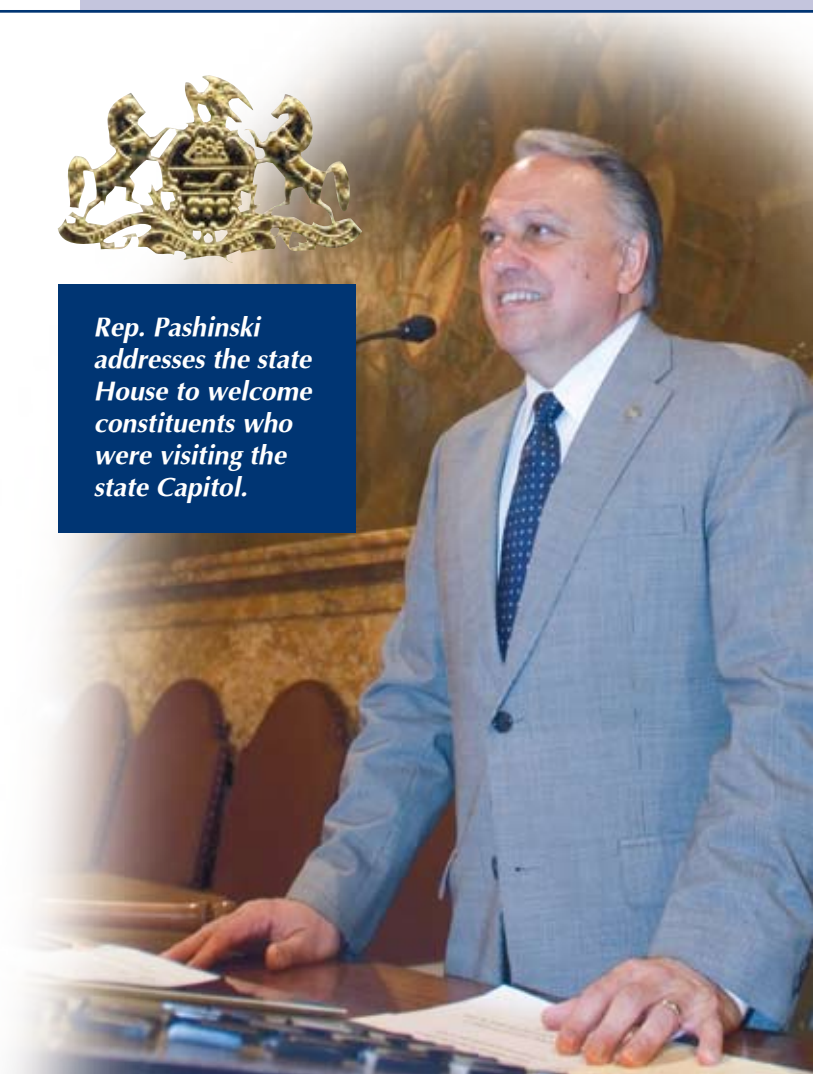
LCHS was one of 19 programs in Pennsylvania awarded ARRA funds to expand the availability of early Head Start services to an additional 106 infants, toddlers and pregnant women. That brings the total number served to 205 in the current service areas of the Wilkes-Barre, Wyoming Valley West, and Hazelton area school districts, and expanded areas in the Hanover, Pittston and Wyoming Area school districts in Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

Rep. Pashinski said early Head Start provides prenatal services to pregnant women and child development and family support services to families with children from birth to age 3.

Rep. Pashinski said the expansion enhances the continuity of Head Start services, from the prenatal period, infancy, toddler, and preschool ages of children.



Rep. Pashinski addresses the state House to welcome constituents who were visiting the state Capitol.



House passes Pashinski bill

The House of Representatives has passed a bill Rep. Pashinski introduced that would require the state Insurance Department to conduct financial examinations at continued care retirement communities in Pennsylvania.

The legislation would allow the Department of Insurance to conduct a financial examination of each facility at least once in the first five-year period after it is licensed and once in the second five-year period. Currently, the Insurance Department conducts an examination at retirement homes once every four years.

Rep. Pashinski said his legislation would give the Insurance Department more authority to conduct financial examinations whenever it's necessary to make sure facilities are operating effectively. He said his bill would make sure there is a better financial review occurring at the retirement

facilities.

Currently, continuing care facilities in Pennsylvania are licensed and regulated by the state Insurance Department. These communities offer an independent living lifestyle for people who do not need constant physician or nurse supervision.

Rep. Pashinski's legislation would allow the retirement communities the ability to offer people a comprehensive package of services tailored to individual needs, abilities and preferences.



Hearing held to hear concerns from veterans



Rep. Pashinski participates in a legislative forum regarding the closure of the Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center in West Pittston and four other facilities across Pennsylvania.

Rep. Pashinski and other House Democratic members participated in a House Majority Policy Committee hearing at the University of Scranton to hear concerns about the closure of the Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Centers, including the one in West Pittston.

Because of state budget constraints, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry transferred the funding to the state CareerLink centers for retraining veterans into stable employment. In addition to the services provided by federal, state and county levels, CareerLink is also adding trained staff to accommodate the Veterans Outreach Services.

The members at the hearing vowed to work out a solution that would meet the needs of veterans within the guidelines of budget allocations.

Pashinski dental assistant bill sent to Senate

The House of Representatives has already passed Rep. Pashinski's bill that would expand the scope of practice for expanded function dental assistants and add an expanded function dental assistant to the Dental Board. It now awaits consideration in the Senate.

Currently, procedures like polishing teeth, providing fluoride treatments and taking impressions of teeth for athletic purposes are only performed by dentists and hygienists. Rep. Pashinski's bill would permit expanded function dental assistants to perform those procedures under the dentist's supervision.

The Luzerne County lawmaker said his bill is also intended to improve access to dental care for patients by allowing expanded function dental assistants to perform more duties in the dental office. This bill also would ensure that expanded function dental assistants are represented on the State Board of Dentistry.

Rep. Pashinski said a Senate committee recently amended his bill to include a provision that would increase the number of members on the State Board of Dentistry from 13 to 15 by adding an additional dentist and an expanded function dental assistant to the board.



Preventing heart disease and stroke



Rep. Pashinski discusses his legislation that would expand Pennsylvania's heart disease and stroke prevention program.

Legislation that Rep. Pashinski introduced to expand the state's heart disease and stroke prevention program has been approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

The bill would expand the program already in place to provide more information on the prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke. The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Rep. Pashinski said the bill would establish a 20-member heart disease and stroke advisory committee, which would include the secretaries of Aging, Health and Public Welfare, and the insurance commissioner. In addition, medical professionals and community representatives would be appointed to the advisory committee by the secretary of Health.

Rep. Pashinski said this is the first step in trying to initiate new processes that deal with training emergency medical technicians and standardizing best practices throughout hospitals in Pennsylvania that deal specifically with heart and stroke diseases.

Health-care forum at Luzerne County Community College a success

Rep. Pashinski participated in a health-care forum in the educational conference center at Luzerne County Community College. Rep. Pashinski, who is a member of the House Insurance Committee, joined members of the Northeast Healthcare Reform Task Force to host the forum titled, "Health Care: The Right Solutions at the Right Time for the Right Reasons."

Rep. Pashinski said the forum was held to present research and conclusions that were developed by the Northeast Healthcare Reform Task Force over the past three years. He said with the debate over the national health-care plan, it was time to present facts and dispel the misconceptions of health-care reform.

The panel, organized and lead by Rep. Pashinski, is comprised of health-care professionals and policy leaders who voluntarily review, analyze and make recommendations on how to reduce the cost of health care while maintaining quality and accessibility.

Sex education awareness for parents



Two bills are pending in the state House in an effort to unify the way public schools teach sex education.

The Notice Home bill, introduced by Rep. Pashinski, would increase parental involvement by requiring that a parental notice be sent home before children take part in sex education programs. Currently, schools don't have to notify parents when students take part in abstinence-only programs. Rep. Pashinski's bill would allow parents to opt out if they choose or continue the class discussion at home.

As a former teacher, Rep. Pashinski said he wants students to be informed with honest, accurate, science-based information that will help prevent disease.

Local school officials rally at the state Capitol for better sex education classes in schools.

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lpo.kaf.0310



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Legislative Update

House passes Rep. Pashinski liquid fuels bill

The House of Representatives has passed Rep. Pashinski's legislation that would help Wilkes-Barre and many other municipalities save money on the cost of maintenance and electricity used to run their streetlights.

The bill would adjust the guidelines of Pennsylvania's Liquid Fuels Tax Law, which sets the amount of state tax allocated to local governments and what they can use the money for.

The state refunds a portion of the Liquid Fuels Tax to local governments according to their miles of eligible highway and population. The tax proceeds may be used to fund or pay down debt on eligible road and bridge construction and maintenance projects.

Currently, municipalities that receive Liquid Fuels Tax funds and that issue bonds to help cover the cost of road improvement projects must use all of the proceeds from those bonds for the road projects. Rep. Pashinski said his bill would expand the ability of municipalities that receive Liquid Fuels Tax money to use a portion of the bonds they issue to pay off debt related to road repairs.

The municipalities would still use their Liquid Fuels Tax revenue to pay the portion of the bond debt that's related to the road projects but a change in the law would allow many communities to participate in a program that would reduce the cost of maintaining and powering street lights.

The state Senate is considering the legislation.



Rep. Pashinski welcomes students from the Dr. Kistler Elementary School to the state Capitol.