New law requires background checks for volunteers

A bill I co-sponsored was recently enacted into law. Last year, Act 153 of 2014 was enacted, requiring background checks for volunteers. Under this new law, as of July 1, 2015, “volunteers” are now required to obtain the following clearances:

- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Background Clearance
- Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Abuse Clearance (for the past 10 years)
- FBI Criminal Background Clearance with fingerprints ($27.50)

NOTE: Those who have already completed the required clearances for the past 10 years are NOT required to obtain an FBI clearance.

The new law requires background checks for volunteers who are responsible for direct contact with children. It should be noted that while the state has a criminal background check requirement, there are no requirements for background checks for school employees, day-care workers and those working with our kids in a professional capacity. We have always required these checks from school employees, day-care workers and those working with our kids in a professional capacity. We should require the same of volunteers who wish to work closely with children and ensure that everyone who has access to our kids has the chance to come forward if anything suspicious occurs.

The Philadelphia region has long been a leader in protecting children’s safety. In my opinion, it is not enough to adopt a law; the law must be enforced. I applaud the Philadelphia Police and Department of Human Services for charging a fee to cover the costs associated with conducting background checks. I have worked with school administrators within my district to help ensure that they are complying with the new requirements.

I have also co-sponsored a bill that would remove the requirement for background checks for those who work with our children but has also increased the property taxes for homeowners and other public tax-owners. Parts of my district have been particularly hard-hit by these new property tax increases, which is why I was glad to see that this focus on a way to help homeowners find relief and finding a solution to the larger structural issues.

Property funding education is a great first step, but Stoll is calling for the implementation of a balanced funding formula, which will ensure that every student in the state is in a safe and drug-free environment. I have also worked on providing more resources to school districts in my district, particularly those hit by these ever-increasing property tax increases.

The past few years have been marked by a significant increase in property tax increases, and to ensure that every student in the state is in a safe and drug-free environment, we need to ensure the budget is funded correctly. The new law requires background checks for volunteers who are responsible for direct contact with children and ensures that everyone who has access to our kids has the chance to come forward if anything suspicious occurs. It is a necessary step to ensure the safety of our kids. We have always required these checks from school employees, day-care workers and those working with our kids in a professional capacity. We should require the same of volunteers who wish to work closely with children and ensure that everyone who has access to our kids has the chance to come forward if anything suspicious occurs.

I have worked with school administrators within my district to help ensure that they are complying with the new requirements. In addition, I have co-sponsored a bill that would remove the requirement for background checks for those who work with our children but has also increased the property taxes for homeowners and other public tax-owners. Parts of my district have been particularly hard-hit by these new property tax increases, which is why I was glad to see that this focus on a way to help homeowners find relief and finding a solution to the larger structural issues.

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Medicaid expansion announced for Pa.

Pennsylvania’s expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act was an important step. It represented a commitment to expanding health care coverage to uninsured Pennsylvanians, which is a win-win-win for the state, for Pennsylvanians and for the nation.

In an announcement, Wolf has committed to fully expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. This move represents a commitment to improving the health and well-being of Pennsylvanians, and I commend Wolf for doing the right thing. I believe the full expansion of Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act represents a commitment to improving the health and well-being of Pennsylvanians, which is a win-win-win for the state, for Pennsylvanians and for the nation.

I have been actively involved in sponsoring and drafting legislation in areas where I feel state action is important. Some of the bills I have introduced at the beginning of this session focus on protecting citizens from violence, strengthening school security and reducing bullying, regulating electronic cigarettes when it comes to minors, municipal pension reform, mandating physical exams during the school year, increasing the transparency of academic assessments and establishing a new credit for video game development within the state similar to the popular film production tax credit.

In addition to these bills, I also work with my House colleagues in co-sponsoring and drafting legislation that I feel is important to our constituents. For information about legislation currently before the House, or if you have an interest or a concern that can be addressed by legislation, visit my website at www.pahouse.com/Briggs.

As a House member, I am actively involved in sponsoring and drafting legislation in areas where I feel state action is important.
Medicaid expansion announced for Pa.

In January I was thanked by Gov. Tom Wolf to be present when he signed a memorandum banning further gas drilling in state parks and forests.

Who qualifies for coverage under Medicaid expansion?

In addition to people who qualified previously, Pennsylvanians aged 19 to 26 with incomes up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) may be eligible for coverage under Medicaid expansion.

What does Medicaid expansion differ from Healthy PA?

Medicaid expansion will allow for eligible adults to be placed into one streamlined adult package. This will increase continuity of care and reduce unnecessary processes to make sure people eligible for uncompensated health care coverage get the care they need.

What will happen to the Healthy and Healthy Plus benefit packages?

The department is currently working on a plan to transition people into one streamlined benefit package. Once that has been finalized, adults in Healthy and Healthy Plus will be transitioned to the new adult package.

What kind of coverage will be provided?

Medicaid coverage meets national standards for coverage. This includes primary care doctors, preventive care, prescriptions, and behavioral health.

What will happen for the expansion?

Federal funds will cover 100 percent of the cost of Medicaid expansion for 2014 to 2016, 90 percent in 2017, 85 percent in 2018, 75 percent in 2019 and 2020 and 80 percent in 2021 and subsequent years.

What do I need to do if I am already covered under Healthy PA?

If you are already covered under Healthy PA you do not have to do anything at this time. As Pennsylvania transitions to the new comprehensive Medicaid system, Members of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services will notify you of any changes prior to those changes taking effect.

What do I want to do if I apply for health insurance?

If you do not have health care coverage, you can apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

In the Capitol Rotunde in March to highlight the important role the arts play in our schools and throughout the state.

Members of the Upper Merion High School Student Art Series or speaking in the Capitol Rotunda in March to highlight the important role the arts play in our schools and throughout the state.

Supporting the arts in our schools

After the frigid temperatures this winter, it is impossible to not notice that our roads are in need of repair. I am grateful that the Upper Merion School District has been able to receive the $80,000 in funding for traffic signal upgrades.

Upper & Lower Merion awarded traffic light grants

Upper Merion and Lower Merion townships will share more than $35,000 in state transportation funding to upgrade traffic signals. According to the Act 89 Transportation Legislation, this funding was the direct result of the Commonwealth budget surplus.

Upper Merion School District was awarded $16,790 to upgrade lights at the intersection of Upper Darby Road and Valley Forge Road at the request of Upper Merion Township.

In addition to Upper Merion’s funding, the School District received an additional $23,240 from Lower Merion Township to upgrade traffic signals at the intersections of Whitaker Road and Valley Forge Road and the intersection of Whitaker Road at Springfield Road.

Members of the Upper Merion High School Student Art Series will perform their nightly concert in the Capitol Rotunda in March to highlight the important role the arts play in our schools and throughout the state.

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Medicaid expansion announced for Pa.

As you may know, Gov. Tom Wolf has announced his intention to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. This move represents a commitment to the health and well-being of thousands of Pennsylvanians who will now be able to acquire health care coverage.

The full expansion of Medicaid under Pennsylvania’s PA Health Access Plan will cover 300,000 additional Pennsylvanians. Expansion will be financed through a 0.5% increase in the state’s personal income tax and a 2% increase in the corporate net income tax, and the state would share 50% of the cost of Medicaid expansion for 2014 to 2016, which resulted from a lack of vision from the legislature.

Pennsylvania’s economic prosperity and educational outlook. As a House member, I am fully invested in sponsoring and drafting legislation in areas I see as important.

Some of the bills I have introduced at the beginning of this session focus on protecting consumers from thieves, underwriting school pools to reduce costs, regulating electronic cigarettes when it comes to minors, municipal pension reforms, mandating physical activity during the school day, increasing the transparency of insurance companies, and establishing a new credit for video game development within the state similar to the popular film production tax credit.

In addition to these bills, I also work with my House colleagues in cross-party pension reform legislation and other bills to combat the shortfall, which resulted from a lack of vision from the legislature.

Pennsylvania is supposed to compensate local governments and to reduce the cost of their drilling activities. However, this is more than the cost of doing business. A severance tax is a great start, an extraction tax would render Pennsylvania less favorable for drilling than our neighboring states, all of which currently impose an extraction tax on production of natural gas.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo lifted a ban on fracking in 2015 to raise $1 billion in severance tax payments during his first term. New York is now a model for other states.

Upper & Lower Merion awarded traffic light grants

UPPER MERION, PA—U.S. Rep. Madeleine Dean and U.S. Rep. Jason Scholfield today announced that Upper Merion and Lower Merion Townships have been awarded funds under the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA)Traffic Signal Program. These two townships will receive $74,700 to fund installation of traffic signals.

In February, I was proud to introduce art students from Upper Perkiomen Area High School to the Colorado legislature where I was the guest of Assemblyman Dan Scanlon and the Speaker of the House.

Art teachers and students from Upper Perkiomen Area High School were warmly welcomed in the Capitol Rotunda in March to highlight the arts. As a proud supporter of the Arts in our Schools Month, I 4-legged a resolution to support grant programs in our public schools.

As chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, I believe art education is an important part of the core curriculum. As a parent of two children, I am proud of my ongoing Student Art Series. My hope is that my efforts and the hard work of the art students will continue.

Members of the Upper Merion High School Art Society performed in the Capitol Rotunda in March to highlight art education programs in our public schools.

My Fellow Montgomery County House Democrats join me at Benjamin Rush State Park to support Gov. Tom Wolf as he leads Pennsylvania into a new era marked by environmental support and respect.

My Norfolk Montgomery County House Democrats join me at Benjamin Rush State Park to support Gov. Tom Wolf as he leads Pennsylvania into a new era marked by environmental support and respect.

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New York Governor Andrew Cuomo lifted a ban on fracking in 2015 to raise $1 billion in severance tax payments during his first term. New York is now a model for other states.

Upper Merion and Lower Merion townships will share more than $130,000 in state transportation funding to upgrade traffic signals with state-of-the-art LED technology. I applaud the federal government for recognizing the important role that traffic signals play in our communities and awarding this to our area. Not only will these funds help eliminate needless traffic, but the installation of traffic signals will also help save energy and money over the long-term.

Lower Merion Township will be awarded $52,420 to upgrade traffic signals at 20 intersections. Upper Merion Township will be awarded $52,420 to upgrade traffic signals at 30 intersections.

These funds go toward funding public education and the arts. This resolution was passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives.

The 2015-2016 legislative session is sure to be a busy time, as we work to restore Pennsylvania’s economic prosperity and educational outlook. As a House member, I am fully invested in sponsoring and drafting legislation in areas I see as important.

Some of the bills I have introduced at the beginning of this session focus on protecting consumers from thieves, underwriting school pools to reduce costs, regulating electronic cigarettes when it comes to minors, municipal pension reforms, mandating physical activity during the school day, increasing the transparency of insurance companies, and establishing a new credit for video game development within the state similar to the popular film production tax credit.

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West Trail linking Heuser Park to Valley Forge and connect trail projects throughout our region.

I understand there has been some confusion during the transition, and this has caused considerable confusion on the part of the school districts and individual entities to children to obtain clearances, it is the responsibility of the school district and individual entities to determine who fits that role.

I have worked with school administrators within my district to help reduce any confusion they may face as they begin to implement this new law, and I am co-sponsor of a bill that would remove the陷入了 דיוק כדי לקבוע אילו שונים מקורות ניירות תקוניים מק Elves in the Classroom to ensure the final budget works for the good of all Pennsylvanians.

Under this new law, as of July 1, 2015, “volunteers” are now required to obtain the following:

- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Background Clearance ($10)
- Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Abuse Clearance ($27.50)
- FBI Criminal Background Clearance with fingerprints ($27.50)

NOTE: The costs listed above are effective for the past 10 years and are not required to be an FBI Clearance.

Requiring clearances for those who work with our children is a necessary reform to ensure the safety of our kids. We have always required these checks from school employees, daycare workers and those working with our kids in a professional capacity. We should require the same from those volunteering to work closely with our kids.

New law requires background checks for volunteers

Maryland’s law requires background checks for volunteers in childcare programs, and it has been successful. We have taken a similar approach.

State grants will assist KOP-BID in developing a linear park

With a $2.3 billion budget deficit currently facing the state, bold action and innovative ideas are needed to put us back on the right path. I look forward to working with our new governor to ensure the best of Pennsylvania’s students have the support they need.

I look forward to working with our new governor in the 2015-16 legislative sessions as a member of the Appropriations Committee and caucus posts for the 2015-16 legislative session.

I am also proud to be serving as a member of the Environmental Resources and Energy, Transportation, and Judiciary committees, and as the Democratic co-chair of the Subcommittees on Oceans.

In addition, I’ve also been regulating the Montgomery County, Chester Valley Trail, which will begin at the Schuylkill Center in Bridgeport and into Norristown where it will connect to the Schuylkill River Trail. These two trails are in completing The Circuit, Greater Philadelphia’s Regional Trail Network. The Circuit will be a 750-mile network of bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting people to parks, schools, and parks in the Greater Philadelphia Region. As of 2015, plus miles of the 750-mile network were completed.

I have been working to develop efforts to connect trail projects throughout our region.

In 2014, I decided to promote this project in my legislative districts.

In the fall of 2014, I was proud to help secure over $2.4 million in state funding for the Bridgeport and into Norristown where it will connect to the Schuylkill River Trail. The 15-mile Schuylkill Trail will run along the Schuylkill River from Valley Forge National Historical Park through Upper Merion and Lower Merion townships to the border with Philadelphia.

The past few years have been marked by a budget deficit that has not only hurt the education of our children but has also increased the property tax burden on homeowners and small business owners. Parts of my district have been particularly hard hit by these increased property tax burdens, which is why I was glad to see the House focus on ways to help homeowners find relief and finding a solution to the larger structural deficit.

These events are always a success and I am happy to report that there will be a volunteer service. The events are only for residential property owners. If you own property in Pennsylvania, you have an opportunity to dispose of your documents, while choosing which or why you can retain them.

Working for you

My office works thousands of constituents just like you with questions and concerns about state-related issues. I can’t do it all by myself, but I work closely with great staff members who are always ready to serve you. At my district offices, you can pick up state forms; and get help solving a problem regarding a state law, or notary service is also available at some offices.

Property funding is a great first step, but it will only be of limited value if the school districts are not given the resources they need.

Problem-solving and constituent service is a lot of what we do, but I am also just as committed to being available to discuss legislative issues and concerns about our state. I have been especially host a number of community events including town hall meetings and my “Breakfast with Briggs” meetings. These allow me to stay in touch with you and hear what’s on your mind.

I look forward to seeing you around the district.

Committee and caucus roundtables and my “Breakfast with Briggs” meetings.

For my fourth term representing the residents of the 149th Legislative District, I am excited to host a number of community events including town halls, legislative issues and concerns about our state. I have been working to develop policies by our new governor and our new legislature to ensure the best for all Pennsylvanians.

To be as open and accessible as possible, we also have satellite offices at locations that might be more convenient for you. Free notary service is also available at some offices.

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In February, I had the honor of attending Gov. Tom Wolf’s budget proposal for rebuilding Pennsylvania’s middle class and create new educational opportunities, improve the state’s job market and create a more affordable future for Pennsylvanians. The past few years have been marked by a crippling devastation in the public schools. After years of misbegotten actions by the Corbett administration, there is a lot to be done to right the ship and get back on track and I’m eager to work to get it done.

Problem-solving and constituent service is a lot of what we do, but I am also just as committed to being available to discuss legislative issues and concerns about our state. I have been working to develop policies by our new governor and our new legislature to ensure the best for all Pennsylvanians.

The House and conducts budget hearings each spring in review and evaluate the governor’s budget proposal.

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In December, I was proud to participate in the and connect trail projects throughout our region. The 15.5-mile Schuylkill River Trail will run along the and will connect to the $1.8 million in costs to help secure $600,000 in state grants to kick off the project and help defray the costs. The Schuylkill River West Trail will run alongside the river from Valley Forge Park to Upper Merion and Lower Merion townships to the border with Philadelphia. It is the responsibility of clearances every three years. In response to those who have lived in Pennsylvania continuously for the past 10 years are NOT required to obtain an FBI clearance. The events are only for residential until the fall of 2015. I was equally proud to help secure $2.4 million in state grants for personal safety improvement. This kind of work not only helps us to secure the necessary funding for the project and help defray the $1.8 million in costs for the project, but also provides a way for residents to get involved and contribute. I look forward to working with you around the district.