

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE TONY DELUCA

115 Irvis Office Building P.O. Box 202032 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2032

Visit my office

for FREE

notary service!

### Mark your calendars for these events:

#### Saturday, May 14

**Personal Shredding Event** 

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. (weather permitting) No electronics! District office parking lot

Thursday, June 16

**Bus Trip** 

Day trip to the Capitol, Governor's Residence & Chocolate World Reservation and deposit required Great for grandparents and grandchildren Contact my office for details

Thursday, Oct. 6

**Annual Senior Fair** Three Lakes Golf Course, Saltsburg Road



# TONY DELUCA

#### Capitol Office: 115 Irvis Office Building P.O. Box 202032 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2032 (717) 783-1011

Fax: (717) 772-9937

Constituent Service Office: 7205 Saltsburg Road Pittsburgh, PA 15235 (412) 793-2448

Fax: (412) 793-7495



#### **CHIP** extended

ACT 84 became law in December. It extends CHIP, which provides health insurance for children, through 2017.

The new law also allows all non-network EMS providers dispatched through an emergency response system to receive reimbursement directly from the patient's insurance carrier if the provider agrees.

I advocated for this new law because it guarantees timely payments to EMS providers, while also protecting patients from balance billing that can lead to unexpected costs.

## State Supreme Court rules UPMC must continue Highmark Medicare Advantage through June 2019

On Nov. 30, the state Supreme Court ruled that Highmark Medicare Advantage customers must have the opportunity to continue to receive innetwork access to UPMC's facilities through the life of the original consent decree, which runs until June 2019.

In October, I publicly called for the state Supreme Court to rule on this battle before the Medicare open enrollment window for 2016 closed on Dec. 7. The November ruling gave Medicare Advantage customers the knowledge they needed to make an informed decision regarding their coverage.

## Auditor General's Office auditing Penn Hills School District

Following my request, state Auditor General Eugene DePasquale is conducting a performance audit of the Penn Hills School District, after district officials said there was an \$8.9 million deficit last year and they expect a shortfall of nearly \$10 million for the current school year.

### It is not too early to apply for a 2015 Property Tax/Rent Rebate

As you begin working on your income tax returns for 2015, remember that if you are eligible, it is not too early to apply for a property tax or rent rebate paid in 2015.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Only one-half of Social Security income is included in the income limit.

You must apply for the rebate every year. If you do not receive a rebate form for 2015 in the mail, they will be available in my office.

## DeLuca asks state to intervene in Penn Hills School District budget

Penn Hills School Board members caused quite a stir when last month they approved a preliminary budget that would hike real estate taxes by 35%. By state law, taxes cannot be increased above 3.4% without an exception approved by the Education Department. Any amount over a 6% increase requires voter approval. While the school district's financial status is dire, and taxes will need to be raised. I believe the board was irresponsible to begin budget discussions at such an outrageous level and needlessly alarm property owners. I have asked the Education Secretary to intervene to place the district in financial recovery status, and appoint a Chief Recovery Officer to implement a plan to assist the district in climbing out of the deep hole it has placed itself in over the years.

On a final note, please feel free to stop by my office at 7205 Saltsburg Road, or call my staff at (412) 793-2448, if I can be of assistance. I look forward to hearing from you and am honored to serve you.

Sincerely,