Wheatley introduces teacher tax credit bill

I recently introduced an important bill with bipartisan support. House Bill 1916 would provide a tax credit of up to $500 per year to reimburse teachers who spend their own money on school supplies, computers and related equipment. Eligible classroom supplies would include books, supplies, computers and related equipment, including related software and services, and other supplementary equipment.

There are many dedicated teachers in Pittsburgh and across Pennsylvania who are doing a great job for their students, often in difficult circumstances. And it’s a fact that many of these teachers are spending hundreds of dollars of their own money on basic classroom supplies. I think it would be one of the best, most cost-effective investments we could make in the state budget.

Maryland and Arkansas already have similar programs. Pennsylvania should join them.

Wheatley introduces teacher tax credit bill

Wheatley announces $225,000 in state grants for districts

Recently announced by the Commonwealth Financing Authority, these are new state grants for projects in the 19th Legislative District. $10,000 was awarded to St. Vincent de Paul to help build their new parking lot, and $75,000 was awarded to Arnold Elementary School to add essential technology.

The income limit to qualify for the teacher tax credit is $100,000. That means only the top 25% of Pennsylvanians will be eligible for the tax credit. However, these are tax-exempt organizations with clearly defined charitable missions. Access to these services is literally a necessity for life of thousands of Pennsylvanians.

It is my sincere hope that this legislation will not be a political football, but will stand as a timely matter, then other measures should be considered.

I have strongly encouraged both parties to settle their differences independent of any direct action by the legislature. However, these tax- exempt organizations with clearly defined charitable missions. Access to these services is literally a necessity for life of thousands of Pennsylvanians. If a mutually agreed upon plan cannot be reached in a timely matter, then other measures should be considered.

Recently many people have contacted my office to express their concern about the current dispute between UPMC and Highmark. This rift threatens to eliminate access to hospital care for patients across the state. It is crucial that the patient is not harmed in any way during this dispute.

It is my sincere hope that this legislation will not be a political football, but will stand as a timely matter, then other measures should be considered.

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Wheatley wants to maintain your access to health care

The goal is to create a more inviting and usable space for the public. In addition to the new walkway that will be added to the front of the building, the entrance to the facility will be moved from Cherry Street to Liberty Avenue.

This project is a fitting tribute to the late Pa. Rep. Jim Raftery, who was a strong advocate for the riverfront and its transformation. It is also a fitting tribute to the late Rep. Bill Shuster, who was a strong advocate for the riverfront and its transformation.

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Wheatley votes to save transit service, fix roads and bridges

I voted "yes" in November on the final transportation funding bill that Gov. Corbett signed into law. The bill isn’t perfect, but this is probably the best we can get. Pittsburgh’s transit needs, including safety and our economy couldn’t afford to wait two more years or more.

My vote was to keep Port Authority riders from enduring another round of cuts, to prevent longer term jams that more transit routes would create. It allows riders to continue on their routes — and to prevent a tragic bridge collapse. That was the plan.

This also contains language that came from years of work around Lansing’s legislative agenda. This bill is amazing, excited about the possibility of getting some of our biggest problems off the table.

It provides for real mechanisms to ensure contracting opportunities for disadvantaged businesses and veteran-owned businesses. As an African American, I am extremely excited about the possibility of getting some real opportunities to get some actual opportunities to lead to good employment that will come with this $2.2 billion investment.

Capitol-All Stars Game: Hunger Caucus

On Sept. 30, I joined more than 50 of my colleagues in the Health and Wellness Caucus in hosting the Capitol-All Stars Softball Game. The game was held to fight against hunger.

Nearly one out of every six Pennsylvanians is at risk from hunger, and I’m not sure what their next meal is coming from. As co-chairman of the Legislative Hunger Caucus, I thought this game was a great opportunity to raise awareness about hunger in our communities while generating significant resources to help charities and nonprofits that are working to feed Pennsylvanians in need.

The game was East against West and I’m proud to say my team, West, trounced the other team. It was all in bipartisan fun and helped to raise food banks, including the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Corbett’s new budget is shaky, built on one-time sources of funding

Gov. Tom Corbett’s new budget proposal is a “house of cards” built on one-time sources of funding. This budget plan contains more than $1 billion in unsecured, one-time funds. The governor hopes to use to fill budget gaps — gaps created mostly by his giveaway of more than $2 billion in corporate tax breaks. This budget would leave a mess to be cleaned up by future Pennsylvania taxpayers and whomever’s governor next year.

When I and other Democrats talk about needing to pass a reasonable gas-drilling tax as other states have done, Governor Corbett says he’s not a carbon tax person. In addition to the better-known need to restore the governor’s nearly $1 billion in K-12 education cuts, the Corbett cuts went the deepest in school districts and the agencies that can ultimately best serve our children. The long-term cost of this disinvestment in basic education is that many children in working-class school districts receive less than children in nearby wealthy districts. This budget plan also contains cuts to prisons and parole, the unsustainability of school-to-prison pipeline.

I’m also concerned about the governor’s proposed Hillary Clinton.

This budget plan contains more than $1 billion in unsecured, one-time funding.

Meet my Staff: introducing the staff serving the People of the 19th Legislative District

Wheatley is seeking a question during a House Appropriations Committee hearing on the state budget.

The Pennsylvania Treasurer’s Office might be holding money or property that belongs to you. Treasurer Rob McCord wants to return it.

If you believe you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check, it is possible that you may have lost track of a bank account, or an unclaimed check. By law, that money or property must be turned over to the treasurer of the state of one claims. Last year, Treasurer McCord and his staff returned $100 million to their rightful owners, but the treasury still has millions more to return.

Finding out if you have a claim is easy. Simply go to the state treasury website at www.patreasury.gov and follow the instructions, or call 1-800-222-2491, and a state treasury return team member will assist you.
Wheatley votes to save transit service, fix roads and bridges

I voted "yes" in November on the final transportation funding bill that Gov. Corbett signed into law. The bill isn't perfect, but this is probably the best we can get. Pittsburgh's transit routes, multimodal safety and the economy couldn't afford to wait two more years or more. My vote was a vote to keep Port Authority routes from enduring another round of cuts, to prevent longer travel times and more traffic congestion.

I am also concerned about the failure of the state legislature to include funding foradequate transit services. This puts families and children at risk when they are trying to get to work, school and medical appointments. This is why I will continue to advocate for a better transportation system in the future.

I want to thank everyone who came out and participated in our inaugural Health and Wellness Weekend. Throughout the weekend, we were able to engage people in health-related activities, such as line dancing, rock-climbing wall, equipment and mural painting for families and kids. Our goal was to share information on how to live and sustain a healthy lifestyle. Fortunately, what the governor announced Feb. 4 is not the final bill. While the legislature is a majority Republican, we have the chance to scrutinize, debate and vote on it — and the power to change it. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been participating in hearings where every state agency is questioned on its portion of the governor's budget proposal.

Meet my Staff: introducing the staff serving the People of the 19th Legislative District

Kelly Stewart, Executive Assistant
Sue Ann Costello, Executive Assistant
April V. Asche, Legislative Assistant, Norristown Office.

We are here to assist you with any issues or concerns you may have within your community, as well as state government. We offer free faxing (certain restrictions apply), notary service on site and copying service for any non-legal items. We are here to assist you with any issues or concerns you may have within your community, as well as state government. We offer free faxing (certain restrictions apply), notary service on site and copying service for any non-legal items.

Projects in and near the 19th Legislative District that the bill is expected to fund include:

- Repairs and reparing on the Park Hills Bridge that carries two "T" lines across the Monongahela River.
- Mount Washington tunnel repairs; Monongahela bridge repairs;
- Neville ramp bridge deck replacement and painting;
- East Busway and park and ride lighting upgrades;
- B&O Railroad Bridge repairing and reparing.

Internet Essentials program helps low-income students

Home Internet access helps many of us conveniently search for all sorts of information that is helpful to our daily lives. It also gives our children a leg up with school assignments and projects. Other benefits of families in our area, access for their children is something they cannot afford. Help me spread the word about Internet Essentials, which provides the families of children who receive free or reduced priced lunch the ability to access home Internet service at discounted rates.

Nearly one out of every six Pennsylvanians is at risk of missing meals and may not have enough to eat on their next meal is coming from. As a chairman of the Legislative Hunger Caucus, I thought this game was a great opportunity to raise awareness about hunger in our communities while generating significant resources to help charities and nonprofits that are working to feed Pennsylvania's hungry.

The game was East against West and I'm proud to say my team, West, trounced the other team. But it was all in bipartisan fun and helped in a number of food banks, including the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

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Unclaimed Property:
The Pennsylvania Treasurer’s Office might be holding money or property that belongs to you. And Treasurer Robert McCord wants to return it. Some people have unclaimed funds owed to them from a life insurance policy which a deceased relative left behind — or the contents of a safe deposit box. By law, that money or property must be turned over to the state if no one claims it. Last year, Treasurer McCord and his staff returned $100 million to their rightful owners, but the treasury still has millions more to return.

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Gov. Tom Corbett’s new budget proposal is a “house of cards” built on one-time sources of funding.

This budget plan contains more than $1 billion in one-time sources of funding, including $500 million to fund the information technology replacement project for Pennsylvania’s welfare computer system. Hopefully, this year, I am able to leverage non-budgetary revenue sources to help offset this loss. I want to expand on the governor’s plan to restore the full $500 million to the welfare computer system, which provides the families of children who receive free or reduced price lunch the ability to access home Internet service at discounted rates.

Regrettably, Gov. Tom Corbett’s new budget is shaky, built on one-time sources of funding. Gov. Tom Corbett’s new budget is shaky, built on one-time sources of funding.

Most of the projected savings in Tom Corbett’s new budget are from one-time sources — the federal stimulus money, bonds, and other programs that are not sustainable, election-year gimmicks the governor hopes to use to fill budget gaps — gaps created mostly by the governor’s own choices, not the federal government’s. The budget would leave a mess to be cleaned up by his giveaway of more than $2 billion in corporate tax breaks. This budget plan contains more than $1 billion in one-time sources of funding, including $500 million to fund the information technology replacement project for Pennsylvania’s welfare computer system. Hopefully, this year, I am able to leverage non-budgetary revenue sources to help offset this loss. I want to expand on the governor’s plan to restore the full $500 million to the welfare computer system, which provides the families of children who receive free or reduced price lunch the ability to access home Internet service at discounted rates.

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My vote was a vote to keep Port Authority routes from enduring another round of cuts, to prevent longer traffic delays, to prevent longer traffic congestion, to prevent longer traffic waits. The cuts would have come at the worst time for an economy that couldn’t afford to wait two more years or more.

Wheatley residents are here to assist you with any issues or concerns you may have within your community, as well as state government.

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Wheatley introduces teacher tax credit bill

I recently introduced an important bill with bipartisan support. House Bill 1618 would provide a tax credit of up to $500 per year to reimburse teachers who spend their own money on school supplies for their class. Eligible classroom supplies would include books, supplies, computers and related technology, including related software and services, and other educational supplies. There are many dedicated teachers in Pittsburgh and across Pennsylvania who are doing a great job for their students, often in difficult circumstances. And it’s a fact that many of these teachers are spending hundreds of dollars of their own money on basic classroom supplies. I think it would be one of the best, most cost-effective investments we could make in the state budget. Maryland and Arkansas already have similar programs. Pennsylvania should join them.

Wheatley announces $225,000 in state grants for district tours and Riverfront projects

Wheatley introduced my bill (H.B. 1197) to provide first-time drug offenders the same opportunity to obtain a regular driving license, while also allowing them to start rebuilding their lives. This opportunity is to the benefit of all Pennsylvanians, not only the offenders. But it is a society’s interest to equitably address the situation where this bill has bipartisan support, as it has in the past. I believe that public officials are responsible for making sure there are adequate resources to provide 60 days of parole for license suspension to qualify for the limited license, the same as first-time DUI offenders do now.

Fairness in ‘bread and butter’ driver’s licenses

PennDOT’s website lists only those counties that have approved the Commonwealth Financing Authority for projects in the 19th Legislative District. While $125,000 is an impressive $100,000 grant to help renovate and expand the outdoor pedestrian mall in a developed residential park area on the North Shore, the project does not have exclusive pedestrian pathways, area residents, replacing parks, and pedestrians. Wheatley has developed a bill that states the need to have a clean walkway to the downtown waterfront, as well as allowing wills to qualify for the limited license, the same as first-time DUI offenders do now.

Wheatley wants to maintain your access to health care

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If you live in the current 19th District, I can also send you periodic email updates, including news for veterans. To sign up, just visit www.RepWheatley.com and click “Contact Me.” Then just send me an e-mail message from that page. You can also use the same page to send me an email if you live in an area that will be added to the 19th District as of December 2014.

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If a mutually agreed-upon deal cannot be reached in a timely matter, then other measures should be considered. If the current dispute between UPMC and Highmark cannot be resolved, this rift threatens to eliminate access literally a necessity of life for thousands of Pennsylvanians.

I have strongly encouraged both parties to settle their dispute amicably and independently of any direct action by the legislature. However, these tax-exempt organizations with clearly defined charitable missions. Access to these services is literally a necessity for life of thousands of Pennsylvanians. If a mutually agreed-upon deal cannot be reached in a timely matter, then other measures should be considered.

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