



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DOM COSTA**

21ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Capitol Office: 217 Irvis Office Bldg. • P.O. Box 202021 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2021 • (717) 783-9114

District Office: 6808 Greenwood St., Suite 2 • Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • (412) 361-2040  
(at the corner of Morningside Ave. and Greenwood St.)

# Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

## Financial Aid Night

**AUGUST 31**

On Thursday, August 31, I will be hosting a Financial Aid Night at 6:30 p.m. at Scotus Hall, 146 Hawthorne Road, Millvale, PA 15209. A PHEAA representative will be on site to give valuable information and answer any questions you may have about the college financial aid process. There is plenty of free parking, so mark your calendar and plan to attend!



## CHILDREN'S SAFETY FAIR

**SEPTEMBER 9**

On Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., I will be hosting my annual Children's Safety Fair at Dougherty Veterans Baseball Field, 27 Crescent St., Etna, PA 15223. Representatives from emergency services, government agencies and more will be on site with interactive activities, demonstrations, and information to teach children about safety in all aspects of life. This event has been a big hit in the past, featuring an inflatable bounce house, local mascots, safety vehicles, and all kinds of giveaways and prizes.



# FALL SHREDDING EVENT

SEPTEMBER 23

My next Shredding Event will take place in the parking lot of the Cherry City Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, September 23, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Bring all documents you no longer need that contain personal information, including Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, etc. All paper will be shredded on site. There will be a **5-box limit (average size, please)**. Boxes and/or containers will be given back to event attendees, as we have no way to dispose of them.

**NO business shredding will be accepted at this event.**



**FREE!**

## WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

Phone Books, Spiral Notebooks, Binders, Floppy Discs, CD/DVDs, Bound Books or Magazines, Steel Binder Clips, Steel ACCO Fasteners, and other hard metal or plastic materials.

Iron City Workplace Services cannot operate the mobile shredding equipment in the rain due to the risk of damage. If there is inclement weather on the day of a scheduled event, Iron City will determine whether the equipment can be operated. If it is raining on the day of the event, please call our office at 412-361-2040 and listen to the voicemail to see if the event will be taking place.

We also will have Sheriff Bill Mullen's project D.U.M.P. at this Shredding Event. Please bring any unwanted and/or unused prescription drugs to the event and a Deputy Sheriff will be there to safely and securely dispose of them.

# Financial Aid Night

SEPTEMBER 28

On Thursday, September 28, I will be working with North Hills High School to co-host a Financial Aid Night at 7 p.m. in the North Hills High School Auditorium, located at 53 Rochester Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15229.

A PHEAA representative will be on site to give valuable information and answer any questions you may have about the financial aid process. For more information, please contact North Hills High School at 412-318-1000 or my office at 412-361-2040.



# SENIOR FAIR

OCTOBER 13

My annual Senior Fair will be held Friday, October 13, at the Ross Township Community Center, 1000 Ross Municipal Drive, Ross Township, PA 15237 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Seniors are encouraged to come out and get valuable information from numerous agencies about different programs and benefits they may qualify for. The event is free and there will be giveaways throughout, along with chances to win door prizes. Flu and pneumonia shots will be available with your Medicare Part B or insurance card.

Sheriff Bill Mullen's project D.U.M.P. will be at the Senior Fair. Please bring any unwanted and/or unused prescription drugs to the event and a Deputy Sheriff will be on hand to safely and securely dispose of them.

# BUS TRIP

NOVEMBER 30

**Tour of the Capitol in Harrisburg – and then off to the Pennsylvania Christmas and Gift Show at the Farm Show Complex**

\$40 per person. Price includes admission to the gift show, tour of the State Capitol, and driver tip. Lunch will take place at the Capitol and can be brought from home or purchased at the Capitol cafeteria. Please note: No refunds unless bus trip is cancelled.

Call my office at 412-361-2040 for pick-up location, more details, and to reserve your seat today!



If you have questions on any of these events, or any state-related issues, please feel free to call my office at 412-361-2040.



# Protecting Our Pets

As an animal advocate, I have thrown my support behind legislation aimed at keeping our pets safe while cracking down on those who put them in harm's way.

Too many times we hear about animals getting hurt or even dying after being left alone in a hot car. Now, Rep. Frank Farry, R-Bucks County, and I are prime sponsors of H.B. 1216, which would make it easier to rescue animals from possible death. The legislation would give a police or humane officer the authority to remove a dog or cat from an unattended vehicle if he/she believes the animal



is in danger; further, it would ensure they're not liable for damages. The officer would first have to do a reasonable search for the owner or driver of the vehicle before acting. The legislation awaits action in the Senate after passing the House unanimously.

Earlier this year, I voted for a landmark overhaul of Pennsylvania's animal protection law. Named after the Boston terrier that was left for dead last summer but nursed back to health, Libre's Law increases penalties for abusing animals, which means offenders could face a felony charge.



## ONE VOTE AWAY FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

I am a firm believer of justice, which is why I continue to push my H.B. 234 that would ensure crime victims receive proper compensation in a timely manner.

The Restitution in Pennsylvania Task Force conducted a study in 2011 and found gaps in law and procedure that negatively impacted the likelihood of crime victims receiving restitution due them.

Too many times, victims are not getting their court-ordered restitution as a result of a system that needs improvement and better oversight. My legislation would crack down at the county level, requiring an operational restitution-collection system be in place to ensure effectiveness and thoroughness. Someone has to be responsible for making sure that these victims are not victimized twice, ensuring that action is being taken to get them appropriate restitution. The goal is to have county courts create guidelines that have state oversight to prevent anyone from slipping through the cracks. The bill is currently in the Senate and is only a final vote away from making it to the governor's desk. I am calling on you to ask your senators to vote in favor of my proposal because victims across the state are surely counting on its passage.



## CLEAN SLATE LEGISLATION

Everyone deserves a second chance, and I know how important it is to have a job. That's why I am co-sponsoring H.B. 1419, introduced by Rep. Sheryl DeLozier, R-Cumberland County, which would give those charged with or convicted of minor crimes a "clean slate" to ensure a criminal record doesn't stop them from being able to find employment. The goal is to give people a fair chance in the workforce, especially if they've stayed out of trouble for a decade. The bill is currently awaiting action in the state House.



# Concussion Protocol to Protect Law Enforcement

As a former police chief in Pittsburgh, I know the health of our law enforcement officers is essential to the communities they protect. This is why I stand proudly behind a bill that would establish a concussion and head injury protocol for our men and women in blue. Rep. Dan Miller, D-Allegheny County, introduced H.B. 1176, and back in May, I stood beside him, pointing out brain trauma and concussions are not just limited to athletes or sports-related injuries. I've seen too many public safety and law



enforcement officers suffer head injuries, but they often never did anything about it. Education is by far the best prevention to avoid long-term consequences of concussions.

## Preventing Future Budget Standoffs

This year's budget discussions are far from finished and the longer it takes to get a complete deal done, the better chance it will end up costing taxpayers. Enough is enough!

To prevent future stalemates, I am co-sponsoring H.B. 1416, which was introduced by state Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski, D-Luzerne County, that would require all members vital to budget negotiations be forced to stay in Harrisburg until a complete agreement is reached. Because failure to perform this duty in a timely fashion creates such dire consequences in the commonwealth, I am trying to move this initiative up the legislative food chain to be discussed sooner rather than later.

My efforts aim to avoid the budget impasse we saw in 2015 that harmed our public schools, which were forced to borrow money to keep their doors open, and human services providers, who were forced to cut assistance until state funding was secured.

The longer it takes to get a finalized plan in place, the more likely critical programs in Pennsylvania will feel the pinch.

# REAL ID UPDATE

At this point, you've probably heard about Real ID in some form or fashion.

Gov. Tom Wolf signed a law in May allowing the state Transportation Department to offer residents a Real ID-compliant driver's license or state identification card that can be used to access airports and federal facilities. There are many who still have questions about the process moving forward, which is why I've provided the below information to help alleviate the confusion:



- Why did Real ID start? The short answer is safety; it's an effort to make state driver's licenses more secure. Passed by Congress in 2005, the Real ID Act authorized the 9/11 Commission's work to aid in the fight against terrorism.
- When does the Real ID enforcement begin? The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has granted Pennsylvania a Real ID enforcement extension through Oct. 10, 2017. This means you can still enter federal courthouses, federal job sites and military installations using a Pennsylvania driver's license or other form of identification without any problems. Restrictions on boarding flights to travel throughout the United States with a driver's license or any other form of ID aren't scheduled to go into effect until Jan. 22, 2018. Real ID is set to be completely enforced starting Oct. 1, 2020.
- How soon can I get a Real ID-compliant driver's license/state ID card? PennDOT is working on its system now and anticipates it can begin producing them sometime in 2019.
- Do I have to get a Real ID-compliant driver's license/state ID card? No, it's optional. However, if you don't, you will need another form of acceptable identification, including a U.S. passport, U.S. military ID or permanent resident card. (A full list of options can be found at <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>)

I will continue providing updates on the matter, but in the meantime, you can find more frequently asked questions and answers at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs>.



# RIGHT TO WORK IS WRONG



I continue the good fight on behalf of our hard-working union employees. In June, I was proud to speak at an anti-“Right to Work” rally on the steps of the Capitol. Alongside the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters and other union workers, I expressed my strong opposition to legislation that hinders the rights of working people to bargain for better working conditions and wages. I also conveyed the same sentiment at this year’s Teamster Convention in Hershey.



## Remembering Fallen Officers

Before being elected to the House of Representatives, I served 28 years as a police officer. In February 2002, I was shot in the line of duty and only by the grace of God did I survive.

Unfortunately, every year men and women who are called to serve pay the ultimate sacrifice while keeping us safe. In May, I was privileged to speak in Harrisburg at a Fraternal Order of Police memorial ceremony honoring the four Pennsylvania police officers who recently lost their lives in the performance of their duties. I am eternally grateful for their sacrifice. May they rest in peace.



## CONGRATULATIONS Sharpsburg Borough

*Celebrating 175 years and counting!*





STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**DOM COSTA**

P.O. Box 202021

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2021

Mark Your Calendar  
for Upcoming Events

lpo.jc.0817

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth and death certificate applications
- Problems with Pennsylvania income taxes
- Problems with Department of Human Services (food stamps, welfare)
- Requests for literature of all kinds — bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Consumer complaints
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability license plates and placards
- Assistance in getting and filling out state forms of all kinds, like PACE (Pharmaceutical assistance for qualified senior citizens), voter registration, Property Tax/Rent Rebate (for qualified seniors), PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance Agency), etc.
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies



Stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the district by signing up for my email updates. Go to [www.pahouse.com/DCosta](http://www.pahouse.com/DCosta) and click the envelope icon to sign up.