

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# JOE WEBSTER

Serving Collegeville, Upper and Lower Providence, West Norriton, and Trappe



## Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds you well. In January, I began my third term as the State Representative of PA's 150th House District. I will once again serve on the Appropriations, Finance, State Government, and Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committees. I will spend my time in Harrisburg and in our community advocating for the needs our families and neighbors, for the practice of good governance, and for the care and support of our veterans.

This newsletter provides further updates from Harrisburg as well as some exciting projects and events taking place across our district in the coming months. As always, if you need state-related assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office!

Sincerely,

Rep. Joe Webster, Ph.D., Colonel, USAF (retired)

# Perkiomen Watershed Initiative



**W**ith over 85,000 miles of rivers, streams and creeks flowing through our Commonwealth, we are no stranger to running water and its exacerbation when extreme storms pass through the state. When Hurricane Ida took aim at Pennsylvania, local municipalities within the Perkiomen Creek Watershed were overwhelmed by stormwater, resulting in enormous damage to our homes, our businesses, and our infrastructure - which are still rebuilding to this day.

In October 2022 I held a policy hearing to discuss stormwater management and infrastructure impacts. I sat with my colleagues from the House Democratic Policy Committee as we listened to testimony by community members, academics, and experts who shared their experiences of Hurricane Ida and subsequent storms. The testimony and ideas brought forth were insightful and highlighted the human cost of severe weather without flood mitigation. Watching our communities wash away every few years is a

trauma we do not need. To alleviate this looming danger, we must work together with surrounding municipalities and counties to create a watershed-wide plan to reduce stormwater run-off and flooding.

That is why I have begun the Perkiomen Watershed Initiative, composed of multiple counties and municipalities along the Perkiomen Creek. Our goal is to create accurate computer models that depict how water flows through our region so we can gain a better understanding of the Perkiomen Watershed. This coalition will collect data by mapping the geology and topography of our region over a series of months to build the model. The information garnered will then be used to create recommendations for municipalities to address their stormwater infrastructure needs and reduce flooding damages in future extreme weather events. I'm excited for this project to get underway and bring some relief to our community.

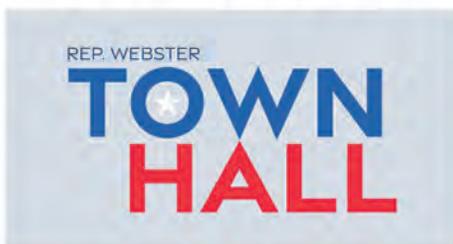
# Combating Human Trafficking

Human trafficking, sometimes referred to as 'modern day slavery,' is a global epidemic with an often unrealized impact on our communities. Found in industries from agriculture and construction to domestic services, hotels and massage parlors; human trafficking is best defined as the force, fraud, or coercion of individuals for the purpose of subjection of involuntary servitude, personage, debt, bondage, and slavery.

For too long this crime has thrived in the Commonwealth and here in Montgomery County under the guise of legitimate business activity in the form of illicit massage parlors. I now have a bill entitled: *Regulations for Massage Businesses to Prevent Human Trafficking*, to establish human trafficking prevention methods in massage businesses and increase protections for the victims of human trafficking. It is our duty to protect Pennsylvanians and the residents of our Commonwealth, especially those who are vulnerable to exploitation. I remain hopeful that the large coalition of stakeholders supporting this legislation will allow us to gain bipartisan support in both the House and Senate to pass this legislation in Harrisburg.



## Upcoming Events



### Town Hall - May 17th

Come out and join me for a general legislative town hall to ask your questions about state programs and discuss upcoming legislation. My staff will also be on hand to provide assistance with state departments if need be!



### Shred Event - July 15th

The always popular Shred Event with Rep. Matt Bradford's office will be returning this summer on July 15th. Avoid identity theft and safely dispose of personal documents. Two boxes per house hold, ONLY PAPER, no trash.



### Summer Food Drive

This summer my office will hold my third annual Summer Food Drive. Beginning in July we will collect non-perishable food, school supplies, toiletries, paper products, and more. Items will be donated to local organizations.

If you have questions about the events listed, please reach out to my staff at 484-200-8263 for help.

# Legislation Update

As of this newsletter's printing, I have introduced over thirty bills this legislative session as prime sponsor. Here are some of my current priorities:

<b>HB 261</b>	Temporarily Raising Maximum School Age Due to COVID	Education
<b>HB 269</b>	Veterans Records of Discharge	Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
<b>HB 275</b>	Ensuring Fully Staffed Polling Places	State Government
<b>HB 283</b>	Town Hall Meetings for Constitutional Amendments	State Government
<b>HB 699</b>	Comprehensive Storm Water Management	Environmental Resources and Energy



Advocating for gun reform in Harrisburg with members of our community.



Breaking ground in West Norriton for the Community Banquet Hall.



Speaking with Veterans at my Veterans in Crisis Town Hall.



Reading to children on National Read Across America Day.



Presenting a \$5.75 Million grant award to Mission Kids with colleagues.



Visiting the new Khair Community Center in Oaks with Rep. Melissa Shusterman.

# Budget Season

It is the time of year in Harrisburg when state budget conversations and hearings are the primary focus of the Appropriations Committee, of which I am a member. This is a time to discuss policy initiatives, examine the successes from last year, and see what improvements can be made this year.

Most notably, I asked the PA Department of Education (PDE) how serious public education funding shortfalls have impacted our school districts, as well as how we can ease the pressure of local property taxes.

With the requested funding increase, PDE would implement a multi-year effort to distribute funds equitably in response to the Commonwealth Court ruling declaring Pennsylvania's public school funding system unconstitutional. It is now the job of those of us on the Appropriations Committee to discuss the information presented at each of the hearings and work within our caucuses and with the Governor's office to determine the right funding needs of the state.



With a Democratic majority in the House, I'm helping to pass a commonsense budget with my colleagues that works for all PA families.





**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**JOE WEBSTER**

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## 2022 *in Review*

**\$19,532,000**

Grant Funding for Our Communities

**560** Bills & Resolutions  
Sponsored & Co-Sponsored

**2303** Constituent Services  
Provided

**3045** Constituent Cases  
Solved



## so Far 2023

**\$362,820**

Grant Funding for Our Communities

**53** Bills & Resolutions  
Sponsored & Co-Sponsored

**698** Constituent Services  
Provided

**486** Constituent Cases  
Solved