

# Dear Friends,

It was my honor to be sworn in as your State Representative in January, and I wanted to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me already. Plus, I wanted to provide you with information on what has been happening in Harrisburg as well as throughout the 151st District in the first quarter of 2023.

My name is Melissa Cerrato, but most often you will hear me referred to as Missy. I have lived in Horsham Township for over a decade now. My husband and I have raised our four daughters here.

I, like many of you, never saw myself as someone who would end up working in politics. In fact, throughout most of my life, I had planned to become a kindergarten teacher. My life, however, led me down a different path and in 2018 I began my work for the PA House of Representatives in State Representative Liz Hanbidge's district office.

From 2018 to 2022, I worked in Rep. Hanbidge's office directly serving our neighbors, seniors and veterans in need of support. This position is where I found my passion for service. From helping to put millions of dollars in unclaimed funds back in people's pockets, to fighting to end months-long backlogs and getting Pennsylvanians long-awaited unemployment assistance; my job was to get results for the community when no one else could. Now, I'm stepping up and fighting for my own community, to bring your values and voices to Harrisburg.

I'm taking my background working as a caregiver and public servant to Harrisburg to build a Pennsylvania that works for all of us.

*Melissa Cerrato*



State Representative

**Melissa Cerrato**

★ 151st Legislative District ★



# MEET THE TEAM



I would like to take some time to introduce you to the incredible team of our district office and Harrisburg Staff! My staff is ready and willing to make sure that the 151st District has access to the best state services and public assistance. We look forward to serving you!

First up is Nashdy Lora. Nashdy is our new Legislative Assistant for the Harrisburg office. She is a recent graduate from Shippensburg University with a B.A. in Political Science who has been working for the caucus as a junior LA since her graduation.

If you're in Harrisburg, be sure to stop by our office at 28A East Wing, say hi and welcome Nashdy to the team.

Next, I am thrilled to introduce you to my Senior Constituent Service Advisor, Leza Perkins. Leza has worked for the Caucus for 16 years, most recently for State Representative Pam DeLissio. She has her Master's Equivalency in Elementary Education and Early Childhood and was a first-grade teacher for 7 years. She also co-owned a small business, Perkins Flowers, for 19 years.

Leza comes to us with the knowledge and experience to ensure that all constituents of the 151st District are well served, and I couldn't be more excited to have her on our team.

Up next is Colin Bachman who has joined our district team as a full-time Constituent Service Advisor. He was born and raised in Upper Dublin and graduated from Upper Dublin High

School in 2016. Colin went on to attend Temple University graduating with a B.A. in History in 2020. Colin is coming to us after serving as a CSA in State Representative Liz Hanbidge's office, so he is ready to provide exemplary service to our community.

Alex Myers joined our team as our part-time Constituent Service Advisor and as a bonded Notary Public. He holds a B.A. in technical theater, is completing a Master's in Psychology, focusing on gender and an AS in business management, and is completing an MPsy in gender and sexual fluidity. Alex is an Army veteran who served as a Korean linguist, is the President-Elect of Hatboro Rotary, an elected member of Hatboro Council, and is a board member of The Welcome Project PA, which strives to be a diverse, safe space for marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Last, but certainly not least, it is with extreme pleasure that I introduce you to my District Office Director, Rafia Razzak.

Rafia brings years of experience to her position as District Office Director, having previously worked as a Constituent Service Advisor for State Representative Steve Malagari, District 53. She has both a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from Temple University Fox School of Business and an Associate Degree in Computer Science from Montgomery County Community College.

A long-time resident of Lansdale, Rafia currently serves on the Borough's Civil Service Commission, as well as the Economic Development Committee. She is also fluent in English, Bengali and Hindi.

I know that the residents of the 151st will be able to count on Raffia and I couldn't imagine a better person to be at my side.

## MY OFFICES ARE HERE TO HELP!

### Harrisburg:

28A East Wing | P.O. Box 202151  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 772-1999

### District Office:

**Monday – Friday**  
**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**  
605 Horsham Rd.  
Horsham, PA 19044  
Toll Free Number:  
1 (833) 321-6391  
(267) 282-6695

### Montgomery Township Mobile Office:

**Every Wednesday**  
**10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
Montgomery Township  
Recreation Center

### Ambler Mobile Office:

**Every Tuesday**  
**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
Ambler Borough Hall

### Upper Dublin Mobile Office:

**Every Thursday**  
**9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
Upper Dublin Public Library



## STAY UP TO DATE JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Our office has hosted four events in our first three months, including our first shredding and e-waste recycling days, and we are adding more events to the calendar each day. The best way to keep up to date on all our upcoming events, as well as what is happening in Harrisburg, is to join our e-mail list.

YOU CAN SIGN UP AT  
[WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/CERRATO](http://WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/CERRATO)



[RepCerrato@PAHouse.net](mailto:RepCerrato@PAHouse.net)

# PRIME LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

## Mobile Home Lot Rental Reform

In recent years, the lot rental fees for mobile home parks have far surpassed the rate of inflation. Families are finding themselves with drastically increased rents, without receiving much-needed improvements to the park. These families deserve a fair deal and need recourse when rent increases become unreasonable.

While the law currently prohibits more than one rent increase in a period of 12 months, park owners can do better to notify their residents before a rent increase takes place. For this reason, this legislation I introduced with Rep. Hanbidge would require park owners to publicly post a proposed rent increase 6 months before it would go into effect. This bill would also allow mobile home tenants to present their case to a magisterial district judge if the proposed rent increase is above inflation. This process gives tenants a voice and allows the magisterial district judge to find an equitable solution.

Our constituents and their families who live in mobile home parks deserve options when faced with drastic rent increases or having to physically move their home.

## \$35 Cap on Insulin Prices

Insulin costs have tripled in recent years, leaving more and more people with financial hurdles to overcome to get their much-needed medication; tragic reports of deaths from insulin rationing have become all too common as people grapple with the skyrocketing price of this drug. People should not be forced to choose each month between their mortgage payment or rent and their medicine.

In order to combat this, Rep. Jeanne McNeill and I introduced legislation to establish a \$35 cap on insulin for each 30-day supply. Insulin was made to be an affordable, life-saving drug, and this legislation would provide the means to achieve that goal. Twenty-one states already cap insulin co-payments, including New York, Maryland, Texas and West Virginia. Congress acted in 2022 to cap insulin prices, but only for individuals on Medicare. There is no reason Pennsylvania cannot do the same thing to ensure everyone can access their medicine without breaking the bank.

We believe Pennsylvania should be leading the nation in access to health care, and that means catching up with our neighbors to make insulin accessible.



## Workers Compensation for Off-Duty Emergency Personnel

Volunteer emergency responders are the heroes next door – they put their lives on the line to save the lives of fellow Pennsylvanians. However, volunteer ambulance corps members – unlike volunteer fire departments – do not have workers' compensation (WC) protections when responding to an emergency while off duty.

I believe it is important to protect our EMS providers who are dedicated to saving the lives of others, even when they are not officially on duty. That is why I introduced legislation to extend WC protections to off-duty members of emergency medical services agencies. Specifically, my proposal would amend Section 601 of Act 338 of 1915, known as the Workers' Compensation Act, to extend WC coverage to EMS personnel if the following apply:

- **Is a member of an EMS agency.**
- **Is certified by the PA Department of Health as an EMS provider.**
- **Renders emergency care, first aid, or rescue services at the scene of an emergency.**
- **When rendering aid, operates within their scope of practice.**
- **While rendering aid, is injured or dies while providing emergency care.**

Whether they respond to a 911 call with their EMS agency for a municipality or freely utilize their expertise in saving a life, EMS personnel deserve to know that they and their families will be taken care of in cases involving injury or death. Expanding WC coverage benefits not only our first responders, but all Pennsylvanians who may receive lifesaving care from an off-duty EMS provider.

## BPA Free Food and Beverage Containers

Bisphenol A or BPA is the building block for a hard, strong plastic used to make a variety of products, including compact disks, cash register receipts, and water bottles. In the past several years, the potential health risks associated with the chemical have been well demonstrated.

Even at minimal levels, daily exposure to BPA has been associated with adverse health effects, from behavioral issues in children to malformations during organ development. In 2010, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a report identifying the possible hazards to fetuses, infants, and young children – later requiring that BPA be removed from all baby bottles and infant formula. Yet, BPA is still used in a wide range of food packaging.

To fully protect people, I introduced legislation to ban the use of BPA in all food and beverage containers manufactured, sold, or distributed in Pennsylvania. Any manufacturer of these containers would be required to use the least toxic alternative when replacing BPA during production.

# GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Since January I have had the privilege of announcing five projects throughout the district that have been awarded a share of \$3.5 million in grant funding.

- **Ambler Borough** – \$899,717 for pedestrian improvements along East Mount Pleasant Avenue and Hendricks Street, including 51 ADA compliant curb ramps.
- **Horsham Soccer Association** – \$149,600 for two turf soccer fields at Kohler Park.
- **Horsham Water & Sewer Authority** – \$970,918 to replace the Oak Hill water main.
- **Horsham Water & Sewer Authority** – \$493,636 to repair the sanitary sewer system in Horsham Township.
- **Miracle Field of Horsham** – \$1,000,000 to construct an all-abilities baseball field.

These grants will go to work improving Montgomery County's local infrastructure, including pedestrian safety and sewer sanitation. Grant programs like this are essential for neighborhoods throughout the commonwealth, ensuring the safety and functionality of the communities we call home. I'm especially grateful for the Miracle Field of Horsham's \$1 million award. The Miracle Field will ensure that children of all abilities throughout our district and beyond can enjoy the fun and camaraderie of Little League while creating a sense of belonging and comfort. This is such a worthwhile endeavor that will have a profound impact on children's lives. It's truly wonderful to see state dollars spent on this inclusive effort.

I am thrilled to announce that I received appointments to the below committees.

I am excited to see the work that will be done on these committees to create positive change for the people of not just our community, but the entire state.

## APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

AGING

HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

TOURISM & ECONOMIC & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



STATE REP. CERRATO





State Representative  
**MELISSA CERRATO**

605 Horsham Rd.  
Horsham, PA 19044

lpo.ad.0423

## UPCOMING *Events*

**14** 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
**APRIL** Horsham Library Meet and Greet  
435 Babylon Road; Horsham, PA

**28** 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
**APRIL** Top Ten Scams from the Attorney  
General's Office *(Residents only)*  
Nashaminy Falls Club House

**5** 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
**MAY** Senior Resource Fair  
2741 Woodland Road; Abington, PA

**8** 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.  
**MAY** Horsham Library Meet and Greet  
435 Babylon Road; Horsham, PA

**12** 10 A.M. - NOON  
**MAY** Dog Licensing Event with the  
Montgomery County Treasurer's Office  
Horsham District Office

**20** 10 A.M. - NOON  
**MAY** Shredding Event  
Ukrainian American Sports Club, 1 Lower  
State Road; North Wales, PA

### AREAS MY TEAM CAN ASSIST:

- Finding and Recovering Unclaimed Funds
- Notary Services (Non-political)
- Unemployment Compensation Assistance
- SEPTA Senior Key Card Processing
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications
- Acquisition of State Tax Forms
- Questions Regarding Medicaid, Food Stamps, LIHEAP, etc.
- Birth and Death Certificate Applications
- Disability Plate and Placard Applications
- Any other state related issue you may be have.