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DEAR FRIENDS,

The coming of the new year brings with it much reflection on the year that has ended. This year came with huge advances in legislation through the House, and my team and I had

tremendous success in connecting with you, the residents, who we are here to serve. It was, however, not quite as smooth as I would have liked when it came to the PA budget negotiations and process, and it ultimately was disappointing in respect to how few bills have been signed into law. As we gear up for 2024, I anticipate sharing with you information on the legislative process and how I am fighting for legislation in the best interest of my constituents and that will impact the lives of those in the commonwealth.

Thank you to those who have taken the time to let me know your thoughts on legislation, my communications, the events we hosted and the overall operations of my office. I really appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow as your Representative so that I am using my time and energies to best serve you.

I want to take a moment to thank my amazing team that have aided me in having such a

successful first year in office. Together they have served almost 10,000 constituents with cases throughout our community, worked collectively to ensure that all 41 of our events we have hosted or staffed tables at have run smoothly, and have manned our 156 mobile office days to make certain that constituents always have ease of access to our help.

I am beyond grateful to have Rafia, Colin, Alex, Leza and Nashdy with me on this journey and here to support you.

We are already hard at work preparing for 2024 and together we have planned our first nine events which are listed on the back of this mailer, so please mark your calendars and join us! Just as we did this year, we will host our most popular events in both spring and fall, such as our Senior Expo, Shredding event, and Electronics Recycling event. If you have suggestions for events you are hoping to see in the coming year, please let us know and as always, do not hesitate to contact my office if there is anything we can do to assist you!

Melissa Cerrato



STAY UP TO DATE BY JOINING MY EMAIL LIST!

I write weekly emails that go out once a week, normally Friday afternoons, and signing up is the best way to know about added events, legislation that has passed the House during Session, and the happenings throughout the district. You can sign up at: www.pahouse.com/Cerrato/emailsignup.



UPCOMING *Events*

11
JAN.

10 A.M. -
NOON

We will once again host a **Dog Licensing event** at our district office in coordination with the office of Montgomery County Treasurer Jason Salus. Pennsylvania law requires all dogs three months or older to be licensed. Currently, an annual license for a dog who is not spayed or neutered is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. The cost for spayed and neutered dogs is \$6.50 annually and \$31.50 for a lifetime license. However, fees are scheduled to be raised in February, so join us and get it done before the price goes up!

22
FEB.

10 A.M. -
NOON

We will be hosting a team from the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to present our first **PACE and PACENET informational program at the Village of Neshaminy Falls.**

PACE and PACENET are our commonwealth's two state-run pharmaceutical assistance programs. They provide low-cost prescription drugs to qualified Pennsylvania residents aged 65 and older. Over 300,000 Pennsylvanians receive prescription drug benefits through the programs, which are funded through the Pennsylvania Lottery and administered by the Pa. Department of Aging.

PACE and PACENET work with and are supplements to coverage that seniors may already have, including Medicare Part D Plans (Prescription and Drug Coverage), Retiree and Union Coverage, Employer Plans and Veteran's Benefits.

Because PACE/PACENET look only at an applicant's income, it is a good option for people who do not qualify for Medicare's Extra Help program because of their resources. PACE will pay for a senior's complete cost of medications except for the monthly co-payments of \$6 for generic drugs and \$9 for brand-name drugs. PACENET has similar benefits but has co-payments of \$8 for generics and \$15 for brand-name drugs.

There is no cost to enroll in the PACE program. However, PACENET participants may have to pay a monthly premium at the pharmacy.

Eligibility is determined by your previous calendar year's income. Social Security Medicare Part B premiums are excluded from income.

PACE Eligibility:

- ▶ You must be 65 years of age or older and a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to the date of application.
- ▶ You cannot be enrolled in DHS's Medicaid prescription benefit.
- ▶ For a single person, the income limit is \$14,500. For a married couple, combined total income must be \$17,700 or less.

PACENET Eligibility:

- ▶ You must be 65 older and a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to the date of application.
- ▶ You can't be enrolled in the DHS' Medicaid prescription benefit.
- ▶ For a single person, the income limit is \$33,500 (approximately \$2,791/ month). For a married couple, combined total income limit is \$41,500 (approximately \$3,458/ month).

23
FEB.

9 A.M.

In collaboration with Representative Liz Hanbidge's office, we will be hosting our second annual **Fox Chase Cancer Center's Mobile Mammogram Bus** at Representative Hanbidge's office (1098 West Skippack Pike in Blue Bell). Breast cancer is the most common cancer for women and a quick 5-minute mammogram could save your life. Early detection is vitally important and can help ensure that people who do have cancer can go into remission and survive. If you are over 40 and due for a mammogram, schedule an appointment for our event by calling the Fox Chase scheduler at 215-214-1682.

3
MAR.

10 A.M. -
NOON

Are you the parent (or the guardian) of a child with an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)? Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed or challenged by how to navigate the IEP process? Representative Liz Hanbidge and I will again be hosting a panel of experts and advocates who will present best practices on how to navigate the IEP system and be involved with your child's educational process to encourage positive outcomes. Be sure to join us at Temple University Ambler Campus for this great event.

20
APR.

10 A.M. -
NOON

They say, "the third time's the charm," so if you have broken/obsolete electronics cluttering up your home, please join us for our third **E-Waste Recycling event** so we can help you dispose of them properly. Representative Ben Sanchez and I in collaboration with Junkluggers will be at the Upper Dublin library parking lot to assist you in safely and securely discarding your unneeded computers, printers, DVD players and more.



25
APR.

5:30 P.M. -
7:30 P.M.

Join us and Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds Jean Sorg at the Horsham VFW for a **Veteran ID event.**

The Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds encourages all veterans to record their DD214s for safekeeping and provides Montgomery County veterans with a photo ID card and a corresponding program to receive discounts for goods and services from participating merchants. Veterans will be able to present these cards to businesses throughout our region that have agreed to provide a discount to Montgomery County veterans in appreciation for the veterans' service to our country.

If you have yet to have your DD214 recorded for safekeeping and receive your Veteran ID card, then this is the event for you!

10
MAY

11 A.M. -
2 P.M.

We had such a great time welcoming constituents from across our districts at the last two senior expos, so we hope this will be just as successful of an event. Please join Representative Guent, Representative Sanchez, and me for our next **Senior Expo!** There are so many local, county, state and federal resources to learn about that we hope you will come and talk with all of the vendors to learn about these programs. The location for this is still being determined, but I'll share that information with you as soon as the details are finalized.



19
MAY

10 A.M. -
NOON

Please join us for our annual **Free Document Shredding Event** in partnership with Representative Malagari. If you are ready to clean out your old documents and want to be sure that your identity is protected, this is the perfect event for you.

In order to serve as many constituents as possible, we ask that you remain inside your vehicle and our team will remove the items to be shredded and have you on your way.

9
JUNE

10 A.M. -
NOON

We held a **Senior Key Card Event** on a Sunday in October, and it was a smashing success with over 75 new and renewed cards processed. We hope anyone who is unable to come during regular business hours will join us so we can assist you.

We are proud to continue our partnership with SEPTA in helping our constituents gain access to SEPTA Key Cards in the most convenient way! This card is provided to residents aged 65 or older and offers free rides on all SEPTA transit routes including buses, trolleys, subway and regional rail. Additionally, seniors who wish to take SEPTA to Delaware or New Jersey will receive a 50% discount on fare when they tap their Key Senior Card.



We can assist in your application for an initial SEPTA Key Senior Photo Card as well as renewals. You are required to bring a government-issued ID that lists your birthdate, like a driver's license or photo ID. At this time, the current time for SEPTA to process your application and send your Key Card is six weeks. If you would prefer not to wait, you may apply or have your pass renewed at SEPTA Headquarters, located at 1234 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19107. To do so, schedule an appointment with SEPTA at 215-580-7145.

Unfortunately, the site will not allow us to create a duplicate Key Card. In order to receive a replacement for a lost or stolen card, you can send a \$5 check or money order made payable to SEPTA to: SEPTA P.O. Box 824833 Philadelphia, PA 19182.

New events are regularly added to the calendar so for the most up to date schedule, I highly recommend signing up for my weekly email!

PARTNERING WITH NON-PROFITS TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY



I had the opportunity to reconnect with a constituent, Sara, to learn more about the incredible non-profit One House at a Time (OHAAT) where she works as operations and volunteer coordinator.

OHAAT's mission is to help families who are currently lacking resources to establish (or reestablish) a self-sufficient life by providing them with the necessities of a functional home environment. Through their Beds for Kids program, they provide children and youth (ages 2 – 20) living in poverty with beds, bedding, and tools that encourage healthy bedtime habits, so they can get the quality and sufficient sleep they need to thrive.

As a sitting member of the House Human Services and Children and Youth committees, this charitable organization not only touches my heart due to their mission, but also brings to light a need that is not often discussed, and I am hoping to dig deeper into this with my committees.

Our office will continue collecting "like new/gently used" children's books and stuffed animals to be donated to this organization.

It is our duty to step up and help the most vulnerable in our communities and that is exactly what Laurel House does every day.

Laurel House is a comprehensive domestic violence agency that offers an array of services to support those impacted by domestic violence, while also providing prevention and education services to the general community.

More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the U.S. will experience rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. This unfortunately means that everyone knows someone that is affected by domestic violence, whether you realize it or not.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please know that there is a way out. There are people who can help, and you are not in this alone.

Call Laurel House's 24-hour hotline at 1-800-642-3150 or text HOPE to 85511.



My team and I were proud to join Prothonotary Noah Marlier in collecting toiletries in support of this amazing organization and the families they serve and will continue to be a drop-off location if you wish to donate to this life-saving organization.



Housing and food insecurity are both issues we discuss frequently in my House Human Services Committee. Family Promise is an incredible non-profit organization that steps up to answer the call of those in need. They primarily serve families with children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, with the mission of "helping homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response."

In 2023 Family Promise Montco PA provided a safe place to sleep and healthy food to 2,384 people and 100% of families who completed their program found permanent homes.

If you are in need or wish to get involved, you can contact Family Promise using the information to the right.



HOUSING PROGRAMS:

31 S. Spring Garden St., Ambler, PA 19002
Phone: 215.628.2334
office@fpmontco.org

FOOD PANTRY:

2801 Woodland Road, Roslyn, PA 19001
Phone: 267.318.0607
food@fpmontco.org

My office will also remain a drop-off location for food donations, so if you are cleaning out your pantries or just want to donate to help those in our community, we will gladly distribute them for you.

AROUND THE DISTRICT...



Neshaminy Falls Town Hall.



A Day in The Life with Horsham Fire and EMS.



Breast Cancer Awareness at the Capitol.



Guest Lecturing at Gwynedd Mercy Academy.



Our Landlord Tenant Event Presenters.



Family Fair/Trunk Or Treat Event in Partnership with state Reps. Liz Hanbidge and Ben Sanchez.



Celebrating Montgomery Township Sewer Authority.



Main Street Policy Discussion.



Career Day Fun.



Wissahickon Valley Public Library Celebrates 100 Years.



PA Breast Cancer Coalition Celebrates 30 Years.



PA Municipal Authorities Association Meeting.



Jarrett Nature Center Visit.



Policy Hearing at Operating Engineers on Health Centers.



Montgomery County Sheriff's Legislative Update.



House Tourism Committee Visit Lincoln Financial Field to Discuss Hosting the 2026 World Cup.



Annual Legislative Meeting at Eastern Center for Arts and Technology.



Horsham H.O.P.S is Up and Running.



Veterans Day Ceremony at the Horsham VFW.



House Tourism Committee on Walking Tour of Philadelphia's Historic District for the Upcoming Semiquincentennial.



State Representative
MELISSA CERRATO

605 Horsham Rd.
Horsham, PA 19044



*Discussing Childcare
Obstacles at SMG Clubhouse.*



*Dropping off Donations for
Blair Mill Elementary.*

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UPCOMING *Events*

11
JAN. **DOG LICENSING EVENT**
10 A.M. - NOON
Rep. Cerrato's District Office

22
FEB. **PACE/PACENET INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM**
10 A.M. - NOON
The Village of Neshaminy Falls

23
FEB. **FOX CHASE CANCER CENTER'S MOBILE
MAMMOGRAM BUS**
9 A.M.
Rep. Liz Hanbidge's District Office

3
MAR. **INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATIONAL PLAN
(IEP) PANEL**
10 A.M. - NOON
Temple University Ambler Campus

20
APR. **E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT**
10 A.M. - NOON
Upper Dublin Library Parking Lot

25
APR. **VETERAN ID EVENT**
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Horsham VFW

For more information on these events and other events happening in the district in 2024, please see the inside of this newsletter!

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 have.