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Rep. Pam Snyder

INSIDE:

- Federal CO2 mandate
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- Targeting drug abuse

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A good Head Start



Quality early education is essential in today's society. Here, I gather with young friends at Masontown Head Start in April after we shared a book and some fascinating conversation.

Sign up for email updates



I want to alert you of House rules that prohibit when I can contact you leading up to an election. **Unless you specifically opt in to continue receiving my emails**, I'm prohibited from sending you legislative email updates for 60 days before the 2014 primary and general elections.

Opting in will allow you to continue to receive notices about important issues that matter to you, including:

- Updates on legislation
- News and events in the district
- Other relevant government-related information

You can sign up to receive my email alerts – and opt in to continue to receive them around elections – by visiting my website at www.pahouse.com/Snyder, clicking “E-MAIL ALERTS” and filling out the form.

You can also stay updated on social media. Just “like” my legislative Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RepSnyder. I'm also on Twitter: @RepSnyder.

Lieutenant General William M. Keys Bridge

The Lt. Gen. William M. Keys Bridge

The “Lieutenant General William M. Keys Bridge” was dedicated July 11 at the span carrying State Route 88 – Front Street – over Ten Mile Creek, linking Washington and Greene counties.

He's a man whose 34 years of dedication and service to his country deserve recognition. From Vietnam to Iraq, General Keys' leadership skills shone through and earned him the Navy Cross and Silver Star, among many other honors and accolades.

The Fredericktown native retired from the Marine Corps in 1994 but his exploits will be remembered forever.

Snyder bill would streamline mental health services for minors

The House Human Services Committee in June unanimously approved my House Bill 2212, which would clarify when a minor's consent is needed for mental health examinations and other health services.

The measure would streamline the process so mental health professionals can work expediently and effectively when circumstances dictate. I know personally of situations that have arisen locally that needed swift responses for the safety and well-being of all.

The changes I propose would specify the conditions when consent is needed, and provide for more uniform application of the standards so recovery programs can be implemented more quickly.

H.B. 2212 now faces consideration by the full House.

New budget is a poor roadmap for Pa.

Pennsylvania's \$29.1 billion budget for 2014-15 is fiscally irresponsible and strategically barren.

I couldn't support it. It is a bad roadmap for Pennsylvania's future.

Look around us: Most states are dealing with budget surpluses – not deficits to the tune of \$1.5 billion.

Other states' job-creation numbers are putting Pennsylvania's to shame – we've recently been ranked 47th and 49th.

The rest of the country is moving forward to recover from the Great Recession. Pennsylvania – at best – is treading water.

Instead of creating jobs and promoting economic development, the budget takes the policy mistakes of the last three years and doubles down on them.

The spending blueprint does little to reverse the governor's \$1 billion cut to public education in his first budget. The funding cuts have now grown to \$2.7 billion, causing larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, higher property taxes and the loss of 20,000 education jobs.

Worse yet, the budget proposal is based on gimmicky revenue assumptions and one-time funding sources, including:

- Diverting \$30 million from the Volunteer Fire Companies Loan Fund;
- Raiding \$95 million and \$85 million, respectively, from the Small Business First and Machinery and Equipment Loan funds;
- Cutting \$1.9 million from the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; and
- Flat-funding county-run human service programs, retaining the governor's 10 percent funding cut for a third year.

And that just isn't good enough – or fair – for Pennsylvania, for its schools, its property taxpayers, its working families or for senior citizens.

Pennsylvanians are looking for genuine and meaningful investment in education, health care and job creation. But the damage from previous policy mistakes will not be undone by the 2014-15 budget.

In many ways, the plan will make things much worse.

Reduced vehicle registration fees for seniors

If you are retired and have a total income less than \$19,200, you may be eligible for a reduction in your vehicle registration fee.

PennDOT registration fees usually cost \$36, but this program provides the registration to you at a discounted rate of only \$10. Applications are available at my offices or on PennDOT's website: www.dmv.state.pa.us.



I won unanimous support for my House Resolution 816, which recognized May 11-17 as National Hospital Week in Pennsylvania. National EMS and Nurses Week also was celebrated in May, and state Sen. Tim Solobay joined me to present a citation to personnel at the Southwest Regional Medical Center in Waynesburg to honor the contributions of our health care providers.

Governor's pension push is misguided

Gov. Tom Corbett has been insisting that the state legislature tackle public pension "reform."

However, Gov. Corbett's idea of "reform" would:

- Cut retirement benefits for many employees by 40 percent or more;
- Not reduce pension costs any faster than the current pension reform law, Act 120;
- Not lower property taxes for homeowners; and
- Add \$67.1 billion to the pension debt by 2018, which comes to \$13,525 per household.

Pennsylvania's pension "crisis" was caused by Gov. Corbett's massive education cuts in 2011. Those cuts, sustained over the following three years, have now cost school districts nearly \$3 billion.

School districts across Pennsylvania would have an additional \$3 billion if the governor had simply funded schools at the level they were funded when he took office.

Pennsylvania's pension problem is a budget problem, a problem created by Gov. Tom Corbett.