



State Representative Maria P. Donatucci



P.O. Box 202185 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2185 • (717) 783-8634

2115 Oregon Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19145 • (215) 468-1515

713 Sharon Ave., Office 1B • Sharon Hill, PA 19079 • (610) 522-2290

Mercy Wellness Center, 2nd Floor • 2821 Island Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19153 • (215) 492-5811

Dear Friends:

This winter has brought with it more inclement weather than any in recent memory; but despite the flurry of storms, 2014 has gotten off to a tremendous start. This year has the potential to be a wonderful year for the district as we continue our efforts, together, to make our community the best in the state.

I know I will continue to do my part in Harrisburg. There are many issues that come before the Pennsylvania House, both challenging and rewarding. In this newsletter, you will find some highlights of upcoming legislative happenings as well as a look back on the last 365 days.

As always, feel free to continue to email me, call my office or stop in and visit. My staff and I are always ready to assist with any state-related issue. I wish you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Warm Regards,

Transportation law saves SEPTA service, creates jobs

Many of you are aware that a \$2.4 billion transportation bill recently passed the House and Senate, and was signed into law.

Passage of this law means jobs and a return on investment down the line when we need it to offset property and school taxes or to improve the state of health and human services in Philadelphia.

The increased multi-modal funding, which is largely for airports, rails and ports, will also support the numerous pedestrian- and bike-trail projects planned throughout the city.

Statewide, the \$2.4 billion transportation plan will:

- Boost economic output by \$6.5 billion,
- Create and sustain 50,000 jobs with added payroll of \$2 billion,
- Increase net economic output by \$3.3 billion, and
- Create an additional \$1.1 billion output and 4,000 jobs in the important manufacturing sector.

For many of you, mass transit is a lifeline – it's how you get to work, school, the grocery store, or to church, and anyone can see that our transit system is in need of upgrades.

Because of this legislation, SEPTA and mass transit systems across the state can update their fleets and stations, and they will receive the funds necessary to complete planned upgrades that are estimated to cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Of the estimated \$2.4 billion, roads and bridges will receive \$1.8 billion, mass transit agencies across the state will see approximately \$500 million, and \$144 million will go to a multi-modal fund for airports, freights and ports.

I am glad we addressed this when we did and did not wait until a major tragedy occurred on one of our structurally deficient bridges.

For more information on the legislation or any other state-related program or bill, please contact my office.

Is the state holding some of your unclaimed 'treasure?'

The Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office is currently holding over \$1.5 billion in unclaimed property and they want to return that property to its rightful owner.

Does the commonwealth have something that belongs to you?

Let my staff guide you to your "pot of gold."

Stop by my office any weekday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and my staff will help you claim what's rightfully yours.

Examples of unclaimed property include:

Closed bank accounts

Uncashed checks, including paychecks

Lost stocks and bonds

Contents of safe deposit boxes

Expired gift cards/certificates

Proceeds from the demutualization of insurance companies

The Treasurer's Office estimates that one in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property.



Governor's annual Budget Address – more of the same

Just as I have in the past, I walked off of the House floor after Governor Corbett's budget address disappointed at another missed opportunity to do right by the people of Pennsylvania.

Governor Corbett's budget is once again fueled by one-time revenue sources and is filled with more of the same smoke and mirrors as his previous budgets — failing to adequately support children, the poor or the working class.

My colleagues and I have maintained all along that a seriously underfunded education system has severe, long-term consequences on Pennsylvania's ability to compete in the global economic marketplace. Instead of showing real leadership and fully restoring his \$1 billion cut to public schools, the governor continued his trend of providing baby increases in the wake of massive cuts.

While our schools are struggling, the governor continues to leave potential revenue on the table and corporations operating in our state are failing to pay their share of taxes. Governor Corbett refuses to impose a reasonable natural-gas severance tax on Marcellus Shale drillers that could provide hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue, and Pennsylvania remains the ONLY gas-producing state without such a tax.

The governor refuses to close corporate tax loopholes like the Delaware Loophole, and his refusal to expand Medicaid under

the Affordable Care Act while surrounding states are receiving millions of dollars in federal funding further highlights how he is failing working-class Pennsylvanians.

Instead of helping working-class and poor Pennsylvanians, Governor Corbett continues to cater to large corporations and CEOs, as evidenced by his continued quest to privatize liquor sales in Pennsylvania. PA Wine and Spirits stores generated approximately \$2.2 billion in sales in 2012-2013 and the PLCB returned more than \$512 million to the state treasury; but, rather than saving family sustaining jobs by modernizing and expanding the current system, the governor is pushing the 'quick fix,' privatization option.

The Corbett budget does nothing to improve the tax climate or make our tax system fairer for Pennsylvania workers, families and retirees. The governor's rationale has always been, 'tax breaks for a corporation means more jobs;' yet, after three years of the governor's policies, Pennsylvania ranks a meager 48th in the country in job creation.

I know one thing for sure — Pennsylvania workers, families and retirees should be our top priority when it comes to tax breaks — not wealthy corporations and their CEOs. Governor Corbett's budget does not reflect this belief, and there is no doubt in my mind that we can do better.

Preserving the Pennsylvania Lottery for Pa. seniors



Privatization deal dead...for now

Governor Corbett recently decided to end his pursuit of a contract with Camelot Global LLC, a British firm, to provide private management services for the Pennsylvania Lottery. This is great news for Pennsylvania and particularly Pennsylvania's senior citizens, who benefit from the various programs the lottery supports.

The decision by the governor to pursue private management in the first place was always puzzling. Pennsylvania's lottery has one of the lowest administrative costs in the nation, it is generally regarded as one of the most successful and best-run lotteries, and revenues have continued to increase regularly under public management. The things the governor said he wanted to accomplish through privatization — increased play and the addition of new games — can easily be accomplished without siphoning lottery proceeds to pay for a private, foreign management company.

Money wasted

Unfortunately, the governor did not end his privatization effort until nearly \$5 million had already been spent on lawyers, consultants and other advisors. That money, if left in the Lottery Fund, could have paid for thousands of additional property tax rebates, meals and free or low-cost rides for senior citizens.

Preserving proceeds for Pennsylvania seniors

The privatization pursuit might not be done for good. Senate Republicans have said they are still interested in exploring the possibility.

But the idea of privatizing lottery management is extremely unpopular in Pennsylvania, as it should be. Pennsylvania seniors and the general public understand that every dollar spent on private managers and fees is one less dollar available to help seniors. As Democratic chairman of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee, I will continue working to protect our lottery and preserve ALL lottery proceeds for programs that benefit Pennsylvanians.

Tavern games legalized

A recently enacted Pennsylvania law allows bars, restaurants, hotels and public golf courses with liquor licenses to conduct tavern games. Tavern games are small games of chance which include pull-tab games, daily drawings or raffles. About 4,500 businesses across the state can seek licenses.

The maximum individual prize limit is \$2,000, and no more than \$35,000 in prizes may be awarded per week by any one establishment.

Tavern games are expected to eventually generate \$156 million per year in additional revenue for the state.

Previously, small games of chance had been limited as fundraisers for non-profit organizations.



A look back at the past year



Rep. Donatucci joined colleagues at a news conference to denounce the governor's plan to outsource the Pennsylvania Lottery to a British company. The governor has since decided to pursue other options for privatizing the lottery.

Rep. Donatucci joined colleagues at a news conference to talk about the upcoming Women's Health Agenda.

She spoke about her upcoming legislation (House Bill 1900) that would increase eligibility for breast and cervical cancer screenings through the Department of Health.



Rep. Donatucci attended a Policy Committee hearing on child care funding in Pennsylvania.



Rep. Donatucci was joined by singer Bobby Rydell at the Columbus Day Parade.



Rep. Donatucci and Rep. Ronald Waters posed with constituents at an event in DELCO.



Rep. Donatucci joined constituents at a skating rink to raise money for Nailla, a South West Philadelphia student who was abducted and assaulted.



Rep. Donatucci joined other elected officials, community leaders and youth at a "Summer of Peace Walk against Violence" event.



Rep. Donatucci participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade joined by members of the Philadelphia City Council, members of the police force and other community leaders.

Rep. Donatucci and House Speaker Sam Smith greeted Francesca Ruscio, Miss Philadelphia 2013, on the House floor.



Rep. Donatucci spent time with the 28th Infantry Division/ Iron Division. She was joined by Reps. Bizzarro and Harkins.



Rep. Donatucci presented a check to students on behalf of the Bridge Program Scholarship, which she helped make possible by voting in favor of legislation.



Rep. Donatucci joined Sen. LeAnna Washington and other "women against abuse" for a Walk Against Domestic Violence.





State Representative

Maria P. Donatucci

185th Legislative District

P.O. Box 202185
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2185

lpo.kaf.0214

Expanding Medicaid in Pennsylvania

I recently joined the House Democratic Policy Committee at a public hearing in Philadelphia to hear from health care experts and advocates about the predicted outcomes on Pennsylvanians' health if Governor Tom Corbett decides to opt into expanding Medicaid in the commonwealth.

Under the proposed expansion, the federal government would pay 100 percent of funding needed in the first three years of implementation, and no less than 90 percent after 2017. Reports from several independent studies have indicated the tremendous benefits Pennsylvania would realize by opting into Medicaid expansion – not only in the improved health of our residents, but also to our state's bottom line.

Children's Health Insurance Program improved and extended

There is no longer a mandatory waiting period before parents can enroll their uninsured children in Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program under a law enacted in October. Previously, children had to go without insurance for six months before qualifying for enrollment in CHIP.

In addition to eliminating the six-month wait for CHIP enrollment, the law also extends the program through December 2015.

CHIP coverage is available to any child in Pennsylvania whose family earns too much to qualify for Medicaid, but can't afford to purchase private insurance or isn't covered by an employer.

CHIP is free for a family of four if the household income is \$23,550 to \$47,100, low cost if the household income is \$47,101 to \$70,650 or full cost if household income exceeds \$70,650. Low-cost premiums range between \$34.84 and \$72.54 per child, per month. Full-cost premiums range from \$159.86 to \$306.80 per child, per month, depending on the carrier.

CHIP covers immunizations, wellness checkups, prescriptions, dental, vision and hearing services, diagnostic testing, emergency care, mental health benefits, and hospitalization, as well as substance abuse rehabilitation and other services.

If your child doesn't have health insurance, or you know of a child who isn't covered, you can find out more about CHIP, including providers in your area, and how to enroll at www.chipcoverspakids.com or by contacting my office.

Before applying for CHIP, I strongly urge you to contact my office to avoid any unnecessary delays.

WORKING FOR YOU

Since I became your state representative, my office has assisted thousands of constituents just like you with problems, questions and concerns about state-related issues. I could not do it without the help of great staff who are always ready to serve you. At any of my district offices, you can obtain a variety of informational booklets, brochures and other publications on state programs; receive help completing state forms; and get help solving a problem regarding a state law, program or service.

I CURRENTLY HAVE THREE OFFICES IN THE DISTRICT THAT CAN ASSIST YOU:

2115 Oregon Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19145
Phone: (215) 468-1515 • 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

2821 Island Ave.
Mercy Wellness Center, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19153
Phone: (215) 492-5811

713 Sharon Ave.
Office 1B
Sharon Hill, PA 19079
Phone: (610) 522-2290

To be as open and accessible as possible, I also have satellite offices at locations that might be more convenient for you (listed above). Free notary service is also available at all offices.

Problem solving and constituent service is a lot of what we do, but I'm also just as committed to being available to discuss legislative issues and concerns about our state. I have been excited to host a number of community events including several public hearings and town halls. These help me to stay in touch with you and to hear what's on your mind. I look forward to seeing you around the district.