



*State Representative*  
**Pamela A. DeLissio**  
194th Legislative District

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**Dear Neighbor,**

The completion of the 2016-2017 budget occurred with less drama than the 2015-2016 budget that was finalized after nine months of gridlock and stalemates.

The Tax Code bill for this year's budget reflects about \$1.33 billion in new revenue. Of the \$1.33 billion about \$700 million are dollars that are sustainable and recurring. The balance of revenue, about \$633 million is non-recurring and therefore unsustainable and will contribute to the current structural deficit.

The reason this revenue bill was agreed to is multi-fold: first, legislators and the Governor recognized that a protracted budget discussion would not be acceptable to constituents and acknowledged that last year's gridlock did real monetary harm to school districts and human services agencies, in particular.

Second, this is an election year and all House members and half of the Senate are up for re-election. This is the only position I have held where decisions are made differently for this reason. I heard on more than one occasion that taxes, in particular the Personal Income Tax (last raised in 2004), should be raised but not in an election year. Instead agreements were made to fill the "revenue holes" with one time fixes.

I voted for this Tax bill because the alternative was to repeat the harm of last year. However, I want to be clear about the one time revenue and the fact that, in my opinion, we still may experience a serious shortfall. Of the \$633 million of non-recurring revenue \$200 million is to be borrowed from a not-for-profit entity created years ago by the legislature for the purpose of ensuring access to medical malpractice insurance. The organization has a surplus. It is my understanding that such a borrowing is illegal, and according to my research, there is no Board of Directors, per se, to approve such a borrowing. The fund is under the purview of the Department of Insurance. The borrowing is to be paid back over a 5 year period beginning in 2018. This anticipated borrowing, if somehow not illegal, is indeed bad form.

Another line item calls for \$100 million from an expansion to Internet gaming. The Internet Gaming bill passed the House in June and is in the Senate. When (if?) it passes the Senate and becomes law we will be at least 4 months into the fiscal year. For that reason alone, the anticipation of producing \$100 million this fiscal year is questionable.

My commitment is to smart government to ensure that tax dollars are spent efficiently. I am not a proponent of raising taxes without good and sufficient reason. I have and will continue to question the tens of millions of dollars in tax credits that are part of the budget each year. My goal is to understand if these tax credits are as meaningful as they should be or are they just diverting necessary tax dollars from the general fund.

As always, your thoughts on these matters are of great importance. Please email me at RepDeLissio@pahouse.net or consider attending a future Town Hall.

## DeLissio named LeadingAge PA Legislator of Distinction

Earlier this summer, I was awarded the LeadingAge PA Legislator of Distinction Award for 2016 for my strong advocacy efforts on long-term care issues for those in need regardless of income.

LeadingAge PA is a trade association representing Pennsylvania nonprofit organizations that provide housing, health care and community services primarily to the elderly.

Upon presenting the award, Ron Barth, president and CEO of LeadingAge PA, said:

*"Pam has had a tremendous impact in our field of providing long-term care to seniors. One of a number of heavy lifts Pam assisted us with took place a year ago, when Pam stepped up to assist in stopping the Department of Human Services proposed changes to the Budget Adjustment Factor for Medical Assistance rates for nursing facilities. This gained the support of many other legislators, however, Pam more than any other got involved with the issue, supported nonprofit providers and was instrumental in making sure that the BAF change – which would have resulted in the transfer of \$3.59 million in MA funding from many LeadingAge PA providers to out-of-state for-profit corporations – did not take place."*

It was an honor and privilege to be recognized for this important award.

## **Bill would improve transparency and accountability in elections**

Of particular concern is the influence that special interests and advocacy groups have on elections, and I am proud to announce I have introduced a bill that would require disclosure of expenditures for political communications.

Specifically, my bill would require people, advocacy groups, and special interests engaging in organized political communication to register with the Pennsylvania Department of State and file regular disclosure reports.

Everyone has the right to make their voices heard, but with the proliferation of political and issue advertising in the wake of the Citizens United decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, it's difficult to know who is behind the advertising. My legislation would not restrict those voices, but help level the playing field by improving transparency and accountability regarding the money spent to influence elections.

This would be similar to the reports that candidates and political parties are already required to file during election cycles. The reports would list the names of people and entities that contribute to the sponsors of the advertising.

Under the bill, any advertisement or message that refers to a candidate or elected official would be considered "political communication," and if the message or advertisement was made within 60 days of an election, it automatically would be considered political communication, regardless of whether or not it advocates for a candidate. Failure to register or file a report would be a misdemeanor, subject to as much as a \$5,000 fine and/or up to two years in jail.



**Recognizing the 150<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day celebration with the 21st Ward Veterans Association.**

## **Medical marijuana passage would help patients**

In April, I had the opportunity to vote in favor of legislation that legalized medical marijuana in Pennsylvania.

This was an important vote because it allows medical cannabis to be used by patients who have had limited-to-no success with standard medications. The governor signed it into law just days after the vote.

Over the past year, many hearings were held to ensure that both the House Health and Judiciary committees were as well-informed as possible regarding the merits of this legislation. The hearings provided an opportunity to listen to poignant and powerful stories, including those from mothers of children with a form of seizures that are not sufficiently controlled with medications that are currently available, and who often experience severe side effects from these medications.

Passage of this law provides an opportunity for many citizens to try an alternative course of treatment for chronic conditions such as seizure disorders.

Discussion of S.B. 3 (now Act 16 of 2016) was the focus of one of my town halls in May 2015 and a straw vote during that meeting found that the overwhelming majority of attendees were in favor of this bill. Interestingly, it was the information presented at the meeting that helped some constituents understand the facts of the matter differently, and more than a few became supporters by the end of the presentation.

After much homework and review of information presented by many stakeholders, both pro and con, it was clear that the benefits of moving forward with this legislation outweighed the negative concerns. It will take approximately 18-24 months for medical cannabis to be available in Pennsylvania.



**DeLissio participates in her sixth celebration of Arbor Day at Inn Yard Park with the East Falls Tree Tenders.**

# We are informed by our experiences and breast cancer is now one of mine

We all are informed by our experiences. As of this past May, I can add the experience of being diagnosed with breast cancer to my knowledge base.

It is indeed a unique experience for me as I have enjoyed relatively good health for the majority of my 60 years.

As I was soon to find out, for many in my circle of constituents, colleagues and acquaintances, this is a shared experience.

The good news is that my breast cancer is curable; the 14-month treatment plan includes 28 rounds of chemotherapy plus weeks of radiation, which should ensure that I am cancer free.

It has already been interesting how my diagnosis overlaps with my legislative role as your state Representative.

In late June, I spoke at a Capitol news conference to encourage the Senate to vote on final passage of H.B. 60 that ensures oral chemotherapy is available to patients at the same co-pay as intravenous chemotherapy. Insurance companies have been, in many instances, charging patients cost prohibitive co-pays for oral chemotherapy. I had been a champion of this legislation long before my diagnosis, but I hope that speaking out and being public about my own situation has helped to get this bill to the governor's desk.

In addition, an early observation in this adventure is the number of times that my health care provider has stated that a certain test or treatment is recommended, however, it will depend on my health insurance coverage.

It is my belief that licensed health care providers, i.e. doctors, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, should determine treatment plans for their patients and not have to vigorously defend their treatment plans to an insurance company on behalf of their patients.

Experiencing the health care system from my new "patient" perspective reinforces my experiences in my private sector career. As a former CEO heading up two not-for-profit and two for-profit organizations over a 28 year career, I am intimately familiar with the process of acquiring and offering health insurance to employees. My experience tells me that we need a different solution and the Affordable Care Act is not that solution, despite its goal to cover citizens that were previously not covered under a health plan.

My bill, H.B. 1688, is proposed legislation for single-payer health care — basically, Medicare for all. Under a single-payer system, a licensed health care provider would rarely need to defend their treatment plans on behalf of their patients.

As I stated in the beginning, we are informed by our experiences and be assured I will incorporate my new "patient" perspective into my legislative advocacy on behalf of my constituents.



Congratulations  
on the  
Neighborhood  
Club of Bala  
Cynwyd's  
centennial year!



DeLissio coordinates with Sen. Casey for the Belmont Hills Community meeting regarding the Norfolk Southern Rail Line.



DeLissio visits the third grade at Cook-Wissahickon Elementary School. It is never too early to talk about civics and how government works.



Presenting H.B. 2078,  
legislation I co-prime  
sponsored which  
removes barriers  
for veterans and  
their spouses in  
obtaining teacher  
certification. The bill  
passed the House  
overwhelmingly in  
June.

# New Long-Term Care Council to help Pennsylvanians

This spring, House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody appointed me to serve on the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council, which was established by Act 64 of 2015. When he made the appointment he considered my experience and expertise on long-term care issues reflected in my 28 year private sector career.

The council was created to replace the outdated Intra-Governmental Council of Long-Term Care to address a multitude of topics ranging from facility-based care to home and community-based services.

I am pleased to play a role on this new council. Our state ranks fourth in the country with the percentage of citizens 65 or older and citizens 85 or older are the most rapidly growing segment of seniors in the commonwealth. Our current system is difficult for consumers and caregivers to navigate and one of my goals as a member of the council will be to ensure that the continuum of housing and services is as seamless as possible.

When the law was under consideration in the House last year, I amended it to ensure consumers and caregivers were adequately represented on the council so the state could benefit from their first-hand knowledge.

The council will consist of 35 members, and focus on six different areas of concentration: regulatory review and access to quality care; community access and public education; long-term care service models and delivery; work force; housing; and behavioral health issues of seniors 60 or older.

## SEPTA Key photo ID cards now available for registering in my office

Seniors 65 or older can still ride SEPTA for free but SEPTA is transitioning to a photo ID system for its senior riders. Instead of using your state ID or Medicare card, SEPTA is now offering a photo ID card to use as proof of age.

The new card will have a contactless chip, so riders only will need to swipe it to pay for their ride.

The free service for seniors is available on all SEPTA transit services, including buses, trolleys, the Market-Frankford and Broad Street lines, and the Norristown High Speed Line. Regional rail fares for seniors will continue to be \$1 for rides in Pennsylvania.

My office is now equipped to take your picture and complete an application for SEPTA for your new personal ID card. Call my office to make an appointment and allow us to assist you in getting your SEPTA Key ID photo card.

## Why You Should Come to the District Office!

- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications
- Unemployment Compensation issues
- Applications for: LIHEAP (heating aid), SNAP (food stamps), medical assistance, TANF, etc.
- PennDOT: Vehicle registration forms, disability parking placards, driver's license applications, non-driver's photo ID card applications
- Birth and death certificate applications
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- APPRISE counseling
- Pennsylvania state tax forms
- Free notary service of Pennsylvania state documents
- Any matter with state government

### ***Great Friendly Staff!***

**Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

## Sign up for email updates and Opt in

In order to keep you informed about my upcoming events and the legislative topics that are important to you, I invite you to sign up to receive my email alerts.

From Sept. 8 to Nov. 8, House rules stipulate that I cannot contact you unless you have agreed to let me do so. You can opt in to continue to receive my emails.

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 receiving them – by visiting my website at [www.pahouse.com/Delissio/emailsignup](http://www.pahouse.com/Delissio/emailsignup).

# House passes historic statute of limitations bill

My colleagues in the House and I passed legislation that would abolish the criminal statute of limitations for future criminal prosecutions for child sexual abuse crimes.

H.B. 1947 is a bill of historical proportion for survivors of child sexual abuse. Through the efforts of many advocates over more than a decade, the Pennsylvania House came to recognize that a more stringent law was needed to ensure that child sexual predators were being identified and punished. The most recent grand jury report released in the spring of 2016, of the cover-ups that occurred as recently as three years ago in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, was a compelling factor that caused the bill to be voted out of the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor for a full vote by House members.

The bill also would waive sovereign immunity for state and local public institutions in cases of gross negligence, which would allow civil cases to be filed against them.

It also would increase the length of time, from age 30 to age 50, for when child sexual abuse victims could file civil claims.

The bill is with the Senate for consideration.

It can take decades for survivors of child sex abuse to process the trauma and to report it. Giving them the opportunity to seek prosecution over a longer period of time would ensure that justice is served, and I'm proud to have voted for this historic change to Pennsylvania law.

## Pam's Policy Pow Wows

In August, I held three evening Policy Pow Wows to discuss in depth H.B. 1510 — The Pennsylvania Fairness Act; H.B. 1605 — the 2016-17 state budget revenue bill; H.B. 1947 — which would eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual abuse of children; H.B. 1948 — an abortion ban bill that would be one of the strictest in the country; H.B. 1688 — my single-payer legislation; — The Pennsylvania Health Care Plan; and H.B. 30 — an update of our organ donor legislation. These discussions produced thoughtful dialogue on issues that are much debated in Harrisburg.



A photograph of a woman in a pink shirt and green cardigan standing next to the side of a white and red PROSHRED truck. The truck has large red lettering that reads "1-87-PROSHRED". The PROSHRED logo, featuring a stylized 'P' and 'S' intertwined, is visible above the phone number. The truck is a mobile document destruction service.

## Avoid the pitfalls of identity theft

Protect your personal information and avoid scams by securely discarding any documents containing sensitive information.

**Examples of items that should be shredded include:**

- **Bank statements**
- **Credit card statements**
- **Credit card applications**
- **Cancelled checks**
- **Income tax information**
- **Insurance records**
- **Retirement or pension information**

See the "Save the dates" section on the back page for information on my upcoming Shred Events. Shredding occurs on site.

**State Representative  
Pamela A. Delissio**

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# Save the Dates:

*Shred with Pam and her staff at her two upcoming shred events!*

**SHRED  
EVENTS**



## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

**9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**  
Magisterial District Court  
901 Montgomery Avenue  
Penn Valley, PA 19072  
(Next to Staples)

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

**9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**  
Roxborough Municipal Lot  
514 Dupont Street

*Shredding occurs on site.*

## Monthly Town Halls

My monthly Town Halls continue to fulfill my commitment to ongoing dialogue with my constituents. In May 2016, I held my 56<sup>th</sup> Town Hall with special guest Secretary of Aging Teresa Osborne.

We were also joined by the Secretaries of Transportation, Education, and Labor and Industry — Leslie Richards, Pedro Rivera and Kathy Manderino, respectively, during the months of February, March and April.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Town Hall to hear your thoughts on legislation and other state-related matters.

## **SENIOR EXPO THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH**

**9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
Roxborough Memorial Hospital  
5800 Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19128

## **57TH TOWN HALL – SEPTEMBER FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH**

**10 a.m.**  
Wolcoff Auditorium  
Roxborough Memorial Hospital  
5800 Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19128

## **58TH TOWN HALL – OCTOBER THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH**

**7 p.m.**  
Community Room, Falls Ridge  
4349 Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19129

## **59TH TOWN HALL – NOVEMBER *Details to follow***

## **OPEN HOUSE**

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

**4 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
District Office • 6511 Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19128

## **Important 2016 Election Dates**

- Oct. 11** – Last day to register to vote
- Nov. 1** – Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
- Nov. 4** – Last day for county election offices to receive absentee ballots
- Nov. 8** – Election Day, polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

