



YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
PATTY KIM
 103RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are enjoying the new year. Our office accomplished many things last year and it's been a privilege to serve as your state representative. This newsletter will keep you up to date with some of the things going on in the 103rd Legislative District. Please contact us if you need assistance with any state-related issue.

Yours,

RENEWING MY FIGHT FOR A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE

Almost half of the states (23) raised their hourly minimum wage on Jan. 1, 2016, which brings the total number of states that have increased their minimum wage to 29, plus Washington, D.C.

The most recent increases range from as little as 15 cents (Arizona, Missouri, Montana and Ohio) to as much as \$1 (Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Massachusetts and Nebraska).

Once in effect, the highest minimum wage will be \$11.50 for the District of Columbia – and some counties and jurisdictions within certain states actually pay an even higher rate. Some U.S. cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, California; the District of Columbia; and Seattle, Washington, approved hourly rate increases that will ultimately put their minimum wage at \$15 per hour by 2020. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania joins 20 other states stuck at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, which is the lowest wage paid in any state.

As 2016 begins, I am renewing my fight for a minimum wage increase in Pennsylvania. I will push for a vote on my bill, H.B. 250, which would increase our minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour in two years.

FIGHTING FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION FUNDING



I was excited last March when Gov. Tom Wolf presented his budget proposal, which included an additional \$400 million for education. However, a budget was passed in June that left the education funding cuts made under the previous governor intact.

Thankfully, Wolf quickly vetoed that bill. In November a budget framework was announced by the governor and legislative leaders that included \$350 million in new funds for schools. The plan overwhelmingly passed the state Senate in December, but never received a vote in the Republican-controlled House. Again, legislative leaders passed their own version of a budget bill but this time the governor accepted parts of it, including allowing schools to finally receive much-needed funds.

However, at this point, the budget is not complete and schools are still at-risk. I will continue to fight for an increase in education funding in the final budget because our schools are underfunded and children deserve the best possible education.

AREA VETERANS HONORED AT RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

I was proud to host a veterans' recognition breakfast in October to honor residents from Harrisburg, Steelton, Highspire, Paxtang and Swatara Township who served in the military.

The event also included the state's Mobile Veterans Outreach Van to provide information and assistance on benefits available to veterans.

This event was one small way to thank those heroes who sacrificed so much for our freedom. It was a privilege to give area veterans the recognition and appreciation they deserve.

Any area veterans who couldn't attend and want information on state programs designed to aid veterans, please call my office at (717) 986-1673.



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PA House of Representatives
 103rd Legislative District

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CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGEMENT BILL PASSES HOUSE

Language that would allow criminal record expungement in certain situations passed the state House of Representatives in October as part of an amended Senate bill.

The language is in S.B. 166, which would allow people convicted of a third- or second-degree misdemeanor, if at least 10 years have passed since they completed their sentence, to request the opportunity to appear before a judge and ask for an order for limited access of their criminal record. Criminal justice and government agencies would not be subject to the order for limited access, and they would still be able to see a person's entire criminal record information.

All violent offenses punishable by imprisonment of more than two years, and many others of a serious nature, would be prohibited from being subject to an order for limited access under the bill.

I am thrilled that this language passed the House, and I will continue to work to get it all the way to the governor's desk. There are too many cases where someone makes a mistake when they're young and it wreaks havoc on their life for years to come. We need to make record expungement more accessible because if we don't reform the current system, a completed sentence becomes an indefinite sentence.

The bill is awaiting consideration in the Senate.

GRANDPARENTS HONORED AT RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

In celebration of Grandparents Day, I hosted a recognition luncheon for local grandparents.

Recognizing grandparents is more important than ever, with the number of grandparents whose under-age grandchildren live with them at 7.8 million across the country. In addition, 2.7 million grandparents are responsible for most of the basic needs (i.e., food, shelter, clothing) of one or more of the grandchildren living with them.

The event featured helpful information about state services, state programs and local programs available to assist in raising grandchildren. Experts were also on hand to help explain the programs available.

Grandparents are extremely important to the family, and many times the grandparent becomes a child's primary caregiver. I was happy to honor grandparents who have assumed care and responsibility for their grandchild.



SENIOR HEALTH FAIR A SUCCESS

In October, I hosted my third annual Senior Health Fair at the Goodwin Memorial Baptist Church Family Life Center in Harrisburg. The fair focused on the health and welfare of senior citizens, and included: free health screenings, information on programs to benefit seniors, prostate screenings and Zumba fitness demonstrations.

A diverse group of vendors also offered information on transportation, fitness, insurance, housing, disability and health care services. There were also free giveaways and light refreshments.

We had an excellent turnout and I hope this year's Senior Health Fair will be bigger and better than ever.



Curt Werner took this photograph of me at the Pennsylvania Farm Show competing in the Rabbit Hopping Competition with Sarah Betz and her rabbit, Alice. We came in first place!

NEW LAW EXTENDS KIDS' HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

A new law extends the state's health insurance program for children, CHIP, through the end of 2017. The program was set to expire at the end of 2015.

The program ensures that all children who qualify can get quality, affordable health insurance.

In addition to extending the program, the new law also moves the program under the direction of the Department of Human Services. Moving the program out of the state's Insurance Department will ensure the program is run more efficiently, as many children see their insurance change between CHIP and Medical Assistance depending on family finances. Since both programs will now be under one computer system, changes will be much more efficient.

For those who use CHIP, please note that the program itself is not changing, only where it is located in state government.

For more information about CHIP, you can visit www.chipcoverspakids.com or contact my office.



CO-CHAIRPERSON OF GRAND REVIEW WEEKEND

I was extremely honored to be selected as a co-chairperson for the 2015 Civil War United States Colored Troops Grand Review.

The 2015 Grand Review Weekend, which marked the 150th anniversary of a parade of black Civil War veterans in Harrisburg on Nov. 14, 1865, was held in Harrisburg in November.

This event commemorated and honored the sacrifice of the more than 180,000 African-American patriots of the Civil War.

United States Colored Troops re-enactors from several states participated in the Grand Procession during the Grand Review, and in many of the other events connected to the weekend.

Unity and solidarity are the hallmarks of the United States Colored Troops. That's why we came together to honor the patriots of the Civil War who were critical to the success of the Union. I was truly honored to be co-chairperson of this historic event.

For more information about the Grand Review, visit www.2015grandreview.com.



KEEP YOUR FAMILY WARM THIS WINTER

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) is accepting applications for the winter heating season, which runs until April 1.

LIHEAP provides heating funds based on income and family size, as well as emergency grants for those in immediate danger of losing their heat.

Income eligibility is as follows:

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$17,655
2	\$23,895
3	\$30,135
4	\$36,375
Each Additional Person Add	\$6,240

Application information is available at <http://bit.ly/1Hd2WIX>.

The commonwealth also offers a weatherization program for low-income households to reduce the actual heating bills. Families earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline are eligible for this program. Check out the website at <http://bit.ly/MXUufz>.



NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM BILL PASSES HOUSE

I joined two of my colleagues from across the aisle to introduce a bill to establish a dropout recovery program in Pennsylvania called the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, which helps at-risk young people earn a high school diploma or its equivalent and hopefully move on to higher education, employment or military service.



The voluntary program seeks to improve participants' life skills and employment potential by providing military-based training and supervised work experience, together with the core program components of assisting participants to receive a high school diploma or its equivalent, leadership development, promoting fellowship and community service, developing life-coping skills, and improving physical fitness, health and hygiene.

The bill passed the House unanimously and awaits a vote in the Senate.



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MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, welfare)
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints about road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability plates and placards
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies

Any question about state government!