



State Representative
Perry Warren
 31st Legislative District

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NEWTOWN UPDATE • SUMMER 2017

Dear Neighbor,

It has been an honor to serve as your state representative the past few months! Since I was sworn in on Jan. 3, I've enjoyed the opportunity to represent your interests in the Capitol and spend time getting to know more about our communities.



It's been a busy few months in Harrisburg. In recent weeks, my focus has been on working with my colleagues on a 2017-18 state budget that supports Pennsylvania families, small businesses and our communities. As your representative, I will continue to advocate for what works for all of us – adequately funded schools, jobs that pay livable wages and services that help our children, veterans and disabled residents.

One of the highlights of serving as your representative has been the chance to meet people living throughout the district. I've been able to recognize distinguished student

athletes, honor those who have served or are serving in our military and emergency services, and walk with middle school students to raise money for pediatric cancer.

I've also been able to jump right in, working on legislation that will have a positive impact in our commonwealth. One example is the reintroduction of legislation to establish a tax credit for commuters who use the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the Delaware River bridges, and I've proposed a bill to help protect children from being forced into marriage.

You can read more about those efforts in this newsletter. And you can always keep up with developments as they happen by following me on social media – Facebook.com/RepPerryWarren or on Twitter @RepPerryWarren.

My district office is ready to help you with a number of services, whether you need help obtaining a birth or death certificate, applying for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program or help with any state agency. If you think we can help, please don't hesitate to call us at 215-493-5420.

I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf!

Sincerely,

Perry Warren

Working on issues of importance to constituents

I've introduced and co-sponsored legislation on a variety of issues that impact people living in the 31st District. Here's a look at just a few of the initiatives:

Working for a commuter tax credit

I've introduced legislation that would provide a tax break for commuters who use the Pennsylvania Turnpike and bridges across the Delaware River.

House Bill 926, which is similar to a bill introduced by my predecessor, former Rep. Steve Santarsiero, would offer an annual state income tax credit for those commuters of 50 percent of tolls paid, with a \$500 cap. Individuals, corporations and small businesses with tax liability would be eligible.

Ending child marriage

Child marriage is an unfortunate reality in the United States and in our state. Pennsylvania is among 27 states that have no minimum marriage age.

Under current law, a marriage license can be issued for someone between the ages of 16 and 18 if a parent or guardian consents. A marriage license can be issued for someone even younger than that with court approval. It is time

to change that and protect children.

Research shows that marriage before the age of 18 is often coercive or exploitative and can have devastating, long-term effects on the child. We should make sure our children have the chance to be children.

House Bill 1038 would establish the minimum marriage age as 18 with no exceptions.

Other states are considering this step, too. The bill has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration.

Drawing legislative districts fairly

We in Pennsylvania need to make sure that our state legislative and congressional districts are mapped out fairly and not in a partisan manner.

Toward that end, I co-sponsored H.B. 722 to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission and provide a nonpartisan process for redistricting Pennsylvania's

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

Developing and maintaining our infrastructure and transportation systems have always been key components of state government. Whether you drive, fly, ride the rails, or use other modes of transportation, this section focuses on moving around our great commonwealth and beyond.

Good news for air travelers

The House and Senate voted for and Governor Tom Wolf signed Senate Bill 133 in May. Without action, Pennsylvanians would have needed federally approved ID, other than their PA driver's licenses, for air travel beginning Jan. 22, 2018.

This legislation will move Pennsylvania toward compliance with federal Real ID regulations to ensure that state residents don't face difficulty using their IDs for air travel or visits to federal facilities.

I'm pleased that the legislature worked cooperatively on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to find a solution on this issue. No one wants to encounter problems trying to travel by plane or enter federal buildings for work or other reasons.

Under this compromise bill, Pennsylvanians will not be forced to obtain a Real ID-compliant identification card. Instead, a two-tier system will allow the consumer to decide if he/she wants the current, standard PennDOT driver's license or identification card, or opt for the Real ID card.

PennDOT tour

On a rainy spring day, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) representatives and I toured the state roads of Newtown and the rest of our legislative district.

We were joined by local officials, and we discussed problem areas and short-term and long-term infrastructure goals in our area, including along Durham Road (Route 413). We have already seen results from this tour. PennDOT just announced that it has awarded a contract for a much-needed repave of Oxford Valley Road/Reading Avenue in Yardley and Lower Makefield, and in Newtown, PennDOT has completed structural repairs underneath the Center Avenue bridge. If you have any road or transportation related concerns, please contact Legislative Assistant Ryan Bevitz in my office.

Trenton airport meeting

Also in May, I attended the Trenton-Mercer County Airport's second Master Plan meeting, with a goal of bringing attention to the impact of air traffic and noise upon our communities.

I was pleased to see a substantial number of Bucks County residents at the meeting. I spoke with residents concerned about noise generated by planes taking off and landing and with airport officials.

After the first meeting in October, and again after this meeting, I sent a letter to airport management asking for better

notification of airport meetings for residents and government officials, additional public meetings in the Yardley/Lower Makefield area, as well as the addition of flight curfews and fines for violation of those curfews. I also asked that a formal environmental impact study be done for each construction project at the airport.

Those measures would go a long way in helping to alleviate the concerns in our community and make sure our residents are able to have a voice in the Master Plan process. I look forward to learning more about how the airport plans to mitigate noise with minimal impact upon the airport's day-to-day business.

Yardley Train Station renovations chugging down the track

My office was recently briefed by SEPTA on the renovations to the Yardley Train Station. Phase I, which involved creating a new raised platform and demolishing the old one, is completed.

Phase II, which involves adding a handicap ramp, installing a new shelter, adding sidewalks, lights and repaving the parking lots is on pace to be finished by the end of the year.

More information on the project can be found on SEPTA's website: www.septa.org.



HAVE STATE ROAD OR OTHER ISSUES?

My office can help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch about any state-related issue you encounter.

Visit: 91 S. Main St.
Yardley PA 19067

Call: 215-493-5420

Email: RepWarren@pahouse.net



Newtown Fire Association banquet

The Newtown Fire Association held its annual awards banquet at Westaby Hall. David Pannepacker was recognized for his 60 years of service, and Raymond Gillespie celebrated his 50 years with the Newtown Fire Association. Robert Sutton won the President's Award. Ryan Adams was named Firefighter of the Year, and the entire association won the Chief's Award. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your service!



New ABLÉ program offers help for disabled individuals and their families

I was proud to stand with Treasurer Joe Torsella when he announced the opening of Pennsylvania's new ABLÉ savings program on April 3.

The ABLÉ program, administered by the state Treasurer's Office, allows individuals with qualifying disabilities a tax-advantaged way to save or invest without losing their government benefits. This program helps relieve a source of concern for many disabled people and those who care for them, by allowing them to ensure they can both secure the benefits they need now and prepare for the future.

On April 1, I offered to the public an update on the ABLÉ program and other legislative issues affecting those with autism and intellectual disabilities. We also discussed CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medical Assistance and other assistance programs available.

After the legislative briefing, the Newtown Theatre presented a

special "sensory-friendly" screening designed particularly for families with children with autism and intellectual disabilities.

It was heart-warming to see children be able to enjoy the film with their families in an environment that works for them. I'll keep working to make sure we at the state level are providing the services and assistance those individuals with disabilities need.

If my office can help you with the ABLÉ program or any other issue, please feel free to reach out.



Pension reform bill signed into law

I recently joined 142 of my colleagues in passing the first meaningful pension reform bill in seven years. This bipartisan, bicameral effort represents a big step toward ending the gridlock in Harrisburg, while supporting our schools and saving taxpayers money.

Senate Bill 1, which was signed into law by Gov. Wolf, represents the culmination of months of discussion and compromise between Democratic and Republican legislators.

I spent a great deal of time considering this bill and heard from many people before casting my vote. It was important to me that any reform bill ensure that we continue to pay down our pension debt and better protect taxpayers by shifting risk and reducing Wall Street fees. We need to

continue to provide state workers and teachers with a fair retirement benefit, while also providing long-term relief to our school districts. In addition to accomplishing these goals, this compromise bill protected the pensions of all current and former teachers and other public employees.

This bill, though not perfect, moves Pennsylvania forward. And, it shows that Republicans and Democrats can work together to find solutions to Pennsylvania's most-pressing issues.



Working on issues ■ *Continued from page 1*

state Senate, state House and U.S. House districts. The commission would be tasked with conducting an open, transparent process for the drawing of district boundary lines, making sure there are channels for public comment.

The bill has bipartisan support, and there is a similar bill in the Senate.

Commonsense gun legislation

Universal background checks for all firearm purchases are a commonsense measure that most Americans support.

House Bill 1400, which I co-sponsored, would require

universal background checks for firearm purchases, including purchases at a licensed gun show in Pennsylvania.

This is another effort that has bipartisan support. It's a step we can take to make our communities safer while still respecting citizens' Second Amendment rights.

I've also introduced legislation, H.B. 528, that would require Pennsylvania State Police to determine if someone is on the FBI's terrorist watch list before that person would be allowed to purchase a firearm.



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Rep. Perry Warren

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District office ready to help constituents

If you haven't made it to my new district office, I hope you will stop by.

The office is at 91 S. Main St. in Yardley. I hosted an open house in February and was happy to meet many constituents there.

Keep the address handy – there's a lot my office staff can help you with!



Services we help constituents with include birth and death certificates, voter registration, unclaimed property, state Transportation Department forms, Property Tax/Rent Rebate filings, Department of Human Services programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP,

Medical Assistance and LIHEAP, as well as unemployment compensation concerns, and with applications for handicap placards, driver's and non-driver's licenses and ID, and many other state-related issues.

Hope to meet you there!



Honoring a local veteran

In June, I had the great pleasure to help honor retired Major Carl Wallnau at Chandler Hall. He was celebrating his 98th birthday and the 80th anniversary of his commission into the U.S. Military. A World War II vet, Major Wallnau served in the U.S. Army and Air Force.

C.R. North runs to another title



It was great to host the Council Rock North boys' cross country team at the Capitol to recognize its 2016 PIAA Class AAA Championship!

The team and its coaches, Dave Marrington and Rob Rogers, were honored with House citations. Their accomplishment marks the 10th state championship for the Council Rock boys' cross country program, the second for Coach Marrington and the first since the high school split between Council Rock North and Council Rock South in 2003. Congratulations to the team and their coaches!