



State Representative • 33rd Legislative District
FRANK DERMODY

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

WORKER TRAINING GRANT

I'm pleased to announce that a \$900,000 state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant has been awarded for a sheet metal workers training facility expansion project in Harmar Township. I promoted state funding for this project, which will include construction of a new building at the organization's current site to house more laboratories for training.

More access to quality education and training means our workers will be better prepared for the good jobs of today and tomorrow — the jobs that provide successful careers and financial stability for workers and their families. Making quality education and good jobs available to more residents is a key component of the Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus's Plan for PA. You can find out more about the Plan for PA at <http://plan4pa.pahouse.com>.

LEGISLATURE AND CONGRESS REAUTHORIZE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Last year, I helped lead the push in Harrisburg to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program in Pennsylvania for two more years. CHIP was created in Pennsylvania 25 years ago under Gov. Bob Casey and has been a model for states across the nation ever since.

CHIP gives parents — regardless of income — peace of mind by making sure they can afford basic healthcare coverage for their children, coverage that includes regular checkups and vaccinations.

CHIP covers more than 180,000 children in Pennsylvania, but CHIP in Pennsylvania and other states relies on federal dollars. That's why Congress' failure to reauthorize CHIP at the federal level last September was of great concern here in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Thousands of people across the country contacted their members of congress and U.S. senators and urged them to fund the program. When Congress made that funding part of the agreement to avoid the federal government shutdown in January, Pennsylvania was just days away from sending notices to families letting them know their CHIP coverage could be terminated.



Now, children in Pennsylvania will benefit from the coverage they need, and parents have the peace of mind they deserve.

If your child doesn't have health insurance, you can contact my office to learn more about CHIP and how to get affordable coverage for your child. More information is also available at www.chipcoverspakids.com.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE FORMS AVAILABLE

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications for the 2017 tax year are now available at my office — and my staff is ready to help you file yours for free!

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a

year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income is excluded and the maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year.

Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate claims on

behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2017 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2017 is June 30, 2018, and the rebates normally are distributed beginning July 1.

OPT-IN FOR VETERANS DESIGNATION ON DRIVER'S LICENSE

More than 500,000 Pennsylvania Veterans have opted for the Veterans Designation on their driver's license since the program began in 2014. The designation — an American flag with the word VETERAN beneath it — is a patriotic way for veterans to show their pride and convey to others that they served in the United States military.

The veteran's designation does not entitle a veteran to any special consideration or discount but rather identifies the bearer as a veteran. Any other recognition, such as a discount, complimentary meal or other token of appreciation, is completely and solely determined by the organization, business or entity providing a service.

Qualified applicants for a veteran's designation must have served in the United States Armed Forces and/or the reserve component, and have been discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

There is no fee for the Veterans Designation, however, regular license renewal fees still apply. Forms for driver's license or ID renewals and duplicates have a box for applicants to certify that they are a veteran. Once the Veterans Designation has been added to a driver's license or identification card, it will automatically appear each time it is renewed.

Contact my office if you need more information.

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES/SCHEDULES

Some of the best experiences our state has to offer happen in the great outdoors. With more than 4.2 million acres of public land, Pennsylvania offers a variety of reliable and popular hunting and fishing opportunities.

You can find more information on how to purchase a fishing license online, the latest stocking schedules, fishing information by region and much more, by visiting www.fishandboat.com. Hunting news, state gameland maps, and other helpful resources are on the Pennsylvania Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov. My office also can help you find information about hunting, fishing and other ways to enjoy Pennsylvania's great outdoors.

DON'T FORGET YOUR SENIOR DISCOUNT...

People 65 and older may purchase yearly hunting and fishing licenses at reduced rates of \$13.90 for a hunting license and \$11.90 for a fishing license. Lifetime licenses are also available at \$51.90 for hunting or fishing.



REDUCED AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATIONS

PennDOT offers retired Pennsylvanians earning less than \$19,200 annually a reduced yearly automobile registration rate of \$10, compared to the normal \$30.50. The income limit to qualify for this discount is per person. It is **NOT** based on household income.

PLAN FOR PA

STATE LEADERS MUST PUT PEOPLE FIRST

I'm joining my fellow Democrats in the PA House of Representatives to advance a **Plan for Pennsylvania** — policies and legislation focused on the values of working, middle-class Pennsylvanians and their families. Our goal is to put people first by helping employers provide good jobs, investing in quality schools for every child, and creating a system of fair taxes for every family and small business.

THE PLAN FOR PA HAS FOUR KEY COMPONENTS:

People First — prioritize policies that protect the health and safety, dignity, and opportunity that every Pennsylvanian deserves — including you and your family — not just the wealthy and the well-connected.

Good Jobs — pass laws that move our economy forward for the middle class by growing good jobs with wages and benefits that support families and lifelong financial security.

Quality Schools — invest in a quality education for every child in Pennsylvania and build on that with affordable higher education and training opportunities to give working adults the tools they need to maximize their potential and support their families.

Fair Taxes — fix broken laws to ease the burden on working families and the middle class and prevent corporations and wealthy special interests from avoiding their fair share of responsibility for supporting our schools, public health and safety, and community resources.

The **Plan for PA** places the focus on the people who work the hardest for what they have. Learn more and share your thoughts and ideas at <http://plan4pa.pahouse.com>.

STABILITY FOR PA'S UNEMPLOYMENT SYSTEM

The General Assembly passed a bipartisan agreement to continue critical technology upgrades and hire additional workers to sustain and improve services for unemployed workers in Pennsylvania. The new law provides \$115 million over the next four years to begin addressing the long-term challenges facing the system and to make sure workers have access to benefits when they lose their jobs.

In 2016, thousands of workers in Pennsylvania had to wait weeks for benefits when processing of their claims was slowed by a lack of funds and furloughs at a number of call centers.

The new law includes additional accountability measures to eliminate waste, improve efficiency and make the system less dependent on state taxpayer dollars.



ELIGIBILITY FOR PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE

A new state law I supported will allow more than 12,000 senior citizens in Pennsylvania to keep their prescription drug benefits, even if they receive a Social Security cost of living adjustment.

The new law excludes Social Security COLAs from counting against income limits for Pennsylvania's PACE and PACENET prescription drug assistance programs. Please contact my office if you or an older loved one have questions or need more information about PA's PACE and PACENET programs.



STATE REP. FRANK DERMODY

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INSIDE:

- **CHIP**
- **PROPERTY TAX/
RENT REBATE**
- **PLAN FOR PA**

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SPRING 2018



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MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

