



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Margo L. Davidson

164TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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SUMMER 2018

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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Barclay Square Shopping Center • 1500 Garrett Road • Upper Darby, PA 19082 • (610) 259-7016 • Fax: (610) 259-5575

Davidson school safety initiative becomes law: Safe2Say

Legislation that I originally introduced in 2011 to provide students, teachers and parents an avenue to improve school safety across the commonwealth was signed into law this summer.

Senate Bill 1142 established the Safe2Say Program, which will provide methods of anonymous reporting concerning unsafe, violent or criminal activities in schools or the threat of such dangers.

I fought for this law beginning some seven years ago. It passed the House in two legislative sessions unanimously and was finally supported unanimously by the Senate.

The need to make our schools safe is as critical now as it was back then. The bottom line in a student's first priority in school should be to learn not worry about their well-being. This hotline will help prevent senseless violence while giving children a secure place to learn and a place to turn when they become aware that there is danger at their school.

I also am particularly pleased that this school safety measure now comes with a budget of \$60 million that will go to district schools like Upper Darby and William Penn school districts to implement a wide range of safety measures, including mental health counseling, another key legislative priority I have championed.

The legislation requires the state attorney general to:

- Ensure that the identity of the individual making a report remains anonymous to any person, including law enforcement and employees of the Safe2Say Program Office;
- Promptly forward any information received by the program to the appropriate law enforcement agency or school official;
- Train individuals, such as emergency dispatch centers, local law enforcement and school personnel on appropriate awareness and response; and
- Develop education materials and promote program awareness to participating school districts.

Too many times, students are too scared to come forward with information that can save lives out of fear of retaliation from other classmates. This legislation was originally a recommendation from the Columbine School Shooting Commission in Colorado and that was sadly not to be the last school shooting.

Other states who have implemented hotlines have had dramatic results, including 84 arrests, 342 counseling referrals and in Mississippi, 14 illegal handguns recovered.

This legislation – with the funding and investigative power of the Attorney General's Office – will go a long way in alleviating that fear and providing students and community members an anonymous safe way to report impending danger.

This was a long fight, but I could not be more proud of this victory for our children and families.



It was my pleasure to help Simpson Gardens receive \$1.87 million in tax credits to build Simpson Gardens II in Lansdowne. I'm always delighted to bring resources to the district and seniors.

8th annual Back-to-School Picnic & Bookbag Giveaway

You're invited to come get ready for school
with a little help from me and my staff!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8
3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Second Ward Playground – Upper Darby
747 Crosley Street
(Across from Fernwood Cemetery,
Church Lane & Greenwood)

Residents **MUST pre-register** for a bookbag by **Aug. 31**
by calling 610-259-7016, emailing arice@pahouse.net or
stopping by my office in the Barclay Shopping Center,
1500 Garrett Road, Upper Darby. Bookbags will be issued
on a first-come basis.

Legislative services will be available onsite. There will be FREE barbecue and
drinks, family games, face painting and entertainment, as well as resources and
information for students and families.



Backpack safety

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a child's backpack should weigh no more than 10 to 20 percent of the child's body weight. This figure may vary, however, depending on the child's body strength and fitness.

Warning signs a backpack is too heavy:

- Change in posture when wearing the backpack
- Struggling when putting on or taking off the backpack
- Pain when wearing the backpack
- Tingling or numbness
- Red marks

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR A BACKPACK BY AUG. 31. BOOKBAGS WILL BE ISSUED AT THE EVENT SEPT. 8. BOOKBAGS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE 164TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT.



In May, I held my 8th annual Community Health Fair in Millbourne, where I connected folks with health screenings and government and local services, such as SEPTA.



I'm proud to support unions throughout the commonwealth. I will continue to advocate in Harrisburg for policies that support workers and their families.

Denouncing child separations at U.S. borders

The Democratic Women's Caucus, which I lead, vehemently denounced this summer President Donald Trump's horrendous actions separating children from their families at the U.S. border.

Trump eventually signed an executive order expressing some level of desire to keep families together thanks to our actions, and the actions of many throughout the country, but he has not renounced his so-called zero-tolerance border patrol policies.

The separation policy we witnessed early this summer was inhumane and a national embarrassment. Many of my colleagues co-sponsored H.R. 1000, which officially urges the president to immediately reverse this outrageous policy. That resolution was considered "controversial" by House Republicans, and it awaits action from majority leadership in Harrisburg before the full House can vote to pass it.

One problem in Harrisburg is that women and women of color are underrepresented in government on the local, state and federal levels. Moreover, there are currently no Latinas serving in the state House of Representatives.

These facts are important because I believe that we would not see so many anti-immigrant and anti-family policies if more women and more diversity including women of color, Latinas, and others had their voices heard. It could lift our public discourse, enriching the halls of government and creating policies that are absent the kind of cruelty and child endangerment that we are witnessing right now with this Trump administration policy.

This is not the first time in history that we have seen this kind of dehumanizing separation of families – we saw it during slavery at the auction blocks, we saw it in Nazi Germany during the Holocaust, and we saw it during the internment of Japanese families.

The Women's Caucus, which I chair, believes in the statement of Martin Luther King Jr., who said 'injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere,' and we stand with all fair-minded Americans in calling for this abominable injustice to end.

Mental health system reform legislation introduced

I have reintroduced mental health system reform legislation to strengthen community mental health crisis response systems and treatment programs to ensure individuals with debilitating mental illness receive treatment.

We must change the conversation surrounding mental health, and we need to have this discussion without adding stigma or reinforcing negative stereotypes on those with a mental health issue.

My package of legislation includes four bills designed to address specialized treatment programs for those living with serious mental illness, incarceration and inadequate care.

The first bill would codify the standards and guidelines for assertive community treatment created by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services within the Department of Human Services. Specifically, the legislation would provide for the establishment, organization, treatment and evaluation of assertive community treatment services.

The second bill would amend The Insurance Company Law, which would expand coverage beyond the three types of treatment currently serviced – hospitalization, partial-hospitalization and intensive out-patient.

As the mother of a son diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, I can attest to difficulties in parts of insurance coverage. My son's illness did not fall into one of the insurance company's coverage categories, therefore we had a nine-month fight for access to proper care. This battle opened my eyes to deficiencies within the mental health system. That is why I have been a strong advocate for those suffering with mental health issues within our community and took further steps to propose new laws that would provide them with much needed support.

The third bill would amend the Mental Health Procedures Act and require facilities to notify an individual's next of kin, including his or her spouse, parents or children, in the event his or her relative was admitted to a mental health facility as a result of a mental health incident.

The fourth bill would amend the existing Pennsylvania Amber Alert System Law. Going forward, it would require the Pennsylvania State Police to operate the Missing Endangered Person Advisory System, much like the current Amber Alert System, and require coordination with various state and federal authorities for recovery of missing children and missing at-risk individuals.

When people have a psychotic break, they often don't realize they need treatment. Proposing this new legislation would help to correct our current broken mental health system and provide adequate access for those that continue to suffer in silence.



#MeToo update

I have been advocating hard for my House Bill 2286, which would extend the statute of limitations for filing a complaint with the Human Relations Commission from 180 days to two years and provide plaintiffs a right to trial by jury.

It also would:

- Provide that punitive damages and the award of attorney fees would be granted to a prevailing plaintiff
- Ensure that victims and survivors have laws that represent substance in this fight against volatile workplace environments
- Help the many victims who hesitate to come forward due to fear of retaliation and fear of not being heard or believed

Workplace safety includes creating a culture where every employee feels safe and comfortable going to work.

I presented testimony on my bill during a special Labor and Industry Committee hearing that examined a package of bills to reduce workplace discrimination and sexual harassment across the commonwealth. I am expecting another hearing on the package in September.

#TimesUp update

Meanwhile, my central #TimesUp legislation would expand the authority of the state Ethics Commission to investigate and take action on allegations of sexual harassment perpetrated by elected officials on all levels – including state and local. These perpetrators cannot be fired, as they are elected officials.

I'm here to say enough is enough and #TimesUP for perpetrators acting with impunity. Workplace safety is not only ensuring the structural or operational aspect of your work environment is safe, but includes creating a culture where every employee feels safe and comfortable going to work.

We stand together to say that the culture of discrimination that includes sexual harassment in our working environments will not be brushed aside, swept under the rug or tolerated on any level, any longer.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Margo L. Davidson

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Mark your calendar for my upcoming events

Each month, I host an event to benefit and support residents in our area. These events are very highly attended. They are designed for you, and I hope you can join us throughout the year. See the calendar below, and if you have questions about any of these events or to register, please call my office at 610-259-7016.

AUGUST

Throughout August at various locations, I'll be working for you, visiting schools, parks, community organizations, picnics and barbeques throughout the district by invitation. If you want me to visit your organization or group, contact my office. 610-259-7016. Send flyer/invitation or details to the attention of Jill Carey at jcarey@pahouse.net.

SEPTEMBER

8th annual Back-to-School Rally & Community Picnic Saturday, September 8 • 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Second Ward Playground • 747 Crosley Ave., Upper Darby

Our signature annual event provides backpacks and school supplies to local children. Entertainment and food is also provided. Parents must register their children prior to the event to receive a free backpack. For more information, see this newsletter on page 2, contact 610-259-7016 or email arice@pahouse.net.

OCTOBER

Fall Harvest Pop Up Produce Thursday, October 18 • 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Location TBD

Increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables within the district. Farmers will be available to accept WIC checks and senior produce vouchers. A mobile teaching kitchen also will be available to assist you in preparing healthy and nutritious meals. For more information contact 610-259-7016 or email arice@pahouse.net.

NOVEMBER

Public Safety Forum

Tentative: Saturday, November 17

Fresh Anointing Christian Center • 141 Garrett Road, Upper Darby

In light of recent major crime, including robbery and homicide, the community, law enforcement and elected leaders will come together to find solutions.

Job & Entrepreneurship Fair

Thursday, November 29 • 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Yeadon Borough Hall • 600 Church Lane, Yeadon

Hundreds of constituents have been hired from my previous job fairs. If you are looking for a new job, come to my job fair to learn about exciting job opportunities and meet with various local employers. Please dress in business attire and bring several copies of your resume for best result. For more information, contact 610-259-7016 or email jcarey@pahouse.net.

DECEMBER

8th annual Eggnog Sip

Friday, December 28 • 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Rep. Davidson's District Office • Barclay Square Shopping Center
1500 Garrett Road, Upper Darby

Come gather with your neighbors and enjoy refreshments while having access to our full range of district office constituent services including LIHEAP applications, property tax rebates, unclaimed property and much more during this annual community holiday gathering. For more information and to RSVP contact 610-259-7016 or email arichard@pahouse.net.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Information on financial assistance for higher education
 - Unemployment compensation problems
 - Birth certificate applications
 - Pennsylvania income tax problems
 - Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
 - Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
 - 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
 - Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Any question regarding the state government!**

*Thank you
to everyone
who came out
and made my
Summer Senior
Celebrations a
success. This
photo was
taken at my
celebration in
Grace Court
in Yeadon.*

