Helping law enforcement combat gun violence

Over the summer, I worked on a bipartisan bill, H.R. 1614, to make sure law enforcement agencies and the state Attorney General’s Office continue working together in joint task forces if their departments approve. A Supreme Court decision had threatened to make that cooperation difficult and even invalidate previous law agreements.

I also support Governor Wolf’s push for the Justice Reform initiative, which would address the high costs of incarceration in Pennsylvania. Strengthen support for county probation programs and fix inadequate sentencing guidelines.

Gun safety reform legislation

I held a policy committee hearing in September on the issue of gun safety, namely several commonsense bills that Governor Wolf has called for action on. The discussed H.B. 525, my bill to require the safe storage of firearms in homes where children may play, H.B. 37, to require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms.

Unfortunately, Rep. Kaufmann announced in late September that he would call up no more gun safety bills this session. Thousands of Pennsylvanians die each year from gun violence, and we have to do something about it. We can’t ignore this issue or force voters to vote on it this year.

Puppy mill legislation

In August, I hosted the Humane Society and other animal advocates, lawmakers in King of Prussia, and animal owners for a rally that will save lives. I sponsored Senate Bill 44, which would ban the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores and online unless the breeders can provide a written health guarantee.

Victims’ rights legislation

In July, I joined with Governor Wolf as he signed an bill to expand protections and support for crime victims – children, victims who have intellectual disabilities, domestic abuse survivors, and more. It’s critical that we work to support victims as they seek justice.

The General Assembly also passed a bill known as Marcy’s Law – named in honor of a victim of sexual violence, and more. It critical that we work to support victims as they seek justice.

I also support Governor Wolf’s push for the Justice Reform Initiative, which would address the high costs of incarceration in Pennsylvania. Strengthen support for county probation programs and fix inadequate sentencing guidelines.

Criminal justice reform

In June, one year after the Clean State Act was signed, the automatic sealing of some criminal records began. The law aims to help individuals who have served and paid their debt to society get a second chance and put their lives back on track.

The Clean State Act provides for automatic sealing of records for:

- Non-violent, non-mandatory convictions after a person has remained crime-free for 10 years
- Non-violent convictions

In late September, I voted against bills before the Judiciary Committee that would take us in the wrong direction – reinstating mandatory minimum sentences simply don’t work; they cost us more money to keep people in jail longer.

What would help our communities is sentencing and parole reform. Several of my colleagues have proposed legislation in the Judiciary Committee, one aimed at reforming our probation and parole system to reduce recidivism, lower the risk of incarceration and help formerly incarcerated individuals avoid technical pitfalls that keep them trapped in the system.

I also support Governor Wolf’s push for the Justice Reform Initiative, which would address the high costs of incarceration in Pennsylvania. Strengthen support for county probation programs and fix inadequate sentencing guidelines.

Criminal Justice: Working to protect Pennsylvanians

This session, I was honored to be named Democratic Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which reviews legislation related to such important matters as criminal justice reform, gun safety and law enforcement.

I’m committed to ensuring Pennsylvania students have access to high-quality education at a reasonable cost. To that end, I’ll use more information to work with you and the state’s education leaders to improve student outcomes.

In this newsletter, you’ll find more information on how I’m working to protect your needs first. Harrisburg, and I’m honored to have been named to leadership positions that better position me to work for the families and constituents I represent.

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Sincerely,

State Representative
554 Shoemaker Road, Suite 149, in King of Prussia, or call us at 610-768-3135.

Always ready to help you with any state-related issue. Feel free to visit my district office at 85 Shoemaker Road, Suite 148, in King of Prussia, or call us at 610-768-3135.

Constituent service is my top priority. My staff and I are always ready to help you with any state-related issue. Feel free to visit my district office at 85 Shoemaker Road, Suite 148, in King of Prussia, or call us at 610-768-3135.

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Higher Education: Working for affordability
I understand the importance of ensuring that Pennsylvania students have access to quality higher education for the lowest possible cost. Let’s not allow the financial burden of student debt to keep students from getting a higher education.
As a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s Board of Governors, I’m fighting for reforms that put students first, and I’m pleased that the board has taken action such as the passage of a state timeline to reduce student loan debt.

In June, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 7 to enhance CPR skills for students. Medical experts have warned that the high doses of nicotine available in many of these products negatively affect the developing adolescent brain, and the long-term consequences are not yet known. Every one of our children deserves a quality education, and we should all work together – charter and cyber schools alike – to develop high-quality, public schools that work, for too many children, these products negatively affect the developing adolescent brain, and the long-term consequences are not yet known.

In Act 70 of 2019, establishing the 19-member Higher Education Funding Commission.
So I’m pleased that the House passed H.B. 97 to make it illegal to sell vaping products in a few good examples of charter schools that work, but too many students are being served with bad-quality schools. I recognize for working on your behalf.

I graduated from West Chester University in 1992. Around that time, Pennsylvania began to work to reform our system to ensure our taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely and that all students are receiving the education they need to succeed. I was pleased to see Governor Wolf take executive action this summer to improve access to higher education and job training in the state – including the schools that we own.

We have to do more to reduce the burden on our students and put pressure on the legislature to support the state system – the schools that we own.

Today, state support covers just 27% of that cost.

Higher Education: Fighting for quality education for all students
I have been a constant advocate for our children and especially their education.
Unfortunately, Pennsylvania’s charter school law has not worked to improve the quality of our state’s public education system. This year, I have been able to support the state’s charter school law has not worked to improve the quality of our state’s public education system.

In addition to the winners, we had 15 finalists:

- Jan Bach
- Upper Merion Area Middle School
- Ashima Bhat
- Upper Merion Area Middle School
- Esha Boulus
- Upper Merion Area Middle School
- Ava Canale
- Upper Merion Area Middle School
- Rizwan Garg
- Upper Merion Area Middle School

Thanks to the more than 500 students who participated and the teachers and parents who encouraged them!

In the winter I was honored to host Governor Tom Wolf to tour parts of the 149th County Community College with renovations to the South Hall Building. Keystone Historic Preservation grants were awarded to help with efforts to preserve Ashbridge House and the John Frederick Hartranft plot in Historic Keystone Historic Preservation grants were awarded to help with efforts to preserve Ashbridge House and the John Frederick Hartranft plot in Historic Keyser Mansion Management Agency.

I’ve spearheaded a package of legislation that would address issues created by the “throwaway” society by changing our own habits, but the state must make changes, too.

It’s time to take steps to preserve our environment for the generations to come after a lifetime of pollution.

I'm always pleased to be able to help bring more attention to the issues that are consistent with improving our quality of life, and to discuss job opportunities and the future.

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CPR skills for students
In June, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 27 to enhance CPR training for high school students. This legislation requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide curriculum for schools to teach heart attack and stroke prevention, no-touch, compression-only technique recommended by the American Heart Association. The curriculum must also include instruction on the use of automatic external defibrillators, AEDs.

These are life-saving skills for our young people, and I was pleased to support this legislation.

100% renewable energy by 2050
Moving to a 100% renewable energy future must be our top priority. I’m supporting efforts to make Pennsylvania a leader when it comes to renewable energy.

It’s time to take steps to preserve our environment for the generations to come after a lifetime of pollution.

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Voting Apply: Access for an absentee ballot online
We need to make voting more accessible in Pennsylvania – and I’m happy to see a new step in that direction.

You can now apply online for an absentee ballot. A secure, mobile-friendly site was launched in September at votespa.com/ApplyAbsentee. Voters who apply online will receive their absentee ballot in the mail, and their votes will still mail or deliver their voted absentee ballots to their county’s election office.

I’m working with my colleagues on a package of legislation to make voting easier, including measures that would make it easier to register to vote and cast your ballot.

We want to make it as easy as possible for Pennsylvanians to vote in every election – before it’s too late.

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I’m working with my colleagues on a package of legislation to make voting easier, including measures that would make it easier to register to vote and cast your ballot.

Please keep these important dates in mind.

On Wednesday, Nov. 3, you can apply for an absentee ballot for the Nov. 5 election.

Nov. 5: Deadline to turn in your voted absentee ballot for the Nov. 5 election.

Find your polling place and more information at votespa.com.
Higher Education: Working for affordability

I understand the importance of ensuring that Pennsylvania students have access to quality higher education options and that the cost of tuition is affordable. As a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Board of Governors, I firmly believe that our universities should be accessible to everyone, and I am pleased to support this legislation. The Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide critical grants for our schools to help them reduce costs, improve their educational programs, and increase job opportunities for the future.

Working for you:

I was pleased to see Governor Wolf take executive action this summer to ensure all students are receiving the education they need to succeed.

I'll continue to fight for ways we can protect our children's health.

I am committed to working with leaders to best represent our community. We have to do more to reduce the burden on our schools and put pressure on the legislature to support the Joint Education Appropriations Bill. I will continue to fight for the student loan forgiveness program to help reduce the burden of student debt for current and future Pennsylvania students.

I'm always fighting for investments to help move our community forward. Millions of dollars have been awarded in funding for our parks, trail projects and community or state. This year's contest had an environmental theme.

Every one of our children deserves a quality education, and we should all add charter and cyber schools to the same standards as bricks and mortar schools. There are a few good examples of charter schools that work, but too many that don't perform.

I've been holding an annual essay contest for fifth-grade students, called "Preserving our future: Climate change and our environment." This year's winners were:

- 6th grade: Eesha Bosula, Gladwyne Elementary
- 5th grade: Ashimaa Behl, Penn Valley Elementary

This year's winners were:

- 6th grade: Jake Prendergast, Upper Merion Area Middle School
- 5th grade: Ethan Heyward, Penn Traditional Academy

Working to protect our children's health

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared e-cigarette use among youth an epidemic. Medical experts have warned that the high doses of nicotine available in many of these products negatively affect the developing adolescent brain, and the long-term effects of inhaling vaporized chemicals is unknown.

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I understand the importance of ensuring that Pennsylvania students have access to quality higher education. We must ensure that all students are able to access this immensely important opportunity.

As a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s Board of Governors, I’m fighting for reforms that put students first and I’m pleased that the board has adopted changes such as increased transparency in tuition. Tuition has more than doubled since the last tax freeze in 1985-86.

But there’s more work to do.

In June, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 7 to enhance student protection. I’ll continue to fight for ways we can protect our children's health.

Working to protect our children’s health

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared e-cigarettes among youth an epidemic, and the Pennsylvania Health Department has warned of the potential health effects.

So I’m pleased that the House passed H.B. 97 to make it illegal to sell vaping products to minors. The bill, which I co-sponsored, is now with the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Along with Rep. James Roebuck, I introduced legislation to look at ways to improve the tobacco, e-cigarette and similar products to 21, with consideration for members of the armed forces.

Medical experts have warned that the high doses of nicotine available in many of these products pose a threat to public health.

Voting Apply: Access for an absentee ballot online

We need to make voting more accessible in Pennsylvania – and I’m happy to play a new role in that direction.

You can now apply online for an absentee ballot. A secure, mobile-friendly site was launched in September at votespa.com/Applicant. Voters who apply online will receive their absentee ballot in the mail; voter must still mail or hand deliver their voted absentee ballot to their county office in order.

I’m working with my colleagues on a package of legislation to make voting easier, including measures that would make it easier to register and mail your ballot.

Please keep these important dates in mind.

Our office is accepting applications for the Nov. 5 election.

November 2: Deadline to turn in your voted absentee ballot for the Nov. 5 election.

Find your polling place and more information at votespa.com.

Grants for our community

I am pleased to be able to help bring some of these projects to life, because all of these grants are consistent with improving our quality of life and helping to create good jobs for the future.

I’m always pleased to be able to support funding for our fire and emergency responders through the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, Fire Company, Emergency Medical Services Company Grant program and Tax-ExemptAch in a manner that was awarded $63,584 for security improvements through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Millions of dollars have been awarded in funding for our parks, trails projects and various other recreational opportunities, such as the Commonwealth Financing Authority board projects to assist the Bridgetown Recycling Project and the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Business Park Remediation Project and the proposed Discovery Labs, an exciting life science mecca being proposed in Upper Merion.

As a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education’s Board of Governors, I’m fighting for reforms that put students first and I’m pleased that the board has adopted changes such as increased transparency in tuition. Tuition has more than doubled since the last tax freeze in 1985-86.
It will be my goal to expand this concurrent jurisdiction in Philadelphia to prosecute certain crimes related to illegal firearms. Our bill, which was signed into law as Act 52, made sure law enforcement agencies and the state Attorney General have the authority to cooperate if their departments approve.

Over the summer, I worked on a bipartisan bill, H.B. 1614, to address the high cost of incarceration in Pennsylvania, strengthen support for county probation programs and fix inadequate sentencing guidelines.

In August, I hosted the Humane Society and other animal rights advocates at King of Prussia Road Animal Shelter to support legislation that would help us to support an Ohio law – a measure that could help us end the sale of animals from cruel puppy mills. Senate Bill 44 would prohibit the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores throughout Pennsylvania unless they were sourced from shelters and rescues.

I supported Governor Wolf’s push for the Justice Reform Initiative 3, which would address the high costs of incarceration in Pennsylvania, strengthen support for county probation programs and fix inadequate sentencing guidelines.

In July, I voted against bills before the Judiciary Committee that would call up no more gun safety bills this session. In late September, I voted against bills before the Judiciary Committee that would take us in the wrong direction – reinstating mandatory minimum sentences simply don’t work; they cost us more money to keep people in jail longer.

What would help our communities is sentencing and recidivism reform; they cost us more money to keep people in jail longer. I also support Governor Wolf’s push for the Justice Reform Initiative 3, which would address the high costs of incarceration in Pennsylvania, strengthen support for county probation programs and fix inadequate sentencing guidelines.
It was refreshing to work together and keep our communities statewide. Philadelphia to prosecute certain crimes related to illegal 58, also provided a two-year pilot program that would give enforcement work. Our bill, which was signed into law as Act 138, to require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms. Unfortunately, Rep. Kaufman announced in last month that he would call for more gun safety bills this session. Thousands of Pennsylvanians die each year from gun violence, and we live in something about it. I don’t think I can vote on these commonsense bills that aim to help individuals who have paid their debt to society from shelters and rescues. In August, I hosted the Humane Society and other animal advocates to talk about what’s required for a rally to support victims’ rights legislation—a measure that could help us end the sale of exotic pets. Senate Bill 44 would prohibit the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores across the state. Pennsylvania residents unless they are sentenced to house arrest and supervised probation programs and face incarceration individuals avoid technical pitfalls that keep them trapped in the system. I support Governor Wolf’s push for the Reforming Parole System Initiative, which would address the high costs of incarceration in Pennsylvania, strengthen support for court-ordered probation programs and fix inadequate sentencing guidelines. In July, I stood with Governor Wolf as he signed an executive order to extend protections and support for crime victims—children, victims who have intellectual disabilities, and families of deceased victims. This is critical work that we support to work victims as they seek justice. The General Assembly also passed a bill known as Markey’s Law, which would make a statutory change to the Pennsylvania Constitution. The measure passed the House and Senate during two consecutive sessions and will be put before voters on the ballot in November.

**Victims’ rights legislation**

**Puppy mill legislation**

**Gun safety reform legislation**

I hosted a policy committee hearing in September on the issue of gun safety, namely several commonsense bills that Governor Wolf has called for action on. The discussed H.B. 525, my bill to require the safe storage of firearms in homes where children may be present; H.B. 873, to require reporting of lost or stolen firearms. Unfortunately, Rep. Kaufman announced in last month that he would call for more gun safety bills this session. Thousands of Pennsylvanians die each year from gun violence, and we live in something about it. I don’t think I can vote on these commonsense bills that aim to help individuals who have paid their debt to society from shelters and rescues. In August, I hosted the Humane Society and other animal advocates to talk about what’s required for a rally to support victims’ rights legislation—a measure that could help us end the sale of exotic pets. Senate Bill 44 would prohibit the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores across the state. Pennsylvania residents unless they are sentenced to house arrest and supervised probation programs and face incarceration individuals avoid technical pitfalls that keep them trapped in the system. I support Governor Wolf’s push for the Reforming Parole System Initiative, which would address the high costs of incarceration in Pennsylvania, strengthen support for court-ordered probation programs and fix inadequate sentencing guidelines. In July, I stood with Governor Wolf as he signed an executive order to extend protections and support for crime victims—children, victims who have intellectual disabilities, and families of deceased victims. This is critical work that we support to work victims as they seek justice. The General Assembly also passed a bill known as Markey’s Law, which would make a statutory change to the Pennsylvania Constitution. The measure passed the House and Senate during two consecutive sessions and will be put before voters on the ballot in November.

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