Raising the age for tobacco – a move that could save lives

In October, I stood with colleagues from the House and Senate to announce the introduction of legislation that would make it illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21. This bill, House Bill 97 (now Act 93), was signed into law as Act III by the Governor in November. The law for military members, passed the Senate and House and was signed, last year, into law by the Governor in November. The law was effective July 1.

The dangers of cigarette smoking and vaping are clear, and that’s why I supported legislation to increase the legal age to use tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from age 18 to 21. Senate Bill 473, which raises the age to 21 with an exception for military personnel, passed the Senate and House and was signed into law by the Governor in November. The law went into effect July 1.

Preventing youth initiation of tobacco is important for reducing the long-term damage that tobacco use causes. Accordingly, the American Lung Association, about 95 percent of smokers by the age of 24 and 90 percent of kids who try tobacco before the age of 18. Tobacco use transitions from experimenting with tobacco regular smoking among the leading cause of preventable death in this country. Both the House and Senate also passed, and Governor Wolf signed, House Bill 89, Act 95, which seeks to reduce the ban on tobacco sales to minors. The Pennsylvania Health Department has warned of the potential health effects of e-cigarettes.

Both of these laws will help put long-term health of children and save us lives.

Taking a stand against hate

In January, I was named Democratic Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. As chairman, I’m proud to be a progressive voice on some of the most critical issues facing our communities, such as gun safety and criminal justice reform.

The Judiciary Committee reviews all legislation regarding aspects of the civil and criminal court systems, law enforcement and corrections. The committee historically is one of the busiest committees in the legislature and oversees the Pennsylvania State Police, Attorney General’s Office, Department of Corrections, State Ethics Commission, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. The committee is responsible for evaluating prison staffing, inmate populations and housing conditions.

This session, the committee has been tasked with reviewing legislation on topics including gun safety, probation reform, judicial selection, hate crimes and the statute of limitations for victims of childhood sexual abuse.

I’m honored to lead this committee and represent my constituents on these and other important issues. The 149th Legislative District is a wonderful community and you have always played a major role in guiding me through difficult issues and assisting me in developing my legislative priorities. I welcome you to contact me regarding issues that may be of particular interest to you and stay tuned for the Judiciary Committee’s next newsletter. You can read more on the committee’s work in this newsletter.
GUN SAFETY REFORM: FIGHTING TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

As we’ve continued to see mass shootings in Pennsylvania and the rest of the United States, I’ve been committed to promoting gun safety through legislative action. My colleagues and I have held a number of public hearings and I have called on our Republican colleagues to bring meaningful gun reform legislation to the floor.

One of my key pieces of legislation for this session is H.B. 525, which would require the safe storage of firearms in homes where children may be present. Too often, acts of gun violence could have been prevented if those trained to use guns are able to access them in the home. There are important safeguards in the current law that fail to protect our communities, and, in some cases, will make our laws worse.

The data collected shapes our communities, drives where funds are invested and tells us where to build schools and hospitals. Our justice system too often is not informed by the data it needs. The last I heard, the founder of the prescription painkiller OxyContin, as well as its owners, were charged with criminal behavior. The data of these proposals are popular among the public.

One might think that Republicans who represent rural Pennsylvania and the rest of our Commonwealth might understand the importance of safe storage as much as a Democrat who grew up in a rural family in Indiana. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

House Democrats have introduced meaningful gun reform legislation that is supported by Governor Tom Wolf. Putting these proposals on the floor is important to protect our constituents.

To date, these bills include:
- H.B. 326 would prevent individuals on the No-Fly List from owning guns.
- H.B. 673 would establish uniform background checks for firearms.
- H.B. 1075 would temporarily depopulate人民法院 purchaser’s list.

These bills also fail to address the growing problem of illegal robocalls, caller ID spoofing, and the Federal Trade Commission’s Telemarketer Registration Act.

Last, but not least, the Republicans’ unwillingness to vote on these proposals enables us to hold them accountable for their inaction.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania. The Telemarketer Registration Act requires telemarketers to register with the FTC and to maintain certain records. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicits contributions by telephone to register with the FTC. These rules apply to all U.S. residents and businesses, including those based in Pennsylvania.

The Telemarketer Registration Act requires anyone who makes sales or solicit...
News from the Attorney General’s Office

I would like to share these updates from the Attorney General’s Office, which falls under the purview of the Judiciary Committee. No one is above the law, and I support Attorney General Josh Shapiro’s aggressive work to protect Pennsylvanians.

I wanted to share these updates from the Attorney General’s Office, which falls under the purview of the Judiciary Committee.

News from the Attorney General’s Office

Reforming our criminal justice system

The United States has the world’s largest prison population – with about one-quarter of the world’s prisoners, but only one percent of the world’s population, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Pennsylvania, which has the second-highest percentage of citizens on probation or parole in the country, has a very high prison population increase by bipartisan consensus. More than 150,000 Pennsylvanians are on probation or parole throughout the Commonwealth (though in recent years, our prison population has started to see a decrease).

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Pennsylvania’s parole system suffers from a huge backlog of cases. Although Pennsylvania parole boards in theory review an individual’s record and decide if that person is ready to re-enter society, the backlog can take months or years. Absent a review, most parole board decisions are not even in writing, and many parole board members do not appear to review records at all.

Mass incarceration only increases the cost to our communities and keeps many individuals trapped in the system, unable to move forward even after paying their debt to society. That’s why in Pennsylvania, we are taking a hard look at parole. We want to see the Attorney General focus on this issue as well.

Protecting the environment

In October, Shapiro filed comments against a proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule that he says would weaken the country’s ability to control pollution. The EPA’s plan would relax the so-called Clean Air Act for power plants,放松 the country’s electricity grid as a whole.

One of the major pieces of legislation for this session is H.B. 525, which would require the sale or transfer of firearms in homes where children may be present.

Pennsylvania has the second-highest percentage of citizens on probation or parole in the country, has a very high prison population increase by bipartisan consensus. More than 150,000 Pennsylvanians are on probation or parole throughout the Commonwealth (though in recent years, our prison population has started to see a decrease).

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Pennsylvania’s parole system suffers from a huge backlog of cases. Although Pennsylvania parole boards in theory review an individual’s record and decide if that person is ready to re-enter society, the backlog can take months or years. Absent a review, most parole board decisions are not even in writing, and many parole board members do not appear to review records at all.

Mass incarceration only increases the cost to our communities and keeps many individuals trapped in the system, unable to move forward even after paying their debt to society. That’s why in Pennsylvania, we are taking a hard look at parole. We want to see the Attorney General focus on this issue as well.

Fighting against robocalls and caller ID spoofing

Shapiro has called for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take further action to stop illegal robocalls and caller ID spoofing. The FCC has begun investigating and the consumer financial losses tied to illegal robocalls have increased nearly 50 percent in recent years. Shapiro says the FCC needs to act to stop scammers, but here in Pennsylvania we’ve taken more aggressive steps. Shapiro’s bill would create a County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee.

In October, Governor Wolf signed Act 73 of 2018, which amends existing law so you won’t have to keep signing up for the Do Not Call list.

The financial losses tied to illegal robocalls have increased nearly 50 percent in recent years. Shapiro says the FCC needs to act to stop scammers, but here in Pennsylvania we’ve taken more aggressive steps. Shapiro’s bill would create a County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee.

The House is considering three bills that make up JRI2, the second phase of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative – an effort to reduce corrections spending and for-

Census 2020: Make sure you are counted

Census 2020 is on the horizon, and it’s incredibly important that we have an accurate count. This census determines how much federal funding our communities receive.

The data collected shapes our communities, drives where funds are invested and tells us where to build roads and libraries and map our routes. Programs such as federal student loans and grants, Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and housing loans are tied to federal funding that is guided by Census data.

You’ll start to receive notices to complete the Census 2020 in the spring. Visit my website, www.joshshapiro.com/census, for more information and updates.

During the 2010 Census, Pennsylvania had the second-highest percentage of citizens on probation or parole in the country. As many as 435,000 Pennsylvania parolees – nearly 70% of the state’s parole population – are parolees with violent histories. Although the parole board system has evolved over the years, the parole process has not always protected the public. The laws and procedures we now have in place were created by the legislature and the parole board to prevent such cases from occurring.

The United States has the world’s largest prison population – with about one-quarter of the world’s prisoners, but only one percent of the world’s population, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Pennsylvania, which has the second-highest percentage of citizens on probation or parole in the country, has a very high prison population increase by bipartisan consensus. More than 150,000 Pennsylvanians are on probation or parole throughout the Commonwealth (though in recent years, our prison population has started to see a decrease).

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Pennsylvania’s parole system suffers from a huge backlog of cases. Although Pennsylvania parole boards in theory review an individual’s record and decide if that person is ready to re-enter society, the backlog can take months or years. Absent a review, most parole board decisions are not even in writing, and many parole board members do not appear to review records at all.

Mass incarceration only increases the cost to our communities and keeps many individuals trapped in the system, unable to move forward even after paying their debt to society. That’s why in Pennsylvania, we are taking a hard look at parole. We want to see the Attorney General focus on this issue as well.

Fighting against robocalls and caller ID spoofing

Shapiro has called for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take further action to stop illegal robocalls and caller ID spoofing. The FCC has begun investigating and the consumer financial losses tied to illegal robocalls have increased nearly 50 percent in recent years. Shapiro says the FCC needs to act to stop scammers, but here in Pennsylvania we’ve taken more aggressive steps. Shapiro’s bill would create a County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee.

In October, Governor Wolf signed Act 73 of 2018, which amends existing law so you won’t have to keep signing up for the Do Not Call list.

The financial losses tied to illegal robocalls have increased nearly 50 percent in recent years. Shapiro says the FCC needs to act to stop scammers, but here in Pennsylvania we’ve taken more aggressive steps. Shapiro’s bill would create a County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee.

The House is considering three bills that make up JRI2, the second phase of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative – an effort to reduce corrections spending and for-
As we’ve continued to see mass shootings in Pennsylvania and the rest of the United States, I’ve been committed to promoting gun safety through legislative action. My colleagues and I on the Judiciary Committee in the House and I have called on our Republican colleagues to bring meaningful gun reform legislation to the table. One of my key pieces of legislation for this session is H.B. 1288, which would require people who misplace their firearms to store them securely and face consequences for their recklessness.

Unfortunately, Republican majority Chairman Rob Kauffman has stated that he will not allow votes on the key bills mentioned above. He instead moved several amendments to receive at least one public hearing prior to final approval. Because both bills would amend the constitution, they’d have to pass the Senate before going to voters for a referendum.

I voted no, because I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted. I believe amending our constitution should be a deliberative process with public hearings and input, and neither of these bills have been publicly vetted.
Raising the age for tobacco – a move that could save lives

In October, I stood with colleagues from the House and Senate to announce the introduction of legislation that would raise the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from age 18 to 21. This legislation was signed into law as Act III by the Governor in November. The law, Senate Bill 473, which raises the age to 21 with an exception for military members, passed the Senate and House and was signed, which adds e-cigarettes to the ban on tobacco sales to minors. The Pennsylvania General Assembly recently voted to again raise the legal age to purchase tobacco products from age 18 to 21. The Pennsylvania Tobacco Control Act requires the Secretary of Health to conduct a four-year study to determine the impact of raising the minimum age. The law also makes it illegal for any person to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21.

The dangers of cigarette smoking and vaping are clear, and that’s why I supported legislation to increase the legal age to use tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from age 18 to 21.

Taking a stand against hate

It’s time we made it clear that hatred is unacceptable.

The dangers of cigarette smoking and vaping are clear, and that’s why I supported legislation to increase the legal age to use tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from age 18 to 21.

For more information, visit my website at www.pahouse.com/Briggs or call my office at (717) 787-7213.

Justice for victims: Reforming the statute of limitations

Both the House and Senate passed House Bills 962 and 963, companionship legislation to address the need for justice for childhood victims of sexual abuse. This issue has bewildered the legislature for nearly 20 years without solutions. I am proud that this historic legislation will allow the state to finally provide justice to these long-suffering survivors.

House Bill 962, now Act 87, eliminates the criminal statute of limitations for child sexual abuse entirely, extends the civil statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse so the victim reaches age 55, and waives sovereign and governmental immunity related to childhood sexual abuse. Governor Wolf signed the bill into law on November 26.

House Bill 963 calls for a constitutional amendment that would open a retroactive two-year window so that victims who have aged out of the current statute could sue for damages.

In order to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution, the proposed amendment must pass two legislative sessions in a row and be approved by voters in a referendum. The earliest this bill could be on the ballot is spring 2021.

Both the House and Senate also passed, and Governor Wolf signed, House Bill 97, now Act 93, which adds e-cigarettes to the ban on tobacco sales to minors. The Pennsylvania Tobacco Control Act requires the Secretary of Health to conduct a four-year study to determine the impact of raising the minimum age. The law also makes it illegal for any person to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21.

The dangers of cigarette smoking and vaping are clear, and that’s why I supported legislation to increase the legal age to use tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, from age 18 to 21.
Taking a stand against hate

Raising the age for tobacco – a move that could save lives

In October, I stood with colleagues from the House and Senate to announce the introduction of legislation that would make it clear that we won’t tolerate sales in Pennsylvania. My office was part of a working group that produced several bills to better address tobacco crimes in Pennsylvania. The contemplated bills would:

- Update and strengthen the Crimes Code provisions that address harm caused by unlawful conduct by expanding the groups against whom intimidation is prohibited, to include sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical abilities, and ancestry.
- Strengthen the civil statues in the Judicial Code to provide for civil liability for persons who solicit an actor to engage in unlawful intimidation or who provide or attempt to aid an actor to engage in such conduct.
- Provide a procedure for a court to consider the impact of hate crimes on affected communities.
- Provide more complete training to law enforcement to aid in identifying and combating such conduct.
- Create a post-secondary institution policy for reporting such conduct.

Two of these bills have been referred to the Judiciary Committee, and if done correctly I plan to try to ensure they are swiftly addressed. It’s time we made it clear that hatred is unacceptable.

Justice for victims: Reforming the statute of limitations

In January, I was named Democratic Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. As chairman, I’m proud to be a progressive voice on some of the most critical issues facing our communities, such as gun safety and criminal justice reform, judicial selection, hate crimes and the statute of limitations for victims of childhood sexual abuse.

In order to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution, the proposed amendment must pass two legislative sessions in a row and be approved by voters in a referendum. The earliest this bill could be on the ballot is spring 2021.

The House joined the bills to encourage the Senate to consider both bills and avoid the possibility of the Senate deleting the retroactive window in favor of the statute changes. Importantly, the Senate sided on both bills, simultaneously, sending H.B. 962 to the governor’s desk and positioning H.B. 963 for a vote at the start of the next legislative session.

This is a historic step toward allowing victims of childhood sexual abuse to get the justice they deserve.

The Pennsylvania Constitution allows for the penalty of life imprisonment for persons who commit sexual offenses against children, whether the victim is under 13 or over, and waives the statute of limitations for persons who have been the victim of child sexual abuse.

Both the House and Senate passed House Bills 962 and 963, comprehensive legislation to address the need for justice for childhood victims of sexual abuse. This issue has bewildered the legislature for nearly 20 years without solutions. I am proud that I played a role in introducing this legislation and that the governor signed it into law as Act III by the Governor in November. The law for military members, passed the Senate and House and was signed, both of these laws will better protect our children’s health and safety.

Both the House and Senate passed House Bills 962 and 963, comprehensive legislation to address the need for justice for childhood victims of sexual abuse. This issue has bewildered the legislature for nearly 20 years without solutions. I am proud that I played a role in introducing this legislation and that the governor signed it into law as Act III by the Governor in November. The law for military members, passed the Senate and House and was signed, both of these laws will better protect our children’s health and safety.

In order to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution, the proposed amendment must pass two legislative sessions in a row and be approved by voters in a referendum. The earliest this bill could be on the ballot is spring 2021.

The House joined the bills to encourage the Senate to consider both bills and avoid the possibility of the Senate deleting the retroactive window in favor of the statute changes. Importantly, the Senate sided on both bills, simultaneously, sending H.B. 962 to the governor’s desk and positioning H.B. 963 for a vote at the start of the next legislative session.

This is a historic step toward allowing victims of childhood sexual abuse to get the justice they deserve.

The Pennsylvania Constitution allows for the penalty of life imprisonment for persons who commit sexual offenses against children, whether the victim is under 13 or over, and waives the statute of limitations for persons who have been the victim of child sexual abuse.

Both the House and Senate passed House Bills 962 and 963, comprehensive legislation to address the need for justice for childhood victims of sexual abuse. This issue has bewildered the legislature for nearly 20 years without solutions. I am proud that I played a role in introducing this legislation and that the governor signed it into law as Act III by the Governor in November. The law for military members, passed the Senate and House and was signed, both of these laws will better protect our children’s health and safety.