Standing Together Against Hate

An attack on an individual or group because of who they are or who they love victimizes both the immediate target of the crime and their larger community. It’s an attack on these groups’ sense of security and their connection to the world around them. The penalties that the perpetrators suffer should reflect both crimes – those against individual victims and the broader targeted community.

In Harrisburg, I and other legislators are standing together to pass legislation to address the needs of our community and the law enforcement officials who protect them. Our legislation would:

- Increase penalties for those convicted of a hate crime.
- Provide law enforcement with training to identify and react to hate crimes.
- Educate those convicted of a hate crime to help toward rehabilitation.
- Extend protections to individuals from the LGBTQ and disability communities.
- Provide school and college students with a way to anonymously report hate crimes.

I refuse to accept the idea that we are helpless in the face of an evildoer like the one who struck our Squirrel Hill community on October 27, 2018. As lawmakers, this is our work at its most basic: we protect the people of Pennsylvania.

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
- Assistance in 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 Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 412-422-1774 for assistance.
Upcoming Legislative Priorities

Protecting and expanding reproductive rights

Amid repeated efforts from Pennsylvania House and Senate conservatives to restrict and obstruct the reproductive rights of Pennsylvanians, I and other lawmakers are standing strong to protect and expand reproductive rights in our state. Instead of improving health care access, raising the minimum wage, creating reasonable family leave policies for working parents, or taking action on equal pay, conservatives in the House and Senate have pushed invasive and, at times, unconstitutional legislation to restrict women’s and families’ access to health care. These constant attacks on abortion rights are taking the place of legislation that could improve the lives of women, whose welfare is inextricably linked to the welfare of Pennsylvania’s children. It is time for us to move beyond these divisive arguments and work together for the benefit of all of Pennsylvanians’ children and families.

As your state representative in Harrisburg, I’m proud to be your voice in the Capitol. I’ve worked ceaselessly to promote the interests of all Pennsylvanians, and create a commonwealth that is just, equitable and offers the opportunity for success for all. As we look to the year ahead, I will continue to work toward this vision of the future by supporting and writing legislation that would:

- Make statewide civil rights for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians a reality.
- Strengthen the Clean Indoor Air Act.
- Create Medicaid buy-in system.
- Require health effects of fracking to be disclosed.
- Eliminate noncompete clauses for doctors.

Home heating assistance available

No one should be left out in the cold!

I want to let you know that the state’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is now accepting applications. LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills and deal with heating emergencies such as a broken furnace, fuel shortage or utility service shutoff. Renters and homeowners who qualify can have a cash grant – which does not need to be repaid – sent directly to their utility company or fuel provider. Grants range from $200 to $1,000, based on household size, income and fuel type. Crisis grants are also available.

Empowering local governments to protect their citizens

In urban and rural communities alike, gun violence has impacted many of our friends and neighbors. Without federal leadership and state appetite for comprehensive gun control, local governments like Pittsburgh have stepped up to protect their citizens. However, they and smaller municipalities are threatened with legal action that is intended to disincentivize local solutions to this horrific problem. My legislation would modify existing preemption law to allow municipalities to create local laws that reflect their residents’ desire to balance Second Amendment rights with public safety. Long before gun violence impacted the 23rd Legislative District, I’ve advocated for stronger firearm restrictions at the state and local levels.

Need an apostille authenticated? My office can assist!

Apostilles are legal certificates issued by the state so that documents can be recognized in foreign countries, provided the country is a member of the 1961 Hague Convention. My experienced staff can streamline the apostille application process, so you receive the documents you need in a timely manner.
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