



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Kristine Howard

167TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear Neighbor,

I went to Harrisburg last January to create solutions to the problems facing Chester County families and have been hard at work since. It's hard to believe that a year has already come and gone since I took my oath of office – a very busy year.

The work of a legislator, as I've come to learn, is challenging, frequently tiring, occasionally infuriating, never boring.

I have introduced bills that would require electric vehicle charging stations at new non-residential construction sites, mandate insurance companies to cover life-saving epinephrine injections for children with allergies, make it a hate crime to attack persons with mental or physical disabilities, and require the use of fiber optic technology to monitor risks to public safety and alert appropriate state and local agencies in the event of potential pipeline emergencies. I also recently circulated a proposal for a voluntary assault weapon buy-back program, a life-saving investment for the Commonwealth.

On top of that, I have co-sponsored nearly 200 other bills and resolutions, all with you, my constituents, in mind.

Of course, being a legislator is about more than floor votes and committee meetings – it's about helping you first and foremost. Last year, I held



district office open houses and town halls, sustainability events and informational sessions across the district, ensuring that you have easy access to the state information and resources you need.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me and my staff with any questions or concerns. I am here to serve you.

Here's to another busy year,

Kristine C. Howard

The 167th District includes the townships of Charlestown, East Whiteland, Easttown, West Pikeland, West Whiteland, Willistown, and Malvern Borough.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION



ASSAULT RIFLE BUY-BACK

High-capacity semi-automatic rifles account for 85% of mass shooting fatalities. Approximately 380,000 guns are stolen from gun owners annually across the country, suggesting that many of these weapons end up held illegally. It's time to reduce the number of assault weapons that can be used for crimes.

Local voluntary gun buy-back programs collect thousands of unwanted or illegally possessed firearms each year, and so I have proposed establishing a voluntary statewide assault weapon buy-back program within the Office of the Attorney General and in conjunction with our state and local police departments.

CARRYING WHILE INTOXICATED

Firearms and alcohol when used together greatly increase the risk of tragedy, even for the most diligent firearm owners. Several states already have recognized this combination as a danger, with at least 30 states – including Ohio and Maryland – banning the carrying of a weapon while under the influence.

With this in mind, Rep. Chris Rabb, D-Philadelphia, and I have proposed new legislation that would protect our state's responsible firearm users and their loved ones from potentially deadly incidents by adding blood alcohol content limits for concealed carrying.

I am also a member of the PA SAFE Caucus, a group of legislators who believe in working together to reduce all types of violence in society through adequate funding for mental health services, stronger tools for law enforcement, resources to deal with the effects of addiction and illegal drug trade, and solutions that reduce gun violence and promote public safety.

ENVIRONMENT

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

I recently introduced H.B. 1908, which would require new non-residential buildings to be constructed with the necessary infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging stations, ensuring the ability to charge electric vehicles in the places consumers frequent, such as retail facilities, hotels, schools and restaurants.

Additionally, I co-hosted an event with Rep. Carolyn Comitta, D-Chester, to expand awareness and use of electric vehicles and charging stations. The event, presented by the Transportation Management Association of Chester County, featured a very informative presentation on PECO's Transportation Electrification Strategy.



PIPELINES

Pipeline operators are not currently required to immediately notify the Public Utility Commission or emergency management in the county or counties where a threat is recorded.

H.B. 1797 would require the use of fiber optic technology to monitor risks to public safety and alert appropriate state and local agencies in the event of a potential pipeline emergency, increasing transparency regarding the reporting criteria and greatly improving public safety protocols.

Pipeline safety is a major priority,

requiring diligent oversight in addition to legislation. To that end I have met with Energy Transfer Partners, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Public Utility Commission, and have toured the Mariner East pipeline with constituents and Gov. Tom Wolf, ensuring that Harrisburg knows what's happening under our feet here in Chester County.

I also co-hosted town halls with fellow Chester County representatives to discuss the rights of property owners affected by the pipeline and

brought key government officials from the DEP, PUC, and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, among others, to engage directly with affected residents and to field questions.

I am a member of the Climate Change Caucus, the Pipeline Safety Caucus and the Blue Green Caucus, which focus on the immediate need to develop commonsense solutions to protect the environment and create and maintain quality, family-sustaining jobs across the commonwealth.

SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME

Join us at Easttown Library on Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. or at Chester Springs Library on March 12 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. to learn about clean energy options for your home.

HEALTH CARE

EPINEPHRINE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN

More than 100,000 Pennsylvania children suffer from food or insect allergies, and over 1,000 of these children have an allergy so severe that an exposure could prove fatal. Many low-cost short-term insurance plans relied on by low-income families do not cover epinephrine injections.

That's why I introduced H.B. 1843, which would require any state-regulated health insurance company to cover the cost of doctor-prescribed, medically necessary epinephrine pens for children under age 18.

OPIOID TOWN HALL

February 24 • 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
West Whiteland Township Building

Join me for a discussion on the growing heroin and opioid crisis in Pennsylvania.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Over the past year, I have fought against invasive, unconstitutional legislation – including the so-called heartbeat bills – which strip decision-making power from women.

The heartbeat bills, so named for their attempt to ban abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, would effectively ban abortions after about six weeks – 18 weeks sooner than what's now legal – a timeframe ending before many women even know they are pregnant.

Another bill that infringes on women's right to choose is H.B. 1890, which would mandate that medical facilities dispose of fetal remains in a ritualistic manner. This is nothing more than a politicized attempt to dismantle women's constitutional rights.

Women should be in charge of their own bodies, plain and simple, and I will continue fighting for that right.



Mental Health committee meeting

VAPING

Back in 2010, according to a recent study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the number of high school senior smokers was down to about 10%. That same year – just about a decade ago – only 1.5% of seniors were vaping.

Today, one in four high school seniors vape.

H.B. 97 raises the age to buy tobacco products and prohibits the sale of vaping products to those underage. The changes go into effect July 1. These important steps will help us win the fight against tobacco.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE CITIZENS



HATE CRIMES AGAINST THE DISABLED

Attacks committed against disabled individuals represent some of the most repugnant imaginable, and yet, they do not receive the additional consideration given in crimes involving race, color, religion or national origin.

H.B. 1344 would add “intellectual or physical disability” to the list of elements prosecutors can consider when contemplating hate crime charges.

CHILD SEX ABUSE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS REFORM

Just prior to Thanksgiving, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives finally passed H.B. 962, now Act 87 of 2019, changing the statute of limitations for sexual abuse in both civil and criminal matters, allowing victims more time to come forward, which

I was pleased to vote for and support.

In summary, Act 87 eliminates the criminal statute of limitations for child sexual abuse crimes. Under its provisions, victims of abuse will have until age 55 to file civil

lawsuits. The law also removes sovereign immunity in civil claims, meaning that if an institution, secular or religious, has known about child sex crimes, it may be held responsible, even in decades-old child sex abuse cases.

ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Earlier this year, the legislature voted to terminate cash assistance, a small monthly stipend that fills a critical financial gap for the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable residents. These are the people most in need of our help, and yet the legislature voted to cut them off without a second thought and while letting big-money-making natural gas drillers off the tax hook.

I am working to bring together stakeholders to discuss the impacts of these cuts on our district and what we can do to better serve those affected.

Additionally, my staff and I visit food banks in the district to provide vital help and information for those in need.

I am a member of the Criminal Justice Reform Caucus, the



Early Childhood Education Caucus, the LGBT Equality Caucus, the Mental Health Caucus and the Grandparents Raising Grandkids Caucus.



Rep. Kristine Howard

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My Office Can Help With...

SEPTA Senior Key Card Update

Pennsylvanians 65 or older can apply for a free SEPTA Key Senior ID Card. Senior cards can be used on SEPTA trains, buses, trolleys and subways.

In related news, all Key Senior IDs set to expire in 2020 have been extended one year past their deadlines.

Stop by my office Monday through Friday to apply for a card, or visit us at one of the following Senior Key ID Card events:

- **Jan. 14** – 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. – Easttown Library
- **March 3** – 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Chester County Library
- **May 19** – 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. – Chester Springs Library

Answering Your Questions about REAL ID

While my office does not issue REAL IDs, my staff is able to answer any questions you may have regarding the program.

Birth Certificates and Death Certificates

Our office can help you obtain copies of birth and death certificates. Certificates cost \$20 each, require payment via check or money order made payable to "VITAL RECORDS."

District Services

- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Issues with the Department of Human Services
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability plates and placards
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions

Any problem with state government!

Save the Dates!

SHREDDING EVENT

- Saturday, May 9, 2020
10 a.m. – noon
Penn State Great Valley

SENIOR FAIR

- Friday, Oct. 2, 2020
10 a.m. – noon
Church of the Good Samaritan

KIDS FEST

- Saturday, June 20, 2020
10 a.m. – noon • KD Markley Elementary School

Library Hours

In addition to regular hours at my office in Malvern, my staff also serves auxiliary hours at libraries throughout the district.

- **Chester Springs Library**
Every first Tuesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Easttown Library**
Every second Tuesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Malvern Library**
Every third Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Chester County Library**
Every fourth Tuesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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