



State Representative  
**Pamela A. DeLissio**  
194th Legislative District



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**Dear Neighbor,**

I hope this note finds you well.

My commitment to my constituents is to have an ongoing dialogue to share legislative information and obtain feedback and opinion. To fulfill that commitment I have conducted 32 Town Hall meetings over the past 39 months.

Meetings have been held quarterly and are scheduled for evenings and days to accommodate constituents' schedules.

Beginning in March, we will hold Town Halls monthly in order to discuss topics in greater depth. The Tuesday, March 18th meeting will be a Tele Town Hall – a first for the 194th Legislative District. You will be able to participate from the comfort of your own home. The call starts at 7 p.m.

The April Town Hall will be on Thursday, the 24th at 11 a.m. at the Bala Cynwyd Library. The May Town Hall will be on Wednesday, the 14th at 7 p.m. at Roxborough Memorial Hospital.

Often I am asked to describe my typical day. I can confidently report that there is no such thing as a typical day.

During the weeks that the Legislature is in session I am in Harrisburg on those days, and I return to Harrisburg for hearings and committee meetings as scheduled. In the district office, I meet with constituents who want to discuss legislative policy and state matters.

Over the past three years, I have invited folks to shadow me during my work day in Harrisburg. Constituents who have joined me for a shadow day have found the experience to be very enlightening. Please consider this a standing invitation to join me for a day in Harrisburg.

As of Dec. 1, 2014, the 194th will change boundaries. Nine additional voting divisions of the 38th Ward in East Falls will become part of the 194th – currently one voting division is included.

The new boundaries include the 45 divisions of the 21st Ward – currently 35 divisions are included.

Seven voting precincts in Lower Merion Twp. will continue to be in the 194th. Currently eight precincts are included.

The voting divisions of the 52nd Ward that are in the 194th will be included in either the 192nd or the 190th.

I am always interested in hearing what is important to you. Take care and I look forward to seeing you at a Town Hall.

## Landmark law eliminates redundant hospital inspections

Legislation signed into law in July 2013, of which I was a prime co-sponsor, allows a hospital accredited by an approved agency to now earn “deemed status,” eliminating the need for redundant state inspections and certifications albeit still needing to comply with Pennsylvania Department of Health standards.

This is a win-win for Pennsylvania because it permits the Department of Health to focus staff on other responsibilities. This will also save hospitals time and money, as many hospitals already opt for third-party certification through organizations such as The Joint Commission, formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

The initial hearing for the bill was in October 2011, and the legislation was originally developed with limited input from stakeholders. An amendment that I introduced in June 2012 impacted the bill in a way that provided the opportunity for a broad group of stakeholders to participate in the process of developing this milestone law that had been years in the making.

I was pleased to advocate for this law where bipartisanship and collaboration with stakeholders, and not just special interests groups, produced public policy for the greater good.



**Governor Tom Corbett signs House Bill 1190 as Rep. Bryan Cutler and Rep. DeLissio look on.**

# CSG Toll Fellow

This past summer, I was one of 48 state policymakers from across the country selected as a Council of State Governments' Henry Toll Fellow for the Class of 2013.

The Toll Fellowship Program, named for CSG founder Henry Wolcott Toll, remains the oldest and most prestigious of all leadership development programs for elected officials. Each year, Toll Fellows selects 48 of the nation's top officials from all three branches of state government for an intensive six-day, five-night "intellectual boot camp."

"Individually, these leaders have a proven track record of accomplishing great things; collectively they represent the future leadership of the states, its impact is profound and its quality is renowned," said David Adkins, CSG's executive director/CEO.

The opportunity to interact with state leaders other than those in the legislative branch as a Toll Fellow offered me a broader experience of how and where the legislative branch fits into the governing system. The program reinforced for me that effective legislative interface is critical to the efficient use of public dollars in the development of meaningful public policy.

During the fellowship, I participated in numerous workshops exploring adaptive leadership competencies, problem solving, media training, crisis management, etc., all while developing valuable networking and relationship-building opportunities, including personal assessment and growth, allowing me to better serve my constituents.

As a legislator, I strive to actively involve residents by presenting information in a balanced manner with dialogue on the tough issues as well as the easier discussions. The Toll Fellowship gave me an opportunity to enhance my communication skills which are vital in respecting and engaging diverse citizens, both in the PA House and in the local area.



*Forty-eight of the nation's top 2013 selected top officials, including Rep. DeLissio in the first row, third from the right, are pictured.*



## Do you know if you have the best health insurance plan for your budget?

- An APPRISE counselor, who provides reliable, easy to understand information about Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Part D, Medigap and private insurance programs such as long-term care, is available at my office on every third Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Those interested can call 215-482-8726 to sign up for a 30-minute free counseling appointment to review your health insurance questions.

You must call in advance to schedule an appointment.

- An Affordable Care Act certified Navigator, who provides expert information about health insurance coverage through the federal Marketplace, will be available to meet with you at my office. The appointments are available on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. running through the end of March.

The Navigator will be able to answer questions you might have and to assist you with enrolling in a plan that is best for your needs and budget.

## Voices of the Community

My third annual Voices of the Community will be held on **June 5 at West Laurel Hill Conservatory, 215 Belmont Ave. in Bala Cynwyd, 19004**. I look forward to hearing input offered by you regarding the priorities that should be funded by the Pennsylvania budget. I incorporate these remarks in my speeches before the full House and in committee during budget debate.

I believe I am the first and only legislator to provide this type of forum. If you would like to be a participant this year, give my district office a call.

## Sign up for email alerts and OPT in!

I want to alert you about Pennsylvania House rules that prohibit when I can contact you leading up to a state House election. Though you may already be receiving my email alerts, there will be a 60-day period preceding the 2014 primary and general elections when you will be prohibited from receiving legislative emails from me unless you have **"opted in"** to continue receiving my emails.

Please visit my website, [www.pahouse.com/DeLissio](http://www.pahouse.com/DeLissio), to sign up for email alerts on important information, including legislation being considered in Harrisburg.

On my website, click on the Email Alerts tab in the left-hand column and fill in your information.

You can also "Like" me by going to my Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RepDeLissio](http://www.facebook.com/RepDeLissio) and follow me on Twitter at @RepDeLissio.

## Economic development planning in the 194th

For the second time since taking office, I convened an Economic Development Roundtable. The participants were representatives from the seven economic development agencies located in the 194th District.

Also participating were representatives from the state Department of Community and Economic Development, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and City of Philadelphia Department of Commerce.

The gathering served a twofold purpose. The organizations shared best practices in addition to their respective opportunities and challenges for ongoing economic development. Representatives of the state and city presented information on programs and services that they offer.

My commitment is to continue to support these organizations by ensuring that they are aware of state programs and services that are available.

## A blueprint to guide and enhance civic organizations

As I have discussed during my Town Hall meetings over the past three years, civic engagement is integral to ensuring that good public policy is developed on the local, state and federal levels. Local civic organizations are a keystone to ensuring citizen involvement.

A 50-page report was issued in November. The report was the result of a five-month internship by Jen Wallace, a junior political science major at St. Joseph's University.

The report, which can be downloaded at [www.pahouse.com/DeLissio](http://www.pahouse.com/DeLissio), focuses on three major components: organizational structure, communication and recruitment, and sustainability. In addition to ways of bolstering dues-paying membership, the report outlines best practices and recommendations to enhance communication, including social media.

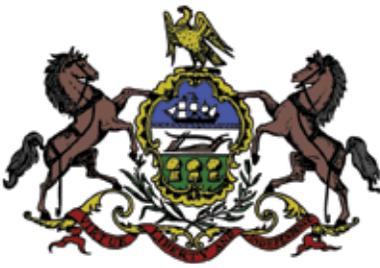
## HOLY COW!

Milking cows with faculty and students from W.B. Saul Agricultural High School this winter in hopes of taking home the Celebrity Milking Contest crown Jan. 10 at the 98th Annual Farm Show in Harrisburg was quite a "mooing" experience. The competition, which included state Agriculture Secretary George Greig, fellow lawmakers and members of the media, was a great experience.

W.B. Saul, which is part of the School District of Philadelphia, gives students a unique educational experience of high academic expectations and a deep-rooted commitment to agriculture. I am grateful to the faculty, farmers and students and, of course, cows Radish and Rosetree who helped hone my milking skills.



**Rep. DeLissio tests her milking skills at the 2014 Pennsylvania Farm Show.**



## Pennsylvania Non-discrimination Act must pass General Assembly

I continue to call for reform across the state as it pertains to LGBT anti-discrimination

legislation, specifically with respect toward passing H.B. 300. We need to collectively push for this necessary and long overdue legislation.

In Pennsylvania, we are protected against discrimination based on age, gender, race, cultural background and religious affiliation – but unbelievably so, we are not protected if lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Did you know a citizen of the commonwealth can be fired or refused housing or public accommodation based simply on his or her sexual orientation or gender identity? We need to fix this and to fix this now.

We all know somebody — a friend, neighbor, colleague, relative — who would be protected by this legislation. Most citizens do not realize that one could be fired or refused housing based on their sexual orientation. Unfortunately, the reality is that this is so.

The Pennsylvania Non-discrimination Act, introduced as H.B. 300 and S.B. 300, has a total of 115 sponsors from both sides of the aisle.

Support for protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination has been made clear by the citizens of the commonwealth. Gov. Tom Corbett recently announced he is supportive of this legislation that would amend the state's Human Relations Act.

The challenge now lies in voting this out of committee and bringing it to the full House for a vote.

You can help by contacting the Majority Chairman of the State Government Committee Daryl Metcalfe at 717-783-1707 or [dmetcalfe@pahousegop.com](mailto:dmetcalfe@pahousegop.com). Please let him know you have contacted your state representative on this issue and would like to see this bill voted on in committee and come to the full House for a vote.

## Marcellus Shale drilling taxation

In December, I joined three colleagues in sponsoring legislation that would create a 4.9 percent drilling tax on Marcellus Shale activity in Pennsylvania. This effort, like many that I am involved in, is bipartisan.

Currently, Pennsylvania is the only major gas-producing state that does not impose a drilling tax.

Under the current model, all unconventional wells drilled each year, no matter how much natural gas is produced, pay the same fee. Those fees, when calculated over 15 years, amount to less than 2 percent of a well's value.

Only 40 percent of the revenue created under the new plan would be needed to supplant the impact fees now paid to the municipalities. The remaining 60 percent would be used for a variety of programs and funding needs, with an emphasis going to education.

We have lost more than \$400 million in revenue since 2012 due to the fact that we have not implemented a fair and reasonable severance tax on the natural gas being extracted from our commonwealth. I think it is time to step forward and put in place a tax that can provide for the core services and programs we are obligated to fund for our residents.

Drilling in the Marcellus Shale is projected to continue for many years to come. The impact fee imposed in 2012 favored the natural gas industry. We need to protect our land, ourselves and generations to come and be prudent by implementing this tax.



***Drilling in the Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale is predicted to continue for many years to come. Pennsylvania is the only major gas-producing state that does not impose a severance tax.***

# Long-term care services should be seamless

In July, I was invited to participate on the Joint State Government Commission's Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Services, which is reviewing the state's delivery of long-term care services and support for independent and care-dependent older Pennsylvanians. There are only two legislators who serve on this 28-member advisory committee. My extensive background in long-term care is well suited for this assignment.

Pennsylvania ranks fourth in percentage of the population 65 or older and is tied for third in percentage of total population 85 or older.

The committee is reviewing the infrastructure that exists for providing services and supports, consumer access to the long-term care system, barriers that exist to accessing the system, and the financial issues related to the access of care and services.

We need visionary policy to meet the needs of our expanding senior population. Currently our delivery system is fragmented and siloed. If the continuum of services for our older adults was delivered more efficiently, the taxpayer dollars that support these services would go further. I view my role on this commission to listen and to ensure that, at the end of the day, the continuum of housing and services is truly seamless.

The committee will submit its findings to the General Assembly by June.



*Rep. DeLissio, second from right, listens to testimony on Medicaid expansion during a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing held at Fairmont Behavioral Health here in the 19th Legislative District.*

## Medicaid expansion hearing explores advantages

Democratic lawmakers heard testimony from federal officials, university professors and health care advocates at a public hearing in my district in January on how Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act would impact the commonwealth.

The hearing considered the effects that not expanding Medicaid is having on Pennsylvanians' health as well as the state's economy. More than two dozen other states, including neighboring Ohio, New Jersey and New York, opted into expanding Medicaid which was one of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Under expansion, an estimated 500,000 additional Pennsylvania residents would qualify for the program with the federal government covering 100 percent of the cost for the first three years.

At the start of 2014, more than 4 million Americans gained access to health care, but because our state refused to pass legislation and Gov. Tom Corbett chose not to opt in to expand Medicaid in the commonwealth, none of the newly insured lives in Pennsylvania.

Instead, Pennsylvania is still only at the beginning of the dialogue for the governor's Healthy PA plan, which requires a federal waiver.

I plan to continue to work with stakeholders to pass legislation that will expand Medicaid in Pennsylvania.

## March 2013 Mental Health Roundtable helps sets tone for policy

Last March, I hosted a bipartisan roundtable meeting for House members regarding the status of the current mental health system in Pennsylvania and to better understand how current laws need to be improved. This roundtable was prompted by the unfortunate incident at Sandy Hook Elementary School. We must focus on policies that improve how mental health services are accessed and delivered in the commonwealth.

A variety of stakeholders offered firsthand information, and the discussion included input from consumers, family members, providers, insurance representatives, reimbursement and regulatory perspectives. The ACLU was also represented at the meeting.

There were three things participants agreed on: legislators must create policy that provides for greater effectiveness in the delivery of services within the mental health community, raise the public's awareness of mental health conditions while erasing stigma, and seek more public funding.

I look forward to continuing to work on this issue with the goal of creating an even more robust mental health delivery system.

State Representative

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### Why You Should Come to the District Office!

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- BIRTH and DEATH CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS
- VOTER REGISTRATION and ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS
- APPRISE and ACA COUNSELING
- PA STATE TAX FORMS

***GREAT, FRIENDLY STAFF!***

### Penn State ROTC cadets are first to be contracted in Capitol ceremony

On Jan. 29, I had the privilege of hosting what we believe is a "first" in the state Capitol – the swearing in of six PSU Army ROTC cadets in the Main Rotunda.

The Penn State Army ROTC cadets were: Quinn Brisbon, Nicholas DeLissio, Kimberly Lightner, Matthew Ross, Tyler Strause and Cara Williams. The cadets were also introduced in the House chamber and recognized for their commitment to serving their country.

Penn State Army ROTC is recognized internationally as having one of the most outstanding and demanding reputations among cadet training commands, and these individuals have proven their dedication and selflessness by rising to the call of service. Their service allows us to do what we do as legislators by ensuring our democracy continues to shine a light worldwide.



***Rep. DeLissio stands to the left of Penn State ROTC cadets Nicholas DeLissio, Quinn Brisbon, Kimberly Lightner, Tyler Strause, Matthew Ross and Cara Williams, who contracted during a ceremony in the Capitol on Jan. 29, 2014.***