



State Representative Pamela A. DeLissio

19th Legislative District



www.facebook.com/RepPamDeLissio



www.twitter.com/RepDeLissio

EMAIL: REPDELISSIO@PAHOUSE.NET

WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/DELISSIO

Capitol Office: 109B East Wing • P.O. Box 202194 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2194 • (717) 783-4945

District Office: 6511 Ridge Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19128 • Phone: (215) 482-8726 or (215) 879-8533

Dear neighbor:

For the past 14 months it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your state legislator.

In a climate of challenge, my office continues to meet the needs of more than 60,000 constituents. Determinedly I continue to advocate for legislation that reflects the needs of the people of my district and the commonwealth. I will continue to provide a strong voice on your behalf and use the legislative process in Pennsylvania to bring meaningful change for the issues that affect our community.

Please know that you have an open invitation to stop by the constituent service office located at 6511 Ridge Avenue and introduce yourself to my staff and if I am in the office it will be my pleasure to meet you, too.



Rep. DeLissio with family and friends on her 2011 "swearing in" day.

resolving problems with all state agencies, such as the Department of Transportation (vehicle and driver's license issues), the Department of Revenue, the Department of Labor (unemployment compensation) the Department of Public Welfare, and the Attorney General's Office (consumer complaints).

Thinking about a trip to Harrisburg? We can assist with tours of the Capitol and arrange for you to see firsthand how the legislative process works by shadowing me for a day.

You can also contact my office if you have an event that you would like me to attend or if you need a speaker on a state-related topic. If my schedule permits I will be pleased to participate.

I am encouraged by the emails and letters I receive from constituents. It is through the input of constituents that I am better able to represent the needs and concerns of the residents of our district. Please continue to keep in touch.

Communication is important and, in addition to press releases, a printed newsletter and quarterly Town Hall meetings, I use electronic mail, Facebook and Twitter to keep in touch. If you want to receive our email updates please sign up on my website at www.pahouse.com/DeLissio.

I wish you all the best in 2012 and you have my commitment to vigorously represent you in Harrisburg.

Pamela A. DeLissio

State Representative, 19th District

Listen. Consider. Represent.

If you have something that you would like to discuss with me my staff can schedule an appointment.

Our constituent service office has numerous informational brochures available that are useful and interesting.

Topics range from Making Law in Pennsylvania to the PA Driver's Manual to consumer protection and services for seniors and much more. We also have current Pennsylvania Income Tax forms.

Our constituent service office can assist you in

Harrisburg deals with critical issues

Marcellus shale

Rep. DeLissio voted "No" on H.B. 1950, the 174-page measure which was presented to the House 48 hours prior to its consideration. House members were not given time to properly assimilate the information or get the message out to constituents for feedback.

From tax rates to environmental safeguards and local control, the bill is inadequate and a big loser for all Pennsylvanians. "This bill seriously lacks accountability and responsibility and essentially ties the hands of local authorities and the Department of Environmental Protection. The relatively low return to the communities from the impact fee comes at a very high cost," DeLissio said.

H.B. 1950 leaves money on the table and is a one-sided deal favoring the drilling industry. The legislative and negotiating process left 45.5%

(Continued inside)

Town hall meetings continue successfully



Rep. DeLissio talks with residents attending the July 2011 town hall meeting at the John Anderson Cultural Center.

The third set of quarterly town hall meetings were completed in January. It has been rewarding to meet with so many people who are concerned about their communities. Each quarterly round of meetings has attracted over 90 constituents. The meetings have been held in various locations throughout the district. The April meetings are scheduled for the 17th, 18th and 19th. Legislative priorities are discussed at the meetings and reviewed in detail.

CRITICAL ISSUES *(Continued from Page 1)*

(5.4 million) of the citizens of the Commonwealth out of the discussions. Democrats being left out of the dialogue has been a trend and pattern on every important piece of legislation before the General Assembly in the 2011-12 Session.

Transportation Funding

Last summer, Gov. Corbett's Transportation Funding Advisory Commission issued its report. Gov. Corbett has had little to say about the Commission's recommendations, except that he is assessing them. It is important to note that both Chambers of Commerce and labor unions are supportive of the recommendations and are strongly encouraging the legislature and the governor to act. The report is available at www.tfac.pa.gov.

In early January, House Democrats unveiled funding proposals for deteriorating roads and bridges as well as mass transit. That combined with the thousands of jobs for Pennsylvania workers that will be created through these projects, are critical to the commonwealth's economy.

School Choice (Vouchers, Charter Reform, EITC)

There have been a number of school choice/voucher, charter school reform and Educational Achievement Tax Credit (EITC)-related Senate and House bills and amendments introduced in the 2011-12 session.

Rep. DeLissio says she appreciates the general notion of providing choices for parents regarding where they can send their children to school, but she remains concerned about the lack of fiscal accountability for nonpublic schools, as well as the constitutionality of vouchers. The Commonwealth faces a \$4 billion deficit, and Gov. Corbett has reduced the basic education budget by nearly \$1 billion for the 2011-12 year. DeLissio said, "I am concerned about spending millions more in hard-earned taxpayer dollars on a voucher program that may not be the best approach to fulfilling our responsibility to provide a public education to all of the Commonwealth's children."

"It is clear to me that charter school reform is past due," DeLissio said. "I will continue to evaluate the legislation that comes before the House to determine if the reforms are appropriate and meaningful."

The EITC program provides school choice options for thousands of students in Pennsylvania. The funding for this program is expected to be \$75 million during the current fiscal year and was improved in 2009 by expanding eligibility and allowing more children and families to benefit. For more information regarding the EITC program, you can access its website: www.newpa.com and search "EITC."

Privatization of Liquor Stores

Amended in Committee, H.B. 11 has been tabled for the time being. The House Liquor Control Committee amended the original proposal severely limiting the scope.

The amended version of H.B. 11 does not divest the state store system of either the wholesale or retail sales of wine and spirits but does allow for competition in the sale of wine by allowing private businesses to obtain both wholesale and retail licenses to compete with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, or PLCB. There would be no limit on the number of licenses available.

The amendment, which received bipartisan committee approval, would do the following:

- Increase Sunday operating hours and allow the PLCB to open as many wine and spirit shops as it deems necessary on Sundays
- Allow the PLCB to offer product coupons, offer reward points for returning customers, and provide alerts about upcoming sales to consumers
- Allow the PLCB to acquire goods and services and establish its own procurement procedures
- Allow flexible pricing which would allow private retailers the ability to price their products; pricing would remain consistent statewide
- Increase the fine structure so it helps defray the actual cost of Liquor Code enforcement

No timetable for consideration or debate has been scheduled.

Small business – the backbone of Pennsylvania's economy

Pennsylvania's small businesses are key to the state's well-being. They account for a significant share of the state's economic production and hiring. The latest available data to illustrate the status and contributions of Pennsylvania small businesses states:

- 994,745 small businesses in Pennsylvania
- 233,072 small businesses employed workers and accounted for 49.3% of private-sector jobs
- Small firms make up 98.3% of the state's employers

"Small business is a critical piece of Pennsylvania's economy," DeLissio said. "I am very excited to be part of the Small Business Advocacy Council." DeLissio was appointed for the 2011-12 legislative session by House Democratic Floor Leader Frank Dermody, D-Allegheny.

The Council is part of the Department of Community and Economic Development and was created in 1996 to identify the needs and promote the interests of businesses in Pennsylvania with fewer than 25 employees. When created, the Council was directed to:

- Assist in the development of policies and regulations which affect small businesses;
- Provide advice relating to small business practices and problems; and
- Provide a review of all existing and proposed policies and regulations which are relevant to small businesses.



Rep. DeLissio hosts a business seminar for people interested in starting a new business.

In 2011, DeLissio hosted a seminar for people in the 194th Legislative District interested in starting a new business. Three dozen people registered for the seminar and came from all parts of the district, including Parkside, Wynnefield, Roxborough, Manayunk, Bala Cynwyd and Belmont Hills.

"Small business drives the economy and informing constituents about what is involved in creating a small business could ultimately drive jobs and grow our economy." DeLissio said at the time. "I am a strong believer in empowerment and information dissemination."

Again in 2011 Rep. DeLissio hosted a roundtable discussion about economic development. It included representatives of the district's business community and organizations that work to develop the economic vitality of the community.

"My goal is to generate as much activity and as much interest as possible in developing the potential in the 194th district and then helping to make certain it happens," DeLissio said.



Texting ban goes into effect in March

A law passed last fall imposes a ban on the use of text messages, email or other written communication on a handheld device while driving. The law is effective March 9. The violation is a primary offense and carries a \$50 fine.

Teen driving rules strengthened

On Dec. 27, new rules for teen drivers in Pennsylvania took effect. These rules are designed to make certain teens who get behind the wheel have more experience, are less distracted and are safer drivers – and less likely to injure or kill themselves or someone else on the road.

The new rules are contained in a new law I helped to pass last fall. They include:

- For the first six months after receiving a junior license, drivers under 18 are not permitted to have more than one passenger under 18 who is not an immediate family member, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. After six months without a violation or accident, drivers under 18 may have up to three passengers under 18.
- Permit holders under 18 must have 65 hours of supervised **behind-the-wheel training** up from 50 hours). At least 10 hours of training must be nighttime driving and five must be spent driving in poor weather conditions.
- **Seatbelt violations** for drivers and passengers under 18 are changed to a primary offense, which means the driver can be pulled over solely for that violation. The fine upon conviction is \$75.

You can find more information on the new teen driver law and Pennsylvania's requirements for teen drivers on PennDOT's website at www.dot.state.pa.us.

2012 Farm Show – W.B. Saul High School Shines



Saul High School Students and Faculty join Rep. DeLissio at 2012 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Rep. DeLissio was honored to welcome students from the W. B. Saul High School for Agricultural Sciences to the 96th annual state Farm Show in January. Saul is the only agricultural high school in Pennsylvania and one of only three in the U.S. Scan this code with your smartphone and watch a video interview with the students.



SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Low cost prescriptions available through PACE and PACENET

PACE, PACENET, and PACE Plus Medicare are Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, offering low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents 65 and older.

PACE – who is eligible?

To be eligible for PACE, you must be 65 or older, a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days before applying, and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit.

For a single person, your total income must be \$14,500 or less. For a married couple, your combined total income must be \$17,700 or less.

PACENET – who is eligible?

To be eligible for PACENET, you must be 65 or older, a Pennsylvania resident for 90 days before applying and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit.

A single person's total income can be between \$14,500 and \$23,500. A couple's combined total income can be between \$17,700 and \$31,500.

If you have any questions, my constituent service office is happy to help you, including completion of an application.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate program

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program provides qualifying senior citizens and other Pennsylvania residents with rebates of as much as \$650 based on property taxes or rent paid the previous year. The program is one of five that is supported by the Pennsylvania Lottery. Since it began in 1971, the PTRR program has provided nearly \$5 billion in rebates.

Hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians are eligible every year.

The program is open to Pennsylvania's 65 or older, widows and widowers, 50 and older, and people 18 or older who have a disability. The income limit to qualify is \$35,000 for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters; only half of Social Security and federal Tier 1 railroad retirement benefits need to be counted as income when applying.

Residents who receive a rebate should automatically be sent an application for the following year.

Applications for the rebate are currently available in my constituent service office.

Reduced automobile registrations

PennDOT offers retired Pennsylvanians earning less than \$19,500 annually a reduced automobile registration rate of \$10, compared to the normal \$36.

Seniors older than 65 also may purchase a two-year license renewal for \$19. For motorcycles, a two year license renewal is \$29.

To renew your registration and license online and to get additional information, please check out www.dot.state.pa.us or call the agency's customer care center at 1-800-932-4600.

Sign up for email alerts!

Please visit my website, www.pahouse.com/DeLissio, to sign up for e-alerts on important information, including legislation being considered in Harrisburg. Click on the Email Alerts tab in the left-hand column and fill in your information.

You can stay informed by going to my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RepPamDeLissio. You can also follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/RepDeLissio>.

State Representative
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109B East Wing
PO Box 202194
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2194

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Students, parents and teachers from the Cook Wissabickon Elementary School visit Rep. DeLissio at the state Capitol to rally for education funding.



Former Girl Scout and state Rep. DeLissio welcomes Troop PA 100 to the state Capitol for the 100th celebration of Girl Scouts of America.



Rep. DeLissio is surrounded by 4th grade students at the Merion Elementary School in Merion Station to discuss how state government works.

21st Ward AA Sports Hall of Fame Committee Chairman Frank Gagliano, Patty D'Angelo, Gary Pester, Rep. DeLissio, Eric Kay, Joe Horan Jr. and 21st Ward AA President Ernie Barile.



Rep. DeLissio joins officials of Lower Merion Township and Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail for groundbreaking ceremonies.

Rep. DeLissio speaks at the 9/11 memorial service at Gorgas Park.



Rep. DeLissio speaks at the East Falls dog contest at the Philadelphia Water Department.