

# State Representative Pamela A. DeLissio

Minority Chair / Children and Youth Committee



Dear Colleagues,

As minority chair of the House Children and Youth Committee, I want to keep you in the loop regarding the work of the committee. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff if we can be of assistance.

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## COMMITTEE NEWS RECAP



Proud to work on behalf of our youngest citizens!

## Voting Meeting – June 22, 2021

During the third voting meeting of 2021, the committee considered two bills:

- **H.B. 1650**: This is a technical bill that reorganizes some of the sections in Title 67 Pa. C.S. (Public Welfare). A consolidated Statute that houses provisions related to Medical Assistance Hearing and Appeals, Adoption Opportunities, Family Finding and Kinship Care, among others. The bill also makes some editorial changes intended only to conform to the style of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes and it is not intended to change or affect the legislative intent, judicial construction, or administration and implementation of the title.
- Passed the committee unanimously.
- **H.B. 1657**: Amends the definition of "Child Abuse" to ensure that producing methamphetamine with a child present or allowing a child to remain where its being produced is a form of child abuse. Currently, the definition of "child abuse" means "intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing a child to be present at a location while a violation of [18 Pa. C.S. § 7508.2](#) (relating to operation of methamphetamine laboratory) is occurring. In other words, the current definition of "child abuse" includes bringing a child to where methamphetamine is being cooked, but does not include actually cooking methamphetamine in front of a child. The Bureau of Hearings and Appeals has interpreted this language to limit only indicating the person who physically transported the child to the location of the methamphetamine lab and does not allow for the indication of the person who is cooking meth or running the lab.
- Passed the committee unanimously.

You can find committee updates and resources, including hearing testimony, [online here](#).

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## NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY – Second Sunday in June



June 13<sup>th</sup> was National Children's Day – a day to honor the children in our lives. by slowing down our fast-paced lives, turning off the tech, and refocusing on the important things. One day is not enough, but using it as an opportunity to redirect/rethink our family's focus could be an important step in a child's life by considering slowing down our fast-paced lives, turning off the tech for a while, and refocusing on spending time together.

Children look up to the adults in their lives for guidance and structure. While their personalities are unique, they absorb the behaviors and actions of the adults in their lives and often follow those examples.

## HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalChildrensDay

Cherish the children in your life every day:

- Start new traditions.
- Explore the outdoors.
- Tell family stories.
- Be creative through art or music.
- Teach them something new.
- Open your heart to new ideas.
- Listen to your children.
- Seek adventure with your children.
- Break out of old routines.
- Pursue new opportunities with your children.

Make it your mission to celebrate children's day every day. We need to recognize, love, nurture and invest in the future of our children.

Share your adventures with your children using #NationalChildrensDay on social media.

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## World Day Against Trafficking in Persons – July 30<sup>th</sup>



Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labor and sex. Since 2003 the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) has collected information on 225,000 victims of trafficking worldwide. Globally, countries are detecting and reporting more victims and are convicting more traffickers. This can be the result of increased capacity to identify victims and/or an increased number of trafficked victims.

In 2013, the U.N. General Assembly designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. This resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”

The [theme](#) for this year’s World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is “Victims’ Voices Lead the Way”. The theme puts victims of human trafficking at the center of the campaign and will highlight the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking.

Learning from victims’ experiences and turning their suggestions into concrete actions will lead to a more victim-centered and effective approach in combating human trafficking.

Please use the hashtag #EndHumanTrafficking on all digital platforms.

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## Children’s Trust Fund



## Pennsylvania Children’s Trust Fund

The Pennsylvania Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) was established in December 1988 by Act 151. It is a 15-member Board with appointments made by the House, Senate and Governor. The CTF board is supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

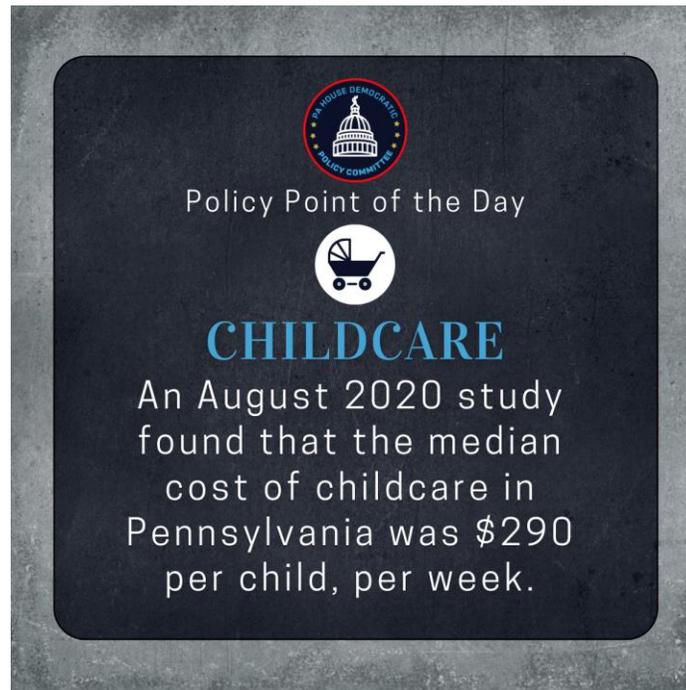
The CTF is dedicated to funding community-based programs to prevent child abuse and neglect through three-year grants. Specific emphasis for funding is placed on primary and secondary prevention programs, which focus on the prevention of abuse before it occurs for the first time by implementing evidence-based programs and promising practices. Grantees are asked to collaborate in their community, intentionally integrate the Strengthening Families Protective Factors (SFPF) Framework into their work and create a plan to sustain their programs after CTF funds have expired. Since its inception, CTF has invested more than \$39 million through 310 grants. A full list of former grantees including the counties served can be found on the Children’s Trust Fund website: [www.pa-ctf.org](http://www.pa-ctf.org).

Funds for CTF are generated from a \$10 surcharge on all applications for marriage licenses and divorce complaints that are paid into a special non-lapsing fund. Interest and donations also contribute to the Fund. Donations to CTF may be designated via annual state tax returns.

The Pennsylvania DHS has recently [announced](#) the [Request for Application \(RFA\) for the Children’s Trust Fund](#). Grantees may apply for up to \$50,000.00 per year for up to three years and require local matching funds. Grantee selection is approved by the CTF Board following a report from the review committee appointed by the Board. [Solicitation due date is 12:00 pm, July 19, 2021.](#)

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## POLICY POINT



The Institute of State and Regional Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg, in partnership with Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and the Pennsylvania Key (business partner with OCDEL that supports the policies developed and managed by OCDEL), has released a new [study](#) on the Cost of Child Care in Pennsylvania.

After surveying several childcare providers, the study estimated a weekly cost of childcare of \$290 per child, which is generally higher than other weekly child care costs in previous studies. Across providers, the weekly cost ranged from \$148 to \$627 per child. Costs were related to several provider characteristics including quality, type, and location.

As with provider type, variation in cost was observed across Keystone STAR levels. STAR 3 and 4 providers generally had higher costs compared to STAR 1 and 2 providers. Finally, a comparison of providers by locale reveals a large difference between the local per-child cost between providers in metropolitan and rural areas.

Personnel costs constituted 80% of total childcare costs, at the median, with a significant number of providers exceeding 70%.

The study provides recommendations to reassess the subsidy rate structure and explore viable alternatives. For details and more information, read the complete study: [Cost of Child Care in Pennsylvania](#).

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## BILLS & RESOLUTIONS CURRENTLY IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

[H.B. 159: Child Abuse Reporting and Military Personnel](#) – Rep. F. Todd Polinchock

[H.B. 193: COVID-19 Childcare Assistance](#) – Rep. Liz Hanbidge

[H.B. 194: COVID-19 Childcare Assistance](#) – Rep. Liz Hanbidge

[H.B. 369: COVID-19: Support for Frontline Workers](#) – Rep. Austin Davis

[H.B. 628: Student Loan Forgiveness for Child Welfare Workers](#) – Rep. Tarah Toohil

[H.B. 631: Keys to Independence for Foster Youth Age 16-21](#) – Rep. Tarah Toohil

[H.B. 1155: Exempts public preschool recreation programs from the requirement to be certified by the Department of Human Services as child care facilities by specifically excluding such programs from the definition of child day care center.](#) – Rep. Barry Jozwiak

[H.B. 1687: Autism Screening for Children Aged 18 Months to 4 Years](#) – Rep. Brian Smith

[H.R. 119: Joint State Government Commission Study on Statewide Children and Youth Services Computer System Project \(Grace Packer Case\)](#) - Rep. Karen Boback

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Each month, I spotlight members of the Children and Youth Committee so you can get to know them better. This month we feature Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald, D- Philadelphia.

Rep. Fitzgerald is a loving mother and grandmother. Izzy has a passion for advocacy and for helping her community. Before becoming a state representative for the 203<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District, she spent her professional life in various capacities, including being a public safety area coordinator for the 14<sup>th</sup> Police District, a special assistant to U.S. Rep. Robert Brady, and a Legislative Assistant for former state representative (now congressman) Dwight Evans.

As a founding member and chairperson of the Northwest CommUnity Coalition for Youth, combined with her commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for children, Izzy is a valued member of this committee.

You can [read more about Rep. Fitzgerald's story here.](#)

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## HAVE A QUESTION?

If you have questions or would like to share ideas for the Children & Youth Committee, email our executive director, Camila Horst, at [chorst@pahouse.net](mailto:chorst@pahouse.net).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.