

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.

COMMITTEE NEWS RECAP



Proud to work on behalf of our youngest citizens!

Children & Youth Committee Budget Overview

On July 20th, Democratic Children and Youth Committee members were briefed by Appropriations staff on budget line items under the committee's purview. Most of these line items fund programs managed by the Department of Human Services. The presentation started with an overview of funding sources for Child Care Works- the subsidized childcare program in Pennsylvania. In addition to state funding sources, the presentation reviewed federal COVID-19 relief funding received to date as well as the primary federal funding sources for childcare from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs (TANF).

The group also reviewed funding for child abuse prevention, protection and rehabilitation, including: Child Welfare, Youth Development Centers, Children's Trust Fund, and child abuse clearances. Finally, the presentation briefed members on the funding for several programs that assist families and children with specialized needs, such as Early Intervention and Home Visiting.

NATIONAL SON'S AND DAUGHTER'S DAY – August 11th



National Son's and Daughter's Day on August 11th brings awareness to the importance of time spent between parents and their children.

On this day and most days it is recommended that you let children know that you are glad they are part of your life. While listening to the events of their day, share family stories. Find out about their hopes and dreams. Learn what inspires them. Teach them something new, or maybe there's something they can teach you.

Every child is different. Their personalities unique to them. While one child devours books, another may deconstruct every electronic device in the house. The chatterbox keeps us awake on long road trips and the night owl keeps us alert to everything under the stars. No two are the same. That's exactly how it's supposed to be. Celebrate them and the parts they play in your family.

If you use social media you can use this hashtag. #SonsAndDaughtersDay

THE PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE



Juvenile Justice Task Force

The Pennsylvania [Juvenile Justice Task Force](#) conducted a comprehensive data-driven assessment of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system over 16 months, reviewing laws and policies, research about what works to improve outcomes, and input from hundreds of citizens through roundtables, public testimony, and questionnaires provided to nearly 800 judges, probation officers, and district attorneys. Representing a wide range of stakeholder groups, the 30-member bipartisan, interbranch Task Force developed 35 recommendations to serve as the foundation for budgetary, legislative, and administrative changes during the 2021-22 session.

If enacted together, the recommendations are projected to reduce the out-of-home placement population by 39 percent by 2026 compared to projections for the population absent policy changes, freeing up over \$81 million in averted state costs over five years. The Task Force recommends that these averted costs be reinvested into a range of priority areas, including high-quality nonresidential services across the Commonwealth, increased oversight through the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and restitution funds to support victims.

Chair DeLissio is firmly committed to reviewing and working through these recommendations as they pertain to the work of the Children & Youth Committee.

To view the 35 recommendations and an Executive Summary, please click [here](#). To view the entire Report and Recommendations, please click [here](#).



Homeless Children and Youth

A new Pennsylvania Department of Education [report](#) identified its largest number ever of children and youth who experienced homelessness in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 – 39,221 students, compared to 36,793 identified in FY 2018.

The data suggests that homelessness among children and youth throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is increasing. Perhaps surprisingly, Philadelphia is not the largest region identifying homeless students. Dauphin, Schuylkill, Lebanon, Berks, Lancaster, and Chester counties (Region 2) identified 8,635 children compared to Philadelphia's 7,847 children.

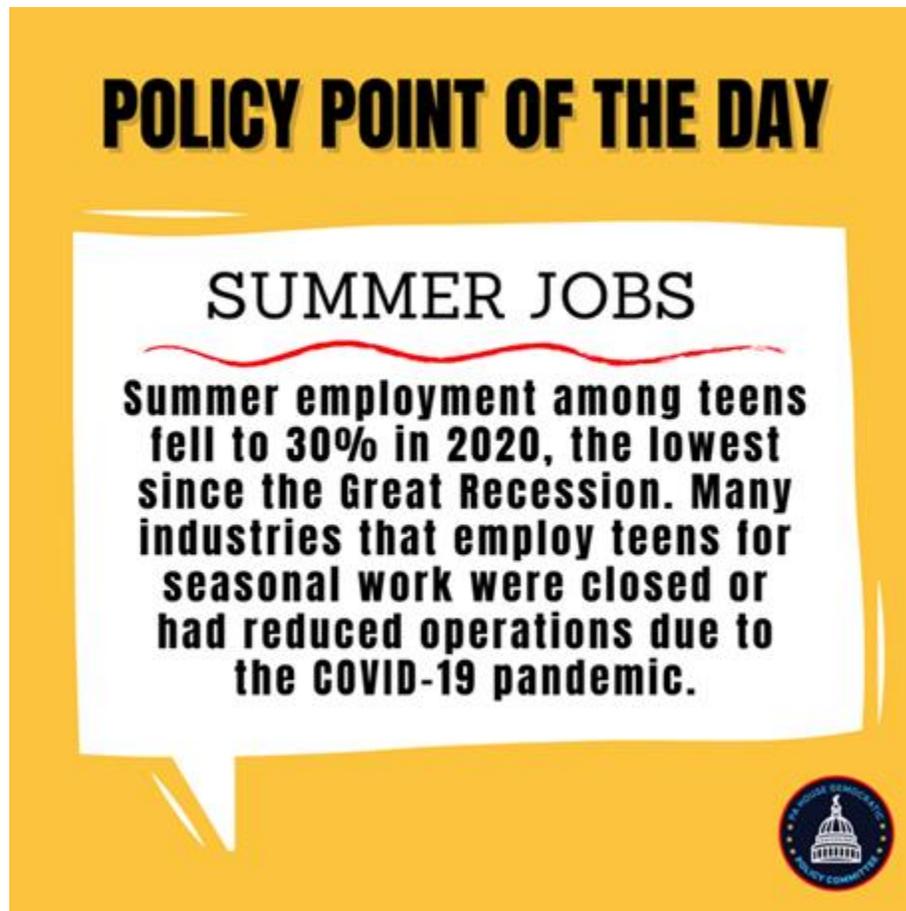
Per the PA Department of Education report, 8,069 children and youth were identified as being in shelter, or 20.6% of all homeless children and youth. Most students experiencing homelessness – or 79.4% – are either living doubled up with friends or relatives, living in places not fit for human habitation, or living on the street. Children and youth experiencing homelessness are identified throughout the Commonwealth, including rural, suburban and urban regions.

If you, or someone you know, would like to help children who are experiencing homelessness, please visit any of the resources listed below:

- [ESSA Plan - Homelessness](#)
- [Child Accounting Guidelines](#)

- [Coordinating Title I Services with Homeless Programs](#)
- [The Rights of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program Directory](#)
- [Easy to Read Guidance for Homelessness - General](#)
- [Easy to Read Guidance for Homelessness - School Staff](#)

POLICY POINT



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.B. 1731: Establishes the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee on Greater Father Involvement](#) – Rep. Lori A. Mizgorski

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

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Each month, I spotlight members of the Children & Youth Committee. This month we feature state Rep. Nancy Guenst, D- Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

A loving mother to her son Alexander, Rep. Guenst pursued her undergraduate education at Montgomery County Community College and the Defense Language Institute. In 1976, she joined the Army and served from 1977 to 1979 as a Communications analyst and German translator at Field Station Berlin. She has extensive training in emergency management, and the safety of Commonwealth residents is a major concern to her. As a veteran, she understands the challenges that veterans face in life after service and will fight to protect Pennsylvania's veterans and secure more funding for their health care and benefits.

From 2007-2013 she served Hatboro as a councilwoman, chairing the Parks and Recreation committee in addition to serving as the council's vice-president during her last two years. In 2010 while a member of borough council, Nancy introduced the Human Relations Ordinance, which was approved by council but vetoed by the mayor. In 2017 she decided to run for mayor and the ordinance was eventually passed again and as Mayor she signed it into law. Now Hatboro prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or both, race, religion or disability.

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

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.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a trailing flourish.