

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. I also want to inform you of a temporary staff change on my team. Executive Director Camila Horst will be on maternity leave very soon. Our interim ED is Leza Perkins. Leza will be supported by Caroline Kelm and Morgan Johnson.



COMMITTEE NEWS RECAP



Proud to work on behalf of our youngest citizens!

Children & Youth Committee Tour – August 17th

On August 17th, Children and Youth Committee members were invited to tour Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Montgomery County.

A child advocacy center is a child-friendly facility in which law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy professionals work together to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse, and hold offenders accountable. Every county in Pennsylvania could benefit by having a CAC in their county. 42 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have a CAC. CACs do tremendous work and help a child to not be revictimized by having to tell their story of abuse repeatedly while attempting to get justice.

Children & Youth Committee Public Hearing - Respecting Confidentiality while Preserving Accountability: Protecting Students & Staff in Our Schools – August 18th

Members of the House Education Committee were also invited to participate at this hearing that was held in Montgomeryville, PA.

The hearing focused on the nature and extent of reporting child abuse and the confidentiality requirements in cases of violence, harassment and abuse in the school setting. The committee heard testimony on the barriers to effective collaboration between schools, parents, social services, and law enforcement, and how multiple layers of confidentiality requirements may affect accountability and undermine the overall goal of keeping kids safe. In addition, the committee heard from several testifiers regarding the importance of Trauma Informed training for any and all individuals tasked with protecting children. Testifiers represented school boards, law enforcement and child protective services and county and youth agencies.

The testifiers included:

- Plaintiff's Attorney Brian Kent
- PSBA, represented by two solicitors:
 - William Zee
 - Vincent Champion
- DA's Association, represented by:
 - Ed McCann, First Assistant DA, Montco
 - Jack Stollsteimer, Delco DA & Former Safe Schools Advocate
- Police Chiefs:
 - Chief Bill Daly
 - Chief Tim Troxel
 - Chief Chris Ward
- Jon Rubin, DHS
- Brian Bornman, PCYA

Joint Children & Youth and Education Committees Public Hearing - Mental Health Needs of Public School Students – August 25th

On August 25th, the Children & Youth and Education Committees held a public hearing in Harrisburg.

The hearing built on the information presented to the House Education and Human Services Committees on May 24th. The committees received testimony on projected mental health needs of public-school students, how schools identify and assist students with mental health needs, and how those services are funded. The committees continued to focus on where schools have seen success in meeting students' mental health needs and on barriers and challenges that remain.

The testifiers included:

- Pa Department of Education
 - Dr. Sherri Smith, Acting Deputy Secretary' Office of Elementary and Secondary Ed
 - Dr. Dana Milakovic, Mental Health/AOD Specialist- Office for Safe Schools Statewide Advisor for Trauma-Informed Practices (K-12)PSBA, represented by two solicitors:
- Pa Insurance Department
 - Mike Humphreys, Chief of Staff:
- Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health
 - Ruth Ann Koss, M.Ed, Manager, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Programs
- Beaver County Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
 - Gerard Mike, Administrator
- Juniata Valley Behavioral & Developmental Services
 - Kathy Whalen, Administrator
- Pa Psychological Association
 - Dr. Monica McHale Small, Ph.D.Jon Rubin, DHS
- West Shore School District

- Dr. Todd Stoltz, Superintendent
- Amy Gross, MSW, LSW, HSV, School Social Worker
- Lincoln Charter School
 - Leonard Hart, Principal
- Sharon City School District
 - LaReina George, Supervisor of Student Services

NATIONAL CARE FOR KIDS DAY – September 20th



Caring for children is the bedrock foundation for building strong communities and society as a whole. National Care for Kids Day, held annually on September 20th, offers an opportunity for you to positively impact a child's life in a variety of ways both large and small. There are many ways to be a role model in a child's life.

Every day in our communities, citizens actively provide educational and emotional care for children. One person might spend hours reading to and tutoring children in need, another may provide nutritious food for after-school programs, volunteers contribute their time by showing up at a moments' notice and others look to the future, seeing opportunities to shape young lives by teaching children art and science.

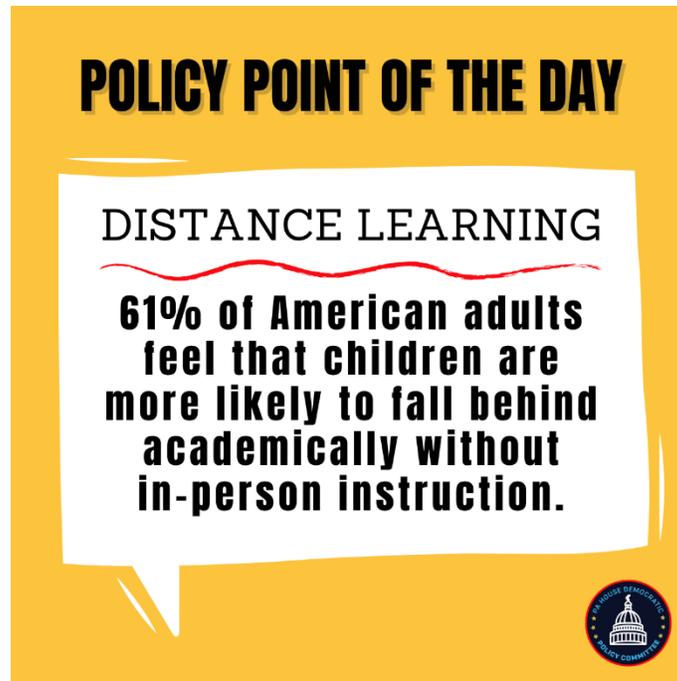
National Care for Kids Day asks you to step forward—to act on your ideas, donate and share your time, creating more stories of inspiration. It's a day to contribute to existing programs and volunteer where there is a need, giving children in your community every opportunity to grow and thrive.

Suggestions on how to observe #CareForKidsDay

- Donate to your favorite children's charity.
- Volunteer with a children's service organization.
- Make an in-kind donation by offering a service, supplies or other needs a child focused organization may have.
- Share stories about amazing service organizations, volunteers, or children.

When you celebrate, be sure to use #CareforKidsDay on social media.

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.B. 1737: Drug Screening](#) – Rep. Ann Flood

[H.B. 1769: Adding Nurses to County Children & Youth Agency Staff](#) – Rep. Karen Boback

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

[H.R. 126: Recognizing the Impact of Childhood Emotional Abuse](#) – Rep. Brian Kirkland

[H.R. 133: Recognizing the Harmful Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) – Rep. Stephen Kinsey

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 chatted with state Rep. Mark Rozzi, D- Berks.

Mark Rozzi was elected to serve as State Representative for the 126th Legislative District in November 2012. The Berks County Legislator is a lifelong resident of the district. He graduated in 1989 from Muhlenberg High School where he was a three-sport athlete and member of the Political Science Club and Model UN.

Representative Rozzi went on to receive a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Kutztown University with a concentration in pre-law and constitutional law. He resides in Muhlenberg Township where he remains active in the community. Rep. Rozzi's legislative priorities include education, property tax relief, improving the commonwealth's aging infrastructure system and safeguarding our children from predators.

Rep. Rozzi has been championing legislation on statute of limitations (SOL) reform since taking office, and he refuses to stop until every child is protected. We thank Rep. Rozzi for his arduous and courageous work on this legislation.

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

HAVE A QUESTION?

If you have questions or would like to share ideas for the Children & Youth Committee, email our interim Executive Director, Leza Perkins at LPerkins@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.