

# 2022 MID-YEAR REVIEW

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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127TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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As the first half of 2022 draws to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on advocacy initiatives I have been propelling both in Harrisburg and in the 127th Legislative District. During my first term as state representative, I have worked hard to put the folks who live in Reading and all of Berks County first. I look forward to continuing and expanding this work as we head into budget negotiations throughout June.

At the beginning of February, I was given the distinct honor of being named to the House Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee plays a key role in crafting the commonwealth's annual budget. I am grateful to have the opportunity to directly advocate for investments that ensure our communities are wonderful places to live, work, and raise a family.



# WORKING FOR YOU IN HARRISBURG



Above: Earlier this year, I invited a group of young students from Governor Mifflin's Cumru Elementary School. These students were a part of the Cumru K'Nex Innovators and were excited to talk to both me and Speaker Bryan Cutler about the projects they were working on throughout the school year. Providing our students with the tools to be successful is always of the utmost importance.



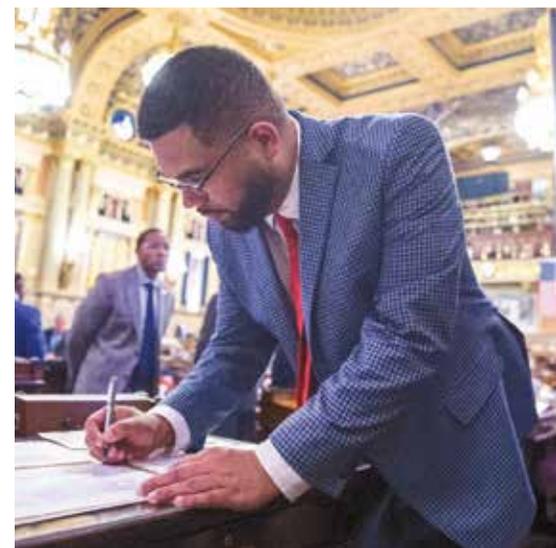
One of my favorite aspects of being a state representative is making sure everyone's voice is heard. When we champion policies that uplift communities, it establishes a solid foundation for future generations. I was proud to call for eviction protections and rent relief for the most vulnerable among us. When we band together in unity and use our collective voice, we can accomplish great things.



Right: In February, I had the privilege of celebrating Dominican Independence Day with my colleagues and supporters of the Dominican Republic's continued independence. During this day, we reminded ourselves of the struggles of maintaining freedom and recommitted ourselves to promoting autonomy, free will, and holding elected officials accountable to the individuals they serve.



In light of the recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, I stood alongside my colleagues as we rallied to stop gun violence through concrete legislative proposals. There are bills sitting in committee that would alleviate the severity and frequency of these horrific acts. Sadly, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who control what gets voted on refuse to bring these bills up for a vote.



To combat this inaction on such a critical issue, my colleagues and I signed a discharge resolution that would move these bills out of committee and up for a vote. Continuing to remain silent on the issue of gun violence will allow the carnage in our communities to continue and worsen. We can no longer stand idly by while our children die. I urge everyone to use their voice and continue advocating for change that will lead to lives being saved.

# AROUND THE DISTRICT



I was honored to join Governor Tom Wolf as we discussed the PA Opportunity Program. This initiative is part of a \$1.7 billion proposal that would strengthen the commonwealth for generations. The PA Opportunity Program would send direct payments of up to \$2,000 to Pennsylvania households with an income of \$80,000 or less.

Right now, there are billions of dollars in federal COVID-19 funds that could be helping people in Reading and all over the state, but instead, the money is locked up in a government vault helping nobody. This money belongs to the people and belongs in their pockets so they can decide how to spend it in the community, multiplying the power of each dollar and helping workers, helping kids, helping seniors, helping small local business, and building a better future.



Leaders of Berks County organized a meeting to discuss community safety, while also brainstorming initiatives to combat the uptick of violence we have seen firsthand in our community. Included in these discussions were Berks County District Attorney John Adams, Sheriff Eric Weaknecht, and Reading Police Chief Richard Tornielli, along with business owners, community and religious leaders.



We had a robust, candid discussion on the issues we have been seeing in our neighborhoods, and we will continuously strive to ensure every resident of Berks County is safe to pursue the life they aspire to lead. Together, we can rise above the violence and create a place where everyone feels safe and welcome!



I stopped by the Sencit House Apartments to spend quality time with the residents. We even had a very special birthday for one of the residents, Evelyn Bush, who celebrated her 101st birthday. Evelyn was kind enough to invite me to her birthday celebration and we had a great time playing bingo and eating delicious pizza.

Evelyn graciously accepted a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to commemorate this tremendous milestone. Many thanks to everyone at Sencit House Apartments for their hospitality!



I met with educators and administrators from Reading Area Community College (RACC) to discuss the vision of RACC and how they plan to continue being such a vital asset to those in our community seeking a path toward attaining an affordable higher education.



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# SUPPORTING OUR WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES



Welcoming the Acting Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development, Neil Weaver, to Reading for a tour of several local businesses. Our small businesses continue to be the backbone of our economy and provide our area with a robust, diverse selection of products and services.

Thank you, Acting Secretary Weaver, for taking the time to chat with these hard-working, passionate individuals who have dedicated their lives to building their small businesses from the ground up.



House Democratic Appropriations Chairman Matt Bradford visited Reading to discuss a host of initiatives aimed to help our small businesses. We have ample opportunity to reinvest in our Main Street businesses and I look forward to leading these discussions with my colleagues as we continue budget negotiations.

Thank you, Chairman Bradford, for being an advocate for small businesses here in Reading and throughout the commonwealth!

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