

State Representative Pamela A. DeLissio

Minority Chair / Children and Youth Committee

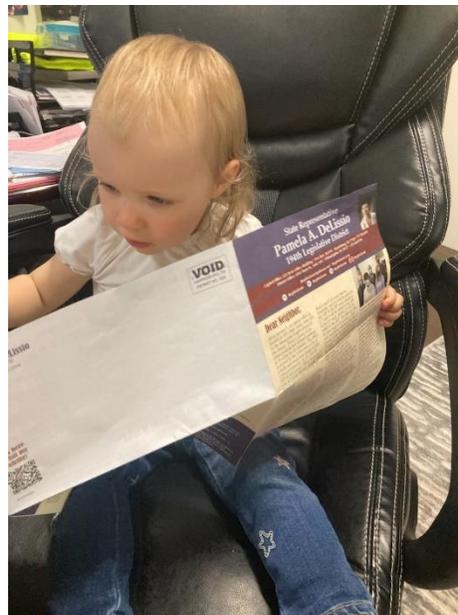


Dear Colleagues,

As minority chair of the House Children & 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.

The House Children & Youth Committee's SharePoint site (for members and staff only) is frequently updated with helpful information regarding the committee. On the SharePoint site one can view: bill analyses, testimony from informational meetings and hearings, documents related to voting meetings, letters of support and opposition to legislation, and all past Children & Youth monthly newsletters. In addition, check out the 'News' section of the SharePoint site that includes interesting articles relating to the work of the committee.

COMMITTEE NEWS RECAP



FY 2022-2023 Budget Highlights

Child Care Cliff

Pennsylvania's Child Care Works program subsidizes childcare for low-income families. Pennsylvanians eligible for the program are those who work 20 or more hours per week, or who work 10 hours and go to school or train for 10 hours per week. Families are initially eligible for subsidized childcare if their income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). But once they receive subsidized childcare, they remain eligible until their income exceeds 235% of the FPL. This benefits cutoff is also referred to as the Child Care Cliff.

For the first time, the legislature provided funding to ease the Child Care Cliff. This year, the Child Care Services appropriation includes \$25 million to support families who would otherwise lose childcare subsidies upon exceeding the program income limit of 235% of the FPL if household income does not exceed 300% of the FPL. The Department of Human Services is to determine copayment amounts for families between 235% and 300% of FPL in a way that supports economic self-sufficiency and must publish copayment schedules in the PA Bulletin.

ARPA Funding for Qualified Child Care Providers

The enacted budget includes \$90 million in ARPA funding for qualified childcare providers for the recruitment and retention of qualified staff. Qualified providers are those licensed under state regulations as childcare centers, group childcare homes, or family childcare homes, as well as relative providers exempt from licensing requirements. Qualified staff include those involved in direct supervision of children or environmental services; specifically excluded are executives, contracted staff, administrators, administrative support staff, and owners. The department must begin accepting applications no later than January 1, 2023, and are to continue accepting applications until all funds are exhausted or the deadline to spend ARPA funds has been reached. Several conditions apply to be eligible for a maximum payment of \$2,500 per eligible staff member.

Pennsylvania Dependent and Child Care Enhancement Program

Under the recent budget, taxpayers eligible for the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit are automatically eligible for a new state Dependent and Child Care Tax Credit. Like the federal credit, this is a refundable credit for child and dependent care expenses necessary to allow the caregiver to work.

The formula to calculate the tax credit is as follows:

- Expenses x Income-Based Percentage x 30% = Tax Credit
- Expenses are capped at \$3,000 for one child or dependent and \$6,000 for two or more children or dependents.

The Income-Based Percentage is set at 35% for an income of \$15,000 or less and at 20% for an income of \$42,000 or more. If a caregiver's income is between that range, a sliding scale will apply as provided by Internal Revenue Code Section 21(2)(a).

Eligibility is currently for income up to \$438,000. The maximum credit at an income level of \$15,000 is \$315 for one child or dependent and \$630 for two or more children or dependents. The maximum credit at an income level of \$42,000 or more is \$180 for one child or dependent and \$360 for two or more children or dependents. The Department of Revenue estimates that 221,000 families will benefit from the program with an average credit of \$171 per year.

Bills in Review

As the Minority Chair of the House Children & Youth Committee and throughout my tenure in office, I have committed myself to working across the aisle. Chair Delozier and I work together to pass bills from the committee with overwhelming bi-partisan support.

The House Children & Youth Committee has passed 12 bills out of committee that have received final passage in the House. We work diligently in committee to amend legislation to reflect the best policy possible for citizens. The result of our work is substantive policy for the betterment of the youngest citizens of our Commonwealth.

Three bills have been signed into law by Governor Wolf:

- [HB 253 Establishing a task Force on Opioid Abuse Epidemic's Impact on Infants and Children \(Act 2 of 2022\)](#)
- [HB 764 Provisional Hiring Parity Legislation \(Act 12 of 2022\)](#)
- [HB 954 Allows law enforcement agencies to share child abuse information with certain entities \(Act 42 of 2021\)](#)

Two bills are currently awaiting a vote by the Senate Aging and Youth Committee:

- [HB 1155 Exempts public preschool recreation programs from the requirement to be certified by the Dept. of Human Services as child care facilities by specifically excluding such programs from the definition of child day care center](#)
- [HB 1657 Closing Loophole in Child Protective Services Law](#)

One bill is awaiting a vote by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

- [HB 159 Child Abuse Reporting and Military Personnel](#)

Six bills are currently awaiting a final vote of the Senate:

- [HB 1650 Title 67 Reorganization](#)
- [HB 1731 Establishing the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee on Greater Father Involvement](#)
- [HB 1737 Drug Screening](#)
- [HB 1866 Helping Older Foster Youth Find Permanency](#)
- [HB 2214 Making Indemnification Language Unenforceable in Governmental Contracts with Private Children and Youth Social Service Agencies and Children Residential Services](#)
- [HB 2426 Resource \(Foster\) Family Legislation](#)

Child Support Awareness Month – August 2022

Child Support Awareness Month is observed annually in the month of August. Child Support is a family law that requires a parent to provide periodic financial aid to their child till the time they become legal adults. This month highlights the significance of child support in the development of a child.

President Bill Clinton first recognized August as the National Child Support Awareness Month in the United States of America in 1995. From thereon, every summer, child support organizations recognize and celebrate the vital role of child support and social service communities that provide financial aid to American families. The month also seeks to create an awareness of the importance of child support, motivate social service groups, and encourage people to lend a helping hand to children in need.

5 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT

1. Non-biological parents

A non-biological parent is not obligated to pay for child support unless the child has been legally adopted by them.

2. Specific calculation

The amount to be paid for child support is based on several factors such as time spent with the child, income of the parent, etc.

3. Support for differently-abled

In case the child is differently-abled, the court may extend child support beyond the age of 19.

4. No exemptions

If a parent is unemployed or faces a salary cut, they cannot be exempted from paying child support.

5. Consequences

There are consequences for not paying child support and it is considered a criminal offense.

More information about Child Support Awareness Month is available by clicking [here](#).

POLICY POINT



Student Loans

PA has 661K student loan borrowers between ages 25 and 34 that owe \$35,000 on average. PA ranks third in nation in highest average student loan debt.

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS CURRENTLY IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

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

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[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. 1259 Elijah’s Law- Anaphylaxis Recognition and Emergency Response Procedures in Day Cares](#) – Rep. Ryan Warner

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

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

[HB 1843: Protecting Children in Foster Care/Adoption - Grace Packer](#) – Rep. Christopher B. Quinn

[HB 1844: Protecting Children in Foster Care/Adoption - Grace Packer](#) – Rep. Craig T. Staats

[HB 1845: Protecting Children in Foster Care/Adoption - Grace Packer](#) – Rep. Craig T. Staats

[HB 1863: Updating Definition in Child Protective Services Law](#) - Rep. Sheryl M. Delozier

[HB 2174: Revisiting Entry into ARD as Basis for Founded Child Abuse Report](#)- Rep. Abby Major

[HB 2213 Limitation of Liability for Social Services Providers](#) - Rep. Kate A. Klunk

[HB 2381 Family Finding and Kinship Care Practices](#) – Rep. Mailou Mackenzie

[HB 2383 Multidisciplinary Medical Team for Child Abuse Investigations](#) – Rep. Ryan Warner

[HB 2400 Keystone STARS](#) – Rep. Thomas L. Mehaffie III

[H.B. 2472 Video Surveillance in Child Care Centers](#) – Rep. Angel Cruz

[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

[S.B. 522 Universal Lead Testing for Children](#) – Senator Lisa Baker

[S.B. 967 Establishing the Women, Infants, and Children State Advisory Board \(WICSAB\)](#) – Senator Judith L. Schwank

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Each month, I spotlight members of the Children & Youth Committee so you can get to know them better. This month we chatted with Kyle Wagonseller, the new Democratic Executive Director of the House Children & Youth Committee.

Originally from the Greater Reading Area, Kyle graduated from Schuylkill Valley High School in 2008. He subsequently graduated Magna Cum Laude from Slippery Rock University in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He first started working in government in 2011 as an intern for Congressman Tim Holden and was later a Legislative Fellow with the Bipartisan Management Committee's Legislative Fellowship Program in the PA House of Representatives. He started working full-time with the House Democratic Caucus in 2014 as a Research Associate in the Legislative Policy & Research Office (LPRO) where he focused on issues related to transportation, public pensions, and state and local government.

Since 2016, he has worked as the Research Analyst for the House Transportation Committee, where he worked with Executive Director Meredith Biggica. In this role, he helped with critical legislation, including, but not limited to authorizing speed cameras in active work zones and on Roosevelt Boulevard (Act 86 of 2018), repealing license suspensions for non-driving drug offenses (Act 95 of 2018), authorizing side stop arm cameras on school buses (Act 159 of 2018), the Capital Bridge Project Itemization Act (Act 78 of 2022), and the Highway Capital Budget Project Itemization Act (Act 81 of 2022).

During his time with the Democratic Caucus, Kyle has worked for several state representatives including Rep. Michael McGeehan from Philadelphia, Rep. Bill Keller from Philadelphia, and most recently Rep. Mike Carroll from Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties.

Kyle is excited to begin his new role and to work with Chair DeLissio. He was interested in the Executive Director position because of the topics that the committee addresses which are so vital to Pennsylvania's children.

In his free time, Kyle enjoys running, biking, and building computers. He also enjoys visiting historical sites and traveling to the beach.

HAVE A QUESTION?

If you have questions or would like to share ideas for the Children & Youth Committee, email our Committee Executive Director Kyle Wagonseller at kwagonse@pahouse.net.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'K'.