



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Tony DeLuca

CAPITOL OFFICE:

115 Irvis Office Building | P.O. Box 202032 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2032
(717) 783-1011 | Fax: (717) 772-9937

CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICE:

7205 Saltsburg Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15235 | (412) 793-2448 | Fax: (412) 793-7495

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In the blink of an eye, we have flipped yet another month on the calendar and are about to start a whole new season!

Hopefully, you had the opportunity to unwind a little this summer and enjoy some social time while creating memories with family and friends!

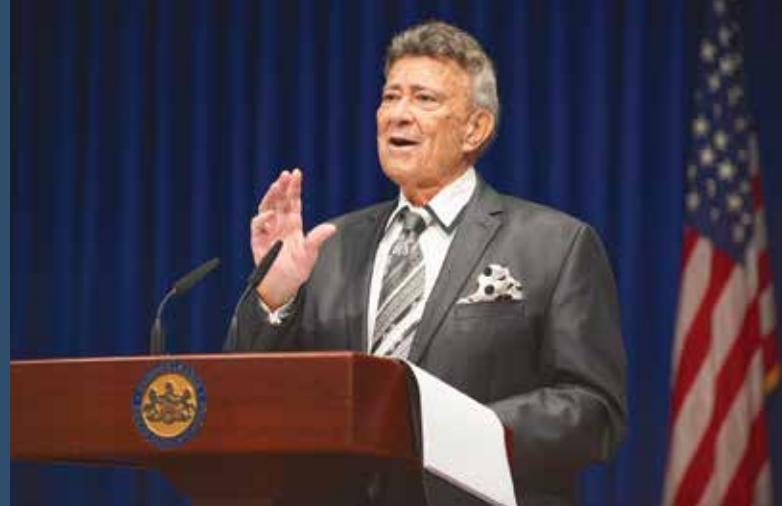
With fall on our doorstep, we start anticipating warm bonfires, apple and pumpkin picking and, most exciting of all, the return of my annual Senior Fair (for event details see back page of this newsletter).

As the House is about to go back into session at the Capitol in Harrisburg, I am eager to work on issues important to me and my constituents.

This year's budget process was chaotic at times, and the final adopted version did not include all that we desired, but as you will read inside this newsletter, there were many successes of which to be proud – most notably a historic increase in funding for schools across the Commonwealth. The budget also includes financial assistance for childcare, school safety, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities, all of which will positively impact the district.

Holding individuals accountable for their irresponsible actions was the focus of a number of pieces of legislation I introduced in the past several months. My bills included timely and important issues such as requiring drunk drivers who kill parents or guardians in car accidents to pay child support until the child is 18 years of age; increasing penalties for individuals who violate Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders; and removing the possibility of probation when a judge sentences PFA violators.

With personal safety at the top of everyone's priority list, I was proud to support a \$41,177 grant to be used for enhancements to protect the safety and security of those who worship at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Penn Hills. It is one of the oldest Hindu temples in America and a landmark in Penn Hills. The funding comes from the Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program, which was created in response to the tragic 2018 attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill to help nonprofits and faith-



based organizations secure themselves. Churches, temples, synagogues, and other institutions can use the grants for safety and security planning, purchasing safety equipment or technology, training and threat assessments, or other safety-related projects.

Speaking of safety – please remember schools in the district have started their new academic year, which means there are children standing on street corners waiting for school buses in the morning and disembarking from those buses in the afternoon. Please drive safely and defensively. Please allow yourself extra time to accommodate possible delays in your travel route and follow all state traffic laws. Drive as if those waiting young people are your children or grandchildren.

In the meantime, know that all of you and your loved ones are in my daily prayers. Remember, my staff and I are always ready to help you. Feel free to contact us.

STAY CONNECTED

www.RepDeLuca.com

@RepTonyDeLuca

Welcome to the 32ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

As a result of the constitutionally mandated redistricting of all House districts, Pennsylvania's 32nd Legislative District, which I represent, now includes all of Oakmont and additional constituents in Plum Borough.

Last winter, the Legislative Reapportionment Commission approved final maps outlining new boundaries for state House and Senate Districts, which were ultimately upheld by the PA Supreme Court. The district lines are redrawn every 10 years after the U.S. Census to redistribute the population evenly.

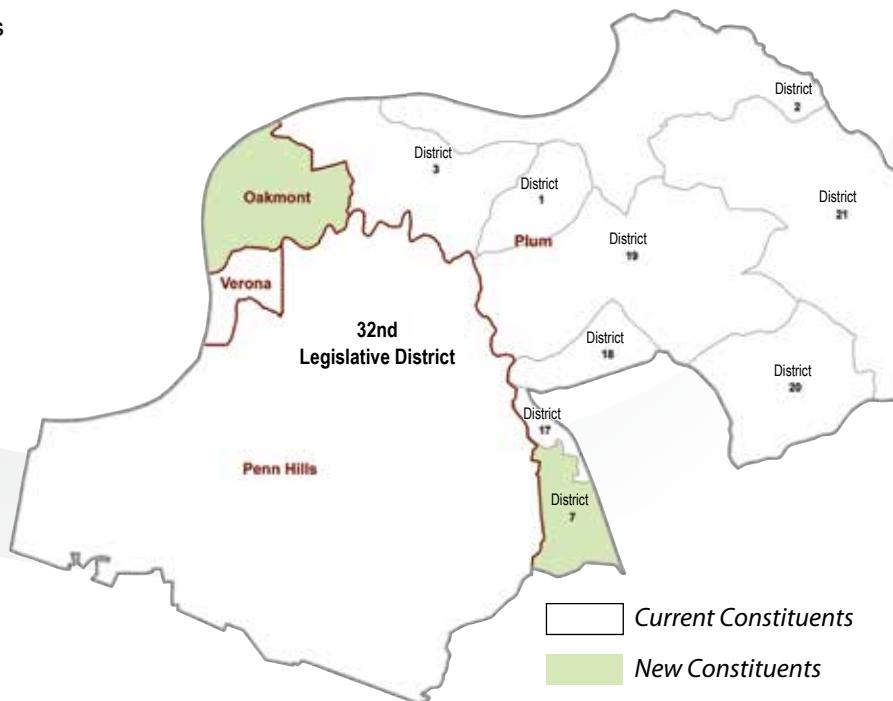
Blawnox is no longer in the district. For 30+ years I have been very proud to represent that Borough and its wonderful residents and local leaders.

Welcome to all new constituents. Since first taking office, I have always made the concerns of my constituents my No. 1 priority. My District Office is very busy and staffed with highly trained, qualified individuals who are happy to help you. Feel free to call or stop in.

Among the many things we can assist you with are: free notary public services; Pittsburgh Regional Transit (formerly Port Authority) Senior CONNECT Cards; ACCESS Transportation applications; filling out applications for state programs such as Property Tax/Rent Rebate, Prescription Drug Assistance for the Elderly

(PACE) and Children's Health Insurance (CHIP); unemployment compensation issues; birth and death certificate applications; PennDOT work including vehicle registration and driver's license renewals, disability parking placard applications and other transportation issues and concerns; House of Representatives citations for accomplishments and milestones; absentee and mail-in ballot applications; state and federal income tax forms; and much more.

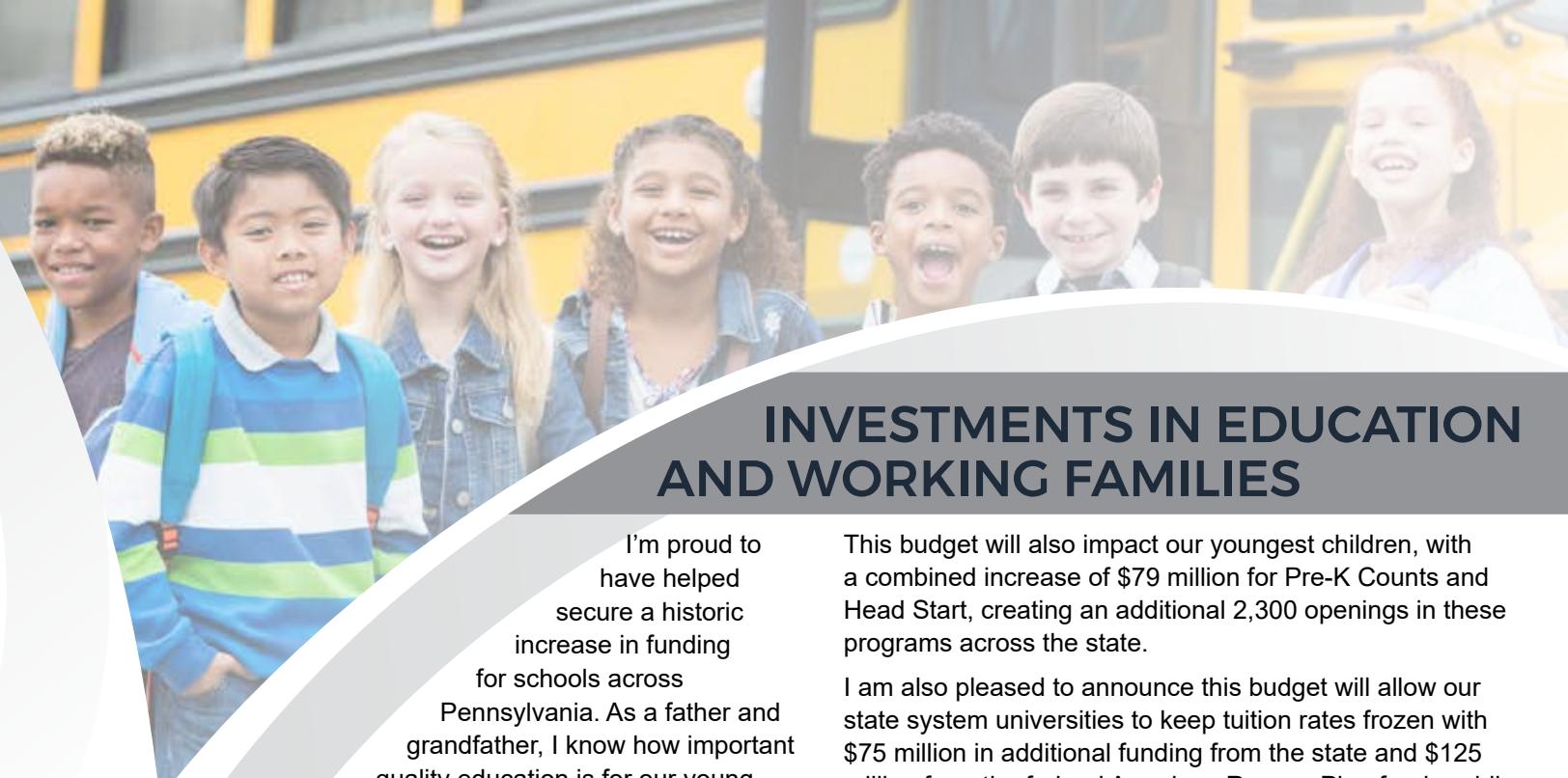
I look forward to meeting and hearing from you soon, (412) 793-2448.



STATE BUDGET A POSITIVE STEP FOR PENNSYLVANIANS

While the 2022-23 state budget does not contain everything I hoped for, I believe it is a balanced, positive step forward for Pennsylvanians. It prioritizes working families, students, seniors, and businesses while freezing or lowering taxes.

The budget invests \$1.1 billion in public schools, including \$850 million for basic and special education, and \$200 million for school safety and mental health. It gradually lowers the Corporate Net Income Tax to incentivize business growth in our state; provides \$90 million to help struggling childcare providers, and actually lowers taxes for eligible working families with kids in child care through a new dependent care tax credit, and for eligible senior citizen homeowners and renters through a Property Tax/Rent Rebate bonus payment. *(continued on next page)*



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION AND WORKING FAMILIES

I'm proud to have helped secure a historic increase in funding for schools across Pennsylvania. As a father and grandfather, I know how important quality education is for our young people and for the future of our society. As a taxpayer, I know how important adequately funding education is to prevent property tax increases. This budget increases funding for K-12 schools by \$850 million, including basic education and special education, to help students and teachers to succeed and to allow school boards to better plan for the financial future of our school districts.

Our school districts will receive the following funding:

- Penn Hills - \$19,150,968 (9.5% increase).
- Plum Borough - \$13,754,326 (3.1% increase).
- Riverview - \$3,470,721 (7.6% increase).

This budget will also impact our youngest children, with a combined increase of \$79 million for Pre-K Counts and Head Start, creating an additional 2,300 openings in these programs across the state.

I am also pleased to announce this budget will allow our state system universities to keep tuition rates frozen with \$75 million in additional funding from the state and \$125 million from the federal American Rescue Plan funds, while also increasing funding for our community colleges by over \$11 million. Community College of Allegheny County will receive an increase of \$1.2 million. Student grants, scholarships, and other financial aid programs will receive a \$42 million funding boost to help keep college affordable for Pennsylvania students and their families.

Finally, I know that as some parents have returned to the workforce after pandemic lockdowns, finding affordable childcare has been difficult. The state budget will provide \$90 million to help struggling childcare providers and assist working families in the form of a new child and dependent care tax credit, which will provide \$315 for one child and up to \$630 for two or more children.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Keeping our communities and schools safe has always been extremely important to me. This budget allocates \$75 million in federal funds for community violence prevention and \$200 million for an expansion of mental health services statewide.

The budget also provides a \$95 million investment in school safety improvements and \$95 million for mental health grants.

This funding for our local school districts breaks down as follows:

- Penn Hills - \$323,557.
- Plum Borough - \$306,098.
- Riverview - \$229,517.

SENIOR AND ELDERLY CARE

Nursing homes and long-term care facilities will receive a significant increase in funding from this budget, including an increase of 17.5% for patients covered by Medicaid, after a decade of no increases at all. This increase will supply a much-needed financial boost to facilities that continue to face serious challenges due to labor shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in payments will not happen until January 1, 2023, however, the budget utilizes \$131 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Act for the remainder of 2022.

State-operated homes for veterans will receive a \$29 million increase and fund a \$35 million loan forgiveness program in hopes of attracting more nurses. These funding increases, combined with higher nursing home staffing ratios that I have pushed for years, will provide much-needed stability and care improvements for seniors and elderly patients.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITIES

Since my last newsletter, I have introduced several important bills to protect and improve the lives of Pennsylvanians.

House Bill 2512 seeks to protect real estate from money laundering. In recent months, I have been made aware of several LLCs, with possible ties to foreign entities, buying a large amount of property in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other states. Constituents and local government officials have contacted me, alarmed at the number of properties being bought up. As a result, I have introduced this bill that would require a report to be filed with the Attorney General when a company purchases five or more properties in a single municipality within a six-month period. This would allow the Attorney General to look into suspicious transactions or forward the information to the federal authorities for further investigation.

House Bill 2593 would require drunk drivers who cause the death of a parent or guardian in a car accident to pay child support until the child is 18 years old. Other states have proposed this concept, and I believe it is an appropriate penalty considering the lifelong impact that losing a parent can have on a child. **Drunk drivers need to be held responsible for the lives that they irreversibly impact.**



House Bill 2745 would increase penalties for individuals who violate Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders. I have read reports in recent years of individuals violating PFAs over and over, or in other cases, violating a PFA and committing acts of violence shortly after. Constituents have even asked me, "Why can't our state protect these victims?" As a result, I have introduced legislation to remove the possibility of probation when a judge sentences an individual for violating a PFA.

I have also introduced two bills that would establish student loan forgiveness programs for first responders (House Bill 2161) and for mental health and drug and alcohol treatment professionals (House Bill 2384). These professions are in short supply, and at the same time, absolutely vital to our communities. I hope that by establishing student loan forgiveness programs, we may be able to encourage individuals to pursue careers in mental health, intellectual disabilities, drug and alcohol counseling, and emergency response services.

PATH TO PENNIE

Next year's tax season will roll around again soon enough. When it does, I want to remind you – as Democratic Chair of the House Insurance Committee -- that the Path to Pennie program will be an option again when Pennsylvanians file their state personal tax returns. The program connects uninsured Pennsylvanians and their family members to Pennie, the state's

health insurance marketplace, when they fill out a REV-1882 form.

Once the form is completed, Pennie will reach out to filers about enrollment options. Uninsured individuals who are eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program or Medical Assistance will have their information sent to the state Department of Human Services.

More than 90% of Pennie customers are eligible to receive subsidies that reduce

monthly health insurance premiums; 13% of Pennie customers have health insurance premiums less than \$1 per month.

I worked hard with my vice chair, Rep. Austin Davis, who introduced legislation to establish an easy enrollment option to connect working Pennsylvanians to quality and affordable health insurance coverage. I encourage anyone who doesn't have health insurance coverage to take advantage of this opportunity when tax time rolls around.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

My spring shredding event at St. Bartholomew Church in Penn Hills was a tremendous success. Hundreds of cars stopped by the event, nearly filling the truck with paper and documents to be shredded. Once again, our constituents were generous with their donations we collected for a food bank in Penn Hills.

Thanks also to my district office staff and the volunteers who helped with this popular event.



In April, residents came out to receive a free gunlock and valuable resource information for both adults and children from the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office at my Gun Safety Event in front of my office. The locks were compliments of Allegheny County Sheriff Kevin Kraus and distributed by Deputy Sheriff Jason Tarap.

There have been so many troubling incidents of late involving guns and minors. We need to do whatever we can to protect our children, especially when they are living in homes where there are weapons.





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After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, I am thrilled to once again be sponsoring my annual Senior Fair on Thursday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Greek Orthodox Hall in Oakmont.

This popular free event features representatives from many federal, state and local agencies, and organizations providing information, giveaways and answering questions. There will be chiropractic chair massages, door prizes, refreshments, and more. The Allegheny County Sheriff's Office Project D.U.M.P. will also be on site to collect unused and expired prescription medication.

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, October 6, 2022
10 a.m. to noon
GREEK ORTHODOX HALL
12 Washington Ave., Oakmont, PA 15139

Free Flu and Pneumonia Shots
(please bring your Medicare card)

COVID Vaccinations and Booster Shots

Pittsburgh Regional Transit
(formerly Port Authority) - CONNECT Cards

NEW THIS YEAR: Mobile Veterans Outreach Van will be on site to provide information and assistance with veterans benefits.

No reservations or pre-registration is needed.