

# State Representative Pamela A. DeLissio

Minority Chair / Children and Youth Committee

September 2022



**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.

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## [COMMITTEE NEWS RECAP](#)



## [Chair DeLissio Testifies Before the Senate Aging & Youth Committee on House Bill 1155 \(Jozwiak\)](#)



On September 12, 2022, Chair DeLissio, Rep. Barry Jozwiak, and Rep. Mary Jo Daley testified before the Senate Aging & Youth Committee on the merits of [House Bill 1155 \(Jozwiak\)](#). This bill would exempt municipal preschool recreation programs from the requirement to be certified by the Department of Human Services as a child day care center and must instead adopt the minimum standards for pre-school aged children under the PA Recreation and Park Society Protocol which addresses the core concerns of professional recreation providers. House Bill 1155 passed the House unanimously on June 7, 2022, and was reported from the Senate Aging & Youth Committee by a vote of 10-1 on September 21, 2022.

## [The Committee Holds a Public Hearing on Child & Adolescent Fatality Trends](#)



On September 14, 2022, the Children & Youth Committee held a public hearing on child and adolescent fatality trends and community responses. Testifiers included representatives from the Highmark Caring Place, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and the Chester County District Attorney's Office. The Committee received valuable information on the dangerous impacts that gun violence, opioids, COVID-19, depression, and trauma have on Pennsylvania's children and adolescents, and possible steps to address these problems.

## [The Committee Tours the Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf, Berks County](#)



On September 15, 2022, members of the Children & Youth Committee toured the Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf, Berks County. During the tour, administrators and staff provided an in-depth overview of their daily operations, and of the invaluable child housing and child welfare services they provide to multiple counties in Pennsylvania.

## [Chair DeLissio Supports Senate Bill 522 to Encourage Blood Lead Testing of Children and Pregnant Women](#)



On September 19, 2022, Chair DeLissio joined the Lead-Free Promise Project and Senator Lisa Baker at a press conference in support of [Senate Bill 522 \(Baker\)](#). This bill would help ensure that pregnant women and children up to the age of two are properly assessed by medical

providers for exposure to lead and the presence of lead in their blood. Senate Bill 522 passed the Senate unanimously on June 13, 2022 and was unanimously reported from the Children & Youth Committee on September 21, 2022.

### [The Committee Holds a Voting Meeting](#)



The Children & Youth Committee held a voting meeting on September 21, 2022, and reported out the following legislation:

- ✓ [HB 2174: Revisiting Entry into ARD as Basis for Founded Child Abuse Report](#)- Rep. Abby Major.
- ✓ [HB 2400 Keystone STARS](#) – Rep. Thomas L. Mehaffie III and Rep. Jared Solomon
- ✓ [S.B. 522 Universal Lead Testing for Children](#) – Senator Lisa Baker
- ✓ [H.R. 228 Study of Current Policies that Amplify Childhood Trauma](#) – Chair Pamela A. DeLissio
- ✓ [Letter to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission \(IRRC\)](#) requesting that the IRRC review Section 3700 (Foster Family Care Agency) of Title 55 (Human Services) of the Pennsylvania Code.

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### [National Child Health Day - October 3, 2022](#)

National Child Health Day is on the first Monday of every October where we show our support of children’s health, family, and those that work hard to help them. Family income is a major factor in the health of children both physically and mentally. Children from households below the poverty line have a higher obesity rate than those above it.

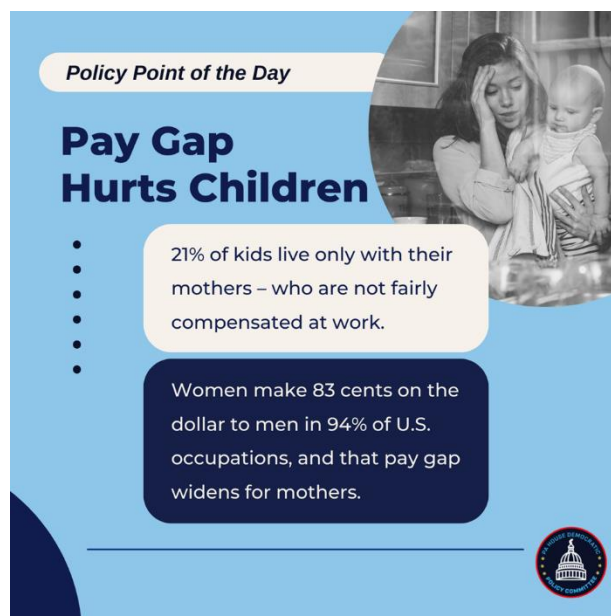
National Child Health Day became a day of observance in 1928 when President Calvin Coolidge issued a proclamation for the day and Congress enacted it. Ever since then, American presidents have issued proclamations that day in hopes of rallying the country to support children's health. More information about National Child Health Day is available by clicking [here](#).

### [Child Poverty Day – October 17, 2022](#)

Child Poverty Day, also referred to as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, observed on October 17, is a time that highlights child poverty that exists even in developed nations. Apart from lagging in necessities such as food, and freshwater, child poverty also includes a lack of quality healthcare, education, and nutrition. When parents are unable to afford these, the child begins to suffer. More often, it is the job of government institutions to offer such necessities free of cost to empower the youth and build the future of the nation. More information about Child Poverty Day is available by clicking [here](#).

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### [POLICY POINT](#)



*Policy Point of the Day*

## Pay Gap Hurts Children

- 21% of kids live only with their mothers – who are not fairly compensated at work.
- Women make 83 cents on the dollar to men in 94% of U.S. occupations, and that pay gap widens for mothers.



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### [BILLS & RESOLUTIONS IN THE CHILDREN & 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 2213 Limitation of Liability for Social Services Providers](#) - Rep. Kate A. Klunk

[HB 2302 Informing Educators of Student Trauma: Investigations of Child Abuse and Neglect](#) – Rep. Napoleon Nelson

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

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

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

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Each month, we spotlight members of the Children & Youth Committee so you can get to know them better. This month, we chatted with Representative Milou Mackenzie, R-Northampton County (Part), Lehigh County (Part), and Montgomery County (Part). Milou has been appointed to serve on the Children & Youth, Education, Human Services, and Urban Affairs committees.

Prior to joining the legislature, Milou worked as a schoolteacher with experience in both public and private education. She primarily taught English and provided teaching services to homebound children who were unable to join the classroom. She has proudly tutored hundreds of children over the years and she continues to use her knowledge of the classroom to stand up and work hard to ensure Pennsylvania students receive a quality education.

During her time in office, Milou worked hard to ensure no child lost their health care coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) due to the pandemic. Her proposal addressing CHIP payments is included in this year's state budget, which includes \$23 million to satisfy CHIP arrearages that had accrued during the pandemic.

She is also the prime sponsor of [House Bill 1813](#). This bill ensures that military children are not left behind or disadvantaged when moving into school districts in Pennsylvania by allowing those children access to registration and enrollment at the same time it is open to the general population. This bill passed the House unanimously on September 20, 2022 and is awaiting further consideration in the Senate.

Milou graduated from Nazareth High School in 1968, and subsequently earned a B.A. in English from Cedar Crest College in 1972. Milou currently lives in Lower Saucon Township with her husband, Kevin Brown. She is a mother of two sons and a grandmother of three.

She is the mother of Representative Ryan Mackenzie, R-Lehigh County (Part) and Berks County (Part). In 2021, Milou and Ryan made Pennsylvania history as the first mother and son pair to be simultaneously elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Milou enjoys spending her free time working as an Interior Designer where she has lent her artistic talent to creating beautiful homes for many people in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. She has been the owner-operator of V.M. Mackenzie Interior Design, LLC for more than 30 years.

## 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](mailto:kwagonse@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.