



Winter  
2025

State Representative | 157th Legislative District

# MELISSA SHUSTERMAN



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*Dear Neighbor,*

The 2025-2026 House Session has officially begun! My colleagues and I are back in Harrisburg, ready to pass new legislation that will improve the lives of all Pennsylvanians. It is an honor to be your voice in the state legislature, and I will continue to advocate for equal pay, common-sense gun laws, affordable housing, access to quality child care, better working conditions for caregivers and educators, and policies that put more money back into the pockets of families.

Working families do so much for our community and our state. Rest assured, my colleagues and I will continue to work for YOU to make YOUR lives just that much easier!

We also have a new office! My district office has recently relocated, and you can now visit us at 1536 E. Lancaster Ave. in Paoli. We are here to assist you with any state-related programs and needs.

Read on to catch up on the great work we accomplished in 2024 and to learn about the exciting initiatives we have planned for 2025!

## 2025-26 PA HOUSE MAJORITY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Health

Judiciary

Chair, Subcommittee on Family Law

Liquor Control

Rules

State Government

Chair, Subcommittee on Government  
Integrity & Transparency

Transportation



## GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL

My legislation, The Uniform Family Arbitration Act, has been ceremonially signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro. Family court disputes are often costly and painful, and this new law will provide families with another option to resolve legal disputes fairly. The passage of this bill is the result of five years of hard work and dedication from a persistent bipartisan coalition. This is a significant victory for PA families and our burdened state court system.

# HARRISBURG UPDATE

## ADVANCING CHILDCARE

We recently heard from Gov. Shapiro as he delivered his budget address. I am excited to learn that he wishes to invest more than \$50 million to help child care centers hire and retain teachers. Multiple studies and surveys confirm that our early education teachers are paid significantly below the national average.

While recent state budgets have included funding increases for early childhood education, these increases are not sufficient to address the wage growth needed to recruit and retain staff who meet the childcare needs of working families and the educational needs of our youngest children. To tackle this issue, I have proposed a package of bills that aims to provide additional fair funding for PreK-4th grade educators. Increasing the wages of childcare professionals cannot be achieved by simply raising the costs that families pay. To resolve this crisis, our Commonwealth must offer more solutions to support working families and expand our workforce.



### MY BILL PACKAGE

- Pre-K Teacher Salary Supplement
- Head Start Teacher Salary Supplement
- Infant and Toddler Care Professionals Salary Supplement
- Salary Parity Within Certificate Grade Spans
- Grants for Public Child Care in Rural PA
- Early Childhood Educator Tuition Assistance Program

## ANIMAL PROTECTION CAUCUS LAUNCH



The Animal Protection Caucus is back and ready to fight for our furry, feathery, and scaly friends! We had some great wins last year like improving our dog law, advancing bills to end pigeon shoots, and ensuring protections for pets of domestic violence survivors.

Now our priorities include giving law enforcement and humane society police more power to protect animals and re-introducing the beagle bill to stop inhumane testing on beagles in Pennsylvania! Thanks to the Humane Society of PA for their support! We have a great bi-partisan team who are ready to fight for the rights of animals!





# REPRODUCTIVE ROUNDTABLE AND CODIFYING EMTALA

Since the Dobbs decision, access to safe reproductive health care in our country has been in chaos. However, Pennsylvania is making it clear that we will continue to protect women's rights. I joined officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Gov. Shapiro's office, Planned Parenthood, Access Matters, and my colleagues in the House to discuss the urgent state of reproductive health care in Pennsylvania. One action we discussed was my legislation to codify Emergency Abortion Care Protections. The Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) was specifically passed in response to the inappropriate inter-hospital transfer of patients in need of emergency care due to their lack of financial resources, including those in active labor. To protect access to emergency health care for pregnant patients, states must codify



the same protections as EMTALA and specify that such protections include abortion and other reproductive health care.

# COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Public employees, such as firefighters, police officers, teachers, and municipal administrators, play a vital role in keeping our neighborhoods safe, educating our children, and ensuring that all residents have access to essential resources. They significantly enhance our quality of life, and it's time we take action to improve theirs.

Over 70,000 retired public employees in Pennsylvania live on fixed pensions and have not received a cost-of-living increase in over 20 years. I voted in favor of this cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to help pensions keep pace with inflation.

An infographic titled "PA PUBLIC WORKERS COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) Dedication Deserves a 'Thank You'". It features a blue background with a circular graphic on the right showing a teacher in a classroom. The text states: "Nearly 70,000 older Pennsylvanians who dedicated their careers to serving our communities could receive a long overdue cost-of-living increase to their pensions thanks to this legislation." Below this, a dark blue button says "IF PASSED IN THE SENATE". A list of three items follows, each with an upward arrow icon: "15% INCREASE for those who retired 24 years ago.", "20% INCREASE for those who retired 35 years ago.", and "24.5% INCREASE for those who retired 42 years ago."/>

**PA PUBLIC WORKERS**  
**COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)**  
*Dedication Deserves a "Thank You"*

Nearly **70,000** older Pennsylvanians who dedicated their careers to serving our communities could receive a long overdue cost-of-living increase to their pensions thanks to this legislation.

**IF PASSED IN THE SENATE**

- 15% INCREASE** for those who retired **24** years ago.
- 20% INCREASE** for those who retired **35** years ago.
- 24.5% INCREASE** for those who retired **42** years ago.

# COVERING FIRST RESPONDERS' PTSI

Emergency responders put their lives on the line to protect our families, but their critical and life-saving roles often take a severe mental and physical toll. That's why I voted to extend Workers' Compensation coverage to emergency responders who are suffering from post-traumatic stress injuries (PTSI).



# EXPANDED OVERSIGHT FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE FACILITIES

The House Children & Youth Committee voted in favor of my bill, which would expand oversight and accountability of juvenile justice facilities in Pennsylvania. Young people report that these facilities are unsafe, unclean, and unable or unwilling to provide effective treatment or education, and that grievance procedures are not always fair. I am re-introducing this bill for this session, and I will not stop until we bring fairness to our Juvenile Justice Facilities.

# IN THE DISTRICT

## VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST



Thank you to everyone who attended my Annual Veteran's Breakfast at Founding Forward! Phoenixville VFW Post 1564 kicked off the event with the Presentation of the Colors, followed by patriotic songs sung by the Phoenixville Area School District's Vocal Fusion ensemble. My gratitude goes to Pastor Russ Crouthamel of St. John's Lutheran Church in Phoenixville for giving an invocation and for the inspiring talks by guest speakers Collie Turner of Heroic Gardens and Nick Liermann of Team Foster.

A very special thank you to the ever-helpful Daughters of the American Revolution - Valley Forge Chapter for bringing Samuel Adams to life and their wonderful hospitality. Lastly, thank you to my staffer, Ginger Murphy, who makes this event a possibility every year. Meeting so many veterans and their families was an honor, and I look forward to seeing you at our Veterans' BBQ in July!



## PET RESOURCE FAIR

Our first-ever Pet Resource Fair and Vaccine Clinic was a success! It was wonderful to see animal lovers from our community connect with local vendors and resources to keep their pets healthy. Thanks to Providence Animal Center, we helped vaccinate over 50 dogs and cats. A special thank you to Brandywine Valley SPCA for bringing cute, adoptable fur babies and to the team of service dogs from PAWS for brightening everyone's day.



## GIRL SCOUT TROOP

I was honored to join Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Troop #41525 to help them achieve their Democracy badges. To earn this badge, girls learn how each level of our democracy functions. Together, we read "Vote for Our Future" and we had an inspiring Q&A session about my job as a legislator. I am incredibly proud of the girls and their amazing troop leaders! These girls have bright futures ahead of them.



## TREDYFFRIN COMMUNITY DAY

The beautiful fall weather and gorgeous sunshine put smiles on so many faces at Tredyffrin Community Day.



## FALL SHREDDING EVENT

My fall shredding event was a hit! We helped so many constituents keep their identity safe by destroying sensitive documents in an environmentally friendly way. Additionally, we accepted over 550 pounds in canned goods for the Chester County Food Bank!



# IN THE DISTRICT



## COMMUNITY SAFETY TOWNHALL

I held a Community Safety Town Hall featuring Chester County District Attorney Christopher de Barrena-Sarobe, Chester County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #11 President Bob McCarron, and Tredyffrin Township Police Department Captain Tyler Moyer.

My guests provided valuable insights into gun violence, mental health concerns, substance use, and scams that affect our community. Thank you to Tredyffrin Public Library for hosting!

## MT. ZION AME CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

I had the honor of joining the congregation of Mt. Zion AME Church of Devon for their 175th Anniversary celebration. It was a joyous occasion filled with fellowship and heartfelt reflections on the church's rich history. Mt. Zion was integral in the fight against segregation along the Main Line and continues to support our neighborhoods through free vaccine clinics, community gatherings, baby/school supply giveaways, and food drives.

It was a privilege to present an official PA House citation to my friend and trailblazer Rev. April Martin in recognition of her groundbreaking role as the first woman pastor of this historic church.



## SAVE THE DATE!

You're Invited!

	<b>FEBRUARY</b> <span style="background-color: #ffc107; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px 10px; font-weight: bold;">26</span>	<b>COFFEE &amp; CONVERSATION</b> <i>Tredyffrin Public Library, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM</i>
	<b>MARCH</b> <span style="background-color: #ffc107; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px 10px; font-weight: bold;">3</span>	<b>SEPTA SENIOR SIGNUP EVENT</b> <i>Paoli Library, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM *Preregistration Required* Call the library at (610) 296-7996</i>
	<b>APRIL / MAY</b> <span style="background-color: #ffc107; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px 10px; font-weight: bold;">TBD</span>	<b>COFFEE &amp; CONVERSATION</b> <i>Location and date to be determined.</i>
	<b>MAY</b> <span style="background-color: #ffc107; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px 10px; font-weight: bold;">3</span>	<b>SHREDDING &amp; CANNED FOOD DRIVE</b> <i>Technical College HS - Pickering, 9:00 - 11:00 AM</i>
	<b>JULY</b> <span style="background-color: #ffc107; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px 10px; font-weight: bold;">12</span>	<b>VETERANS BBQ</b> <i>Wilson Farm Park, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM</i>

## Grants

### 157th District

AWARDED FALL/WINTER 2024

\$1,000,000	Paoli Hospital Trauma Center
\$1,000,000	Willistown Conservation Trust
\$959,350	Chester County Intermediate Unit
\$775,000	Willistown Sewer Modernization
\$505,000	Easttown Township Safety & Walkability
\$229,327	Tredyffrin/Easttown School District
\$218,819	Great Valley School District
\$205,000	Tredyffrin Township / Jenkins Arboretum
\$198,893	Phoenixville Area School District
\$24,000	Chabad Lubavitch
\$17,000	University of Valley Forge
\$14,000	Wharton Esherick Museum
\$7,500	Historic Sugartown



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## Keeping Up with Shusterman!

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## DISTRICT OFFICE SERVICES

- Senior SEPTA Key Cards
- Property Tax/Rent Rebates
- Birth & death certificates
- Driver's license & vehicle registration
- Tax & PennDOT forms
- Disability plates & placards
- Unclaimed property
- Any other state government services!

## SIGN-UP FOR OUR E-BLASTS!

Want to stay up to date on everything going on in our community and in Harrisburg? Sign up for my E-Blasts by scanning the QR Code or stopping by my district office!

