



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Honorable Anthony M. DeLuca  
7205 Saltsburg Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

August 22, 2018

Dear Representative DeLuca:

For 164 years, the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh has been defined by the people and communities we serve, inside and outside of our buildings.

As you know, if we do not do something drastic about our financial situation today, there might not be a YMCA in the greater Pittsburgh region tomorrow. The Y has had to make some extremely difficult decisions; and while these are not easy messages to share, it is the truth. These changes will enable us to remain a vital service provider in greater Pittsburgh, especially for those in underserved communities.

We are making great progress to ensure that the Y continues to offer Before and After School Enrichment programs, swim lessons, senior classes, youth sport programs, and summer camp in the Penn Hills community. For members who want to belong to a YMCA facility near Penn Hills, the Homewood-Brushton YMCA is just 5 miles away and the Sampson Family YMCA in Plum is just 10 miles away.

Delivering successful, mission-focused programs outside of a building that says "YMCA" on it is not new for us. Our membership of 80,904 includes more than 8,000 enrolled in programs that operate outside a YMCA facility. With the strong support of our many great community partners, we are confident we will continue to serve Penn Hills, Wilmerding, and the Western Area after the buildings close.

Sincerely,

Margaret Joy  
Board Chair, YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh

CC: Kevin Bolding, President & CEO, YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh

**YMCA of GREATER PITTSBURGH**

420 Ft. Duquesne Blvd., Suite 625  
Pittsburgh PA 15222  
P- 412-227-3800

**[www.YMCApgh.org](http://www.YMCApgh.org)**

ANTHONY M. DeLUCA, MEMBER

115 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202032  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2032  
PHONE: (717) 783-1011  
FAX: (717) 772-9937

7205 SALTSBURG ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15235  
PHONE: (412) 793-2448  
FAX: (412) 793-7495



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

INSURANCE, CHAIRMAN  
DEMOCRATIC POLICY  
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
  
PA HIGHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
PA STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY  
PENNVEST BOARD  
  
ARTHRITIS & OSTEOPOROSIS CAUCUS  
AUTISM CAUCUS  
CANCER CAUCUS  
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS  
COAL CAUCUS  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CAUCUS  
FIREFIGHTERS' & EMERGENCY SERVICES,  
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS  
LUPUS CAUCUS  
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS  
STEEL CAUCUS

Margaret P. Joy  
Partner  
McCarthy McDonald Schulberg & Joy  
630 Oliver Building  
535 Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

August 15, 2018

Dear Chairman Joy:

I am writing to you today because I am deeply troubled by, and angry with, the YMCA of Pittsburgh Board of Directors' support of the recent executive decision to close the Penn Hills branch of your organization. I am respectfully asking for a written response from you explaining how you could, in good conscience, condone such a dreadful recommendation.

As a member of the Penn Hills YMCA; a homeowner in the municipality for nearly 60 years who has raised my family here; and the elected State Representative serving Penn Hills constituents in Harrisburg for 37 years; I can personally attest this facility is a vital component of our community and closing it will be a tragic loss and create an overwhelming void.

I am well aware of the YMCA's current financial situation and recognize your need to take steps to reduce expenses. What I cannot understand is how your board of professionals, in good conscience, can justify using the Penn Hills facility to help bail out the YMCA of Pittsburgh's mistakes. In my opinion you are making a very serious error removing such a valuable commodity from our hometown and the fact that you are also closing the Wilmerding Y, in such close proximity to the Penn Hills Y, is reprehensible.

The YMCA has always been a place where anyone, regardless of race, religious belief or financial status can turn for a safe environment to exist in a world that has become increasingly unpredictable. The decision to close the Penn Hills and Wilmerding branches does not affect your wealthy clientele, nor does it affect your most destitute populations. What it does is further hinder the working poor -- the ones who work hard every day to make ends meet and rely on a reputable, quality place where their children can be fed and cared for while they are at their jobs. These specific communities have taken more hits and seen more tragedy than most others combined and, now, the YMCA of Pittsburgh is rubbing salt in their wounds by eliminating places that provide structured programs, wholesome recreation, outreach services and local resources. Where now can these families turn? What are you thinking?

As Board Members I sincerely believe you have lost sight of your mission, with which I am confident you are familiar -- "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all." I can't help but

think when choosing what facilities to close you didn't consider the human factor -- you immediately looked at the Penn Hills building because it is newer and you figured you could sell it for a decent amount of money to offset the bankruptcy.

In addition to the young people who are served by the Penn Hills YMCA and now more than ever need a place for safe recreation, what alternative are you offering the hundreds of senior citizens who participate in exercise programs every day at the Penn Hills facility? Not only do these programs provide a much needed, healthy regimen for a very vulnerable population, often at the direction of their physicians, but they also serve as a social outlet for this group of individuals some of whom I am certain are lonely and may have few opportunities or the desire for interaction with their peers. Our seniors clearly will not feel comfortable at nearby commercial fitness facilities and prefer the intimacy and camaraderie of the YMCA over the many distractions one often finds at area senior citizen centers which I recently explained in my personal meeting with YMCA CEO Kevin Bolding. Does this even matter to you?

Compounding the loss of this gem in Penn Hills is the termination of employment for eight very dedicated full-time and approximately 70 part-time employees at the branch.

Several years ago the YMCA of Pittsburgh made a push to hear the stories of "Y People." What a shame it is that the citizens of Penn Hills will no longer be able to fulfill their stories. The Penn Hills YMCA became a reality many, many years ago through efforts by the founder of the now world renowned Turner's Dairy, the late Charlie Turner. Turner's Dairy is still located in our hometown; how sad it is the YMCA will not be!

Many dedicated people spent years and years raising money to help construct the new Y and now must stand idly by and watch all of their sweat and hard work be tossed away as you plan to sell the structure and the grounds to help satisfy the terms of your bankruptcy case. I know I was very proud to be part of getting the new Penn Hills YMCA finally built by repeatedly obtaining state money for the project. So were the people of Penn Hills who tirelessly worked together to push the dream of an improved facility to fruition. You have certainly painted a tragic scenario for our town.

I am equally disappointed in you that no one, either from the Pittsburgh Board of Directors or Executive staff, ever met with me, the members or community leaders through your decision making process to see if an alternative plan could have been developed to save the branch and make it financially viable. Now we are weeks away from you padlocking the doors in Penn Hills and walking away from the community with purposeless talk of offering offsite programs. While those programs may be sponsored by the YMCA in places like churches and schools, the bottom line is that you have removed the structure that is centrally located in the municipality and universally recognized as a safe, wholesome, welcoming facility.

As professionals in the workforce surely you must agree the consumer approach you took to this matter is pathetic and I am very disappointed in all of you. Is this how business is conducted at your place of employment? I would have expected better treatment from your Board and I believe the Penn Hills YMCA members certainly deserved more from you.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. DeLuca, State Representative  
32nd Legislative District