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Dear Neighbors,

Happy holidays!! The late Senator Paul Wellstone once wrote, "Sometimes the only realists are the dreamers." Typically, first-term legislators don't have many legislative accomplishments to speak of. But my vision for this state representative role is being a tireless, prolific and effective advocate. Midway through my first term, I'm proud that **ten** pieces of legislation I helped write and lead have passed the Pennsulvania House of Representatives!

My bills support individuals and families: eliminating medical debt, protecting against frivolous lawsuits, and honoring religious freedom by designating a new state holiday. These bills also safeguard our hospitals and houses of worship and promote affordable housing and accessible playgrounds.



three of these pieces of legislation were House resolutions, which were adopted and signed by Speaker Joanna McClinton. These resolutions call for investments for Alzheimer's patients and caregivers, recommit our support for the prevention, treatment, and recovery of individuals with substance use disorder, and highlight the need to support individuals living with diabetes.

I'm proud that all of my passed legislation had bipartisan support. In many cases, I asked Republican members to join Democratic members to introduce these bills as "co-prime" sponsors.

Your advocacy, your feedback, and your encouragement made these wins possible. I am deeply honored and grateful to serve as your representative in Harrisburg, and I hope to accomplish more significant legislative achievements in 2024!

If there's anything my staff or I can do to support you, your family, or neighbors, please reach out to us at (215) 482-8726 or email RepTarik@pahouse.net. I hope you and your family have a happy and safe holiday season!

With Love.

My 10 Bills that Passed the House in 2023!



1. Nurse Safe Staffing: The Patient Safety Act (HB 106)

PA. I helped write this bill, whip its votes and ensure its passage through the PA House. If signed into law, it will save three lives a day in PA, and keep nurses at the bedside.

HB 106 passed the State House in June (119–84) and is now in the State Senate!



2. Improving Playground Accessibility (HB 1173)

Prioritizes grant funding for playground projects under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources if those playgrounds are **universally accessible for children of all abilities.**

HB 1173 passed the State House in July (202–1) and is now in the State Senate!



3. Establishes the PA
Medical Debt Relief
program, which purchases
the medical debt of
financially vulnerable
PA residents. Instead of
being chased by collection
agencies, those with medical
debt may have their debt
completely canceled.

HB 78 passed the State House in June (114–89) and is now in the State Senate!



4. Protecting Free Speech: Anti-SLAPP Suit (HB 1466)

Protects individuals and organizations against frivolous lawsuits filed meant to silence,
intimidate, and suppress free speech. Allows
for these suits to be quickly dismissed, and for
attorney's fees and court costs to be recovered.

HB 1466 passed the State House in October (202–0) and is now in the State Senate!



5. Affordable Housing Across PA

Raises the cap on Realty Transfer Tax revenues into the PA Housing and Rehabilitation Enhancement ("PHARE") Fund from \$60 million to \$100 million. Allows more families to qualify for housing support.

HB 1316 passed the State House in June (128–75) and is now in the State Senate!

My 10 Bills Will Help Improve Our Community



6. Honoring Religious Freedom: Eid-al-Fitr as State Holiday (HB 1752)

Honors religious freedom and our commonwealth's rich cultural tapestry by recognizing Eid-Al-Fitr as a holiday in Pennsylvania.

HB 1752 passed the State House in November (134–69) and is now in the State Senate!



7. June as Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month (HR 77)

Honors the over 400,000 PA residents with Alzheimer's and related brain disorders, and their family caregivers. Calls for dedicated governmental resources to cure Alzheimer's.

HR 77 was supported (201–1) by the State House in June and adopted!



8. Protecting Sacred Spaces: Non-Profit Security Grant Program (HB 1772)

Increases funding to \$10 million for non-profits vulnerable to hate crimes (e.g., synagogues, mosques, LGBTQ+centers) for security upgrades.

HB 1772 passed the State House in November (153–49) and is now in the State Senate!



9. September as National Recovery Month (HR 205)

Calls attention to the **need to support persons struggling with substance use disorder** across the
commonwealth and emphasizes that
recovery should be the expectation,
not the exception.

HR 205 was supported (201–1) by the State House in September and adopted!



A bipartisan resolution recognizing November 2023 as "Diabetes Awareness Month" in PA Passed unanimously out of Health

10. November as Diabetes Awareness Month (HR 141)

Highlights that 1 in 5
Pennsylvania adults
have diabetes but are
unaware, and the need
for intervention, including
supporting increased
healthcare access & coverage
to combat diabetes.

HR 141 was supported (201– 1) by the State House in November and adopted!

Resources Available Through Our Office to You!

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program deadline extension

The Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application deadline is **Dec. 31, 2023**.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. All applicants must bring earned income tax forms from 2022. Homeowners, you will need copies of all paid tax bills. Renters, you will need a signed form from the landlord. Applications can be filed online at **mypath.pa.gov**, and the Department of Revenue has informed us that online applications will be processed faster than paper applications.

SEPTA Older Adult Fare Card Senior Fare Card

Older adults with a valid Senior Fare Card ride free at all times on all types of 1234567890123456 ≡ 12/18

CARDHOLDER NAME

SEPTA routes! If you are 65+ years old and need a new card or renewal, please reach out to our office to set an appointment. Applicants need to bring a valid ID and be ready to have their picture taken.

Heating Assistance This Winter We can help!

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants. **This program is open until April 5th, 2024 and my staff can assist you throughout the process!**

Household Size	Income Limits Cash/Crisis Program
1	\$21,870
2	\$29,580
3	\$37,290
4	\$45,000
5	\$52,710
6	\$60,420
6	\$60,420

For Each Additional Person, ADD \$7,710



Reach Out – We Are Here For You!

Whether through the legislation I have written or supported, our office staff's caring work with neighbors, or my efforts to bring our tax dollars back to our community, my office and I are here to serve you.

If you have any questions about bills or services, please reach out to our office at RepTarik@pahouse.net or call (215) 482-8726.



Thank You for Helping Make My Rookie Year Successful!!





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My office can help you with:

- SEPTA Cards for Older Adults
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate issues or concerns
- Home energy assistance program
- Disability plates and placards
- Unemployment compensation issues
- Birth certificates
- PA income tax issues
- Utility concerns
- Car registrations, tags, titles, and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education

- Department of Human Services issues (food stamps, income assistance)
- State road concerns
- Consumer complaints
- PennDOT concerns
- State Capitol tours
- Disability plates and placards
- PACE cards for older adults
- Concerns and issues with insurance companies
- State lottery questions

Any issues with state government, please contact us at (215) 482-8726!