



State Representative | 189th Legislative District

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Education
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LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

2023-24

\$5.43 MILLION IN 2023-24

BROUGHT HOME IN STATE INVESTMENTS FOR DISTRICT

16,596 CONSTITUENT SERVICES

PROVIDED THROUGH OFFICE

INTRODUCED 15 BILLS & 2 RESOLUTIONS

VOTED FOR 363 BILLS

WHICH PASSED THE HOUSE



UPDATE: I-80 The I-80 Task Force has been following the expansion project closely.

As of today, PennDOT is one year out from filing permits. They know we are watching. Once the permits are filed, it will take a year for any approvals. There will be public forums, the PA Department of Environmental Protection will weigh in, the Monroe County Conservation District will conduct studies and more. We will keep up the good fight.

I also am working on an eminent domain bill to help protect the livelihoods of residents, businesses and municipalities. Eminent domain should be the LAST

resort and people deserve more than just fair market value for their property.

Remember: we want better roads, bigger shoulders and higher bridges, but we need to make this project fit, and right now it is oversized. Any reasonable person would understand that \$770 million is a ridiculous amount of money for a 3.5 mile project.

Stay tuned...



UPDATE: RT. 611 IN DELAWARE GAP The road closure along Rt. 611 has gone on way too long!

My office has been meeting regularly with local, state and federal officials regarding this unfortunate situation. Unfortunately, it seems that the PennDOT leadership team cannot seem to come to a resolution with the National Park Service regarding how to proceed with reopening this roadway.

The ongoing meetings continue to be drawn out, and frustrations are running very high, regarding the opening of Rt. 611 Delaware Water Gap.

After originally being told by PennDOT in December 2022 that retaining fences

could not be erected to allow one lane to open while work is done to scale the wall, PennDOT said during a June 27, 2024 meeting that they could possibly install retaining fences. Many of us in the meeting were pleased to hear this, but disturbed that this could have potentially been done more than a year ago, allowing one lane of the road to be open.

Please understand that over the last 100 years, there has not been one death because of rockslides. Research proved that the rockslides only happen when there is record rainfall and weather. In the past, dedicated PennDOT workers have

cleaned up the rocks within six hours.

This is a PennDOT road. They have left us behind, but we meet every two weeks to get them to move in the right direction. I tell them every time that they put businesses out of business, the detour is too long and it is ruining other municipal roads, and there is no emergency exit plan when I-80 is backed up.

I hear all of your frustrations, and anger. I am on your side and I promise to keep fighting for you! I encourage you to contact the PennDOT leadership team and express the urgency to open up one lane and allow cars to travel.

PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE



Protecting Women's Health

The U.S. Supreme Court decision does not impact patients needing emergency abortion care in PA -

House Democrats will always defend reproductive rights and health.

Two years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade. While abortion is still safe and legal in Pennsylvania, we must ensure that our future generations will be guaranteed this right. With House Democrats in the majority, we work hard to protect a woman's right to health care and this session I voted for the following:

- Ensuring state-level access to contraceptives (H.B. 1140).
- Offering protection to people obtaining reproductive health services (H.B. 1786).
- Requiring providers to get consent during invasive medical procedures (H.B. 507/Act 31 of 2023).
- Requiring prenatal and postnatal health providers to distribute information related to postpartum depression to mothers and their families (H.B. 2127).



HELPING SENIORS AFFORD CABLE TV

For older Pennsylvanians, cable TV is a vital lifeline. Often it is the only source of important news and emergency information. Print media has transitioned to online, and many older adults cannot use, afford, or have access to the Internet. I introduced legislation (H.B. 2457) that would provide income-eligible older adults a yearly rebate on their basic tier cable TV when there is only one cable TV service provider available in their municipality.

STATE, SCHOOL RETIREES DESERVE A COLA

About eight months ago, I proudly joined my House colleagues in voting for a bill that would provide a cost-of-living increase to longtime retired public school teachers and state workers, some who have not received a cost-of-living adjustment in 20 years. Those who have been retired the longest would receive the largest adjustment. This would be for those retiring before July 2, 2001.

These are teachers and loyal public employees who gave so much to their communities and have been retired for many years. We owe them the dignity in retirement that they deserve. This adjustment is long overdue. It is shameful that the Republican-controlled state Senate has not brought this bill up for a vote. I encourage you to call your state Senator and ask them to support the **COLA bill**.

Retired teachers & state workers haven't had a raise since 2002. House Democrats are getting them the money they're owed



REMEMBERING MARION MUNLEY

I am proud to report that the PA House of Representatives adopted my **H.R. 339** to recognize Marion Munley, the first woman elected state representative from northeastern Pennsylvania. The measure designates Aug. 19, 2024, as "Marion Munley Day" in Pennsylvania. The significance of the date is Munley's birthday in 1906. She died in 1983.

Through this resolution, we honor Marion Munley's memory by continuing to work toward a future where all Pennsylvanians can live together as equals. She left an indelible legacy, setting many precedents for women and achieving legislative victories in the pursuit of equality and fairness.

Munley grew up in Scranton and had an early interest in politics and government. In

1947, she won a special election to finish out her deceased husband Robert's term in the PA House of Representatives, becoming the first woman elected state representative from northeastern Pennsylvania. She was re-elected eight times, deciding not to run for re-election in 1964. During her tenure, she became the first woman elected Democratic Caucus secretary in the 300-year history of the legislature.

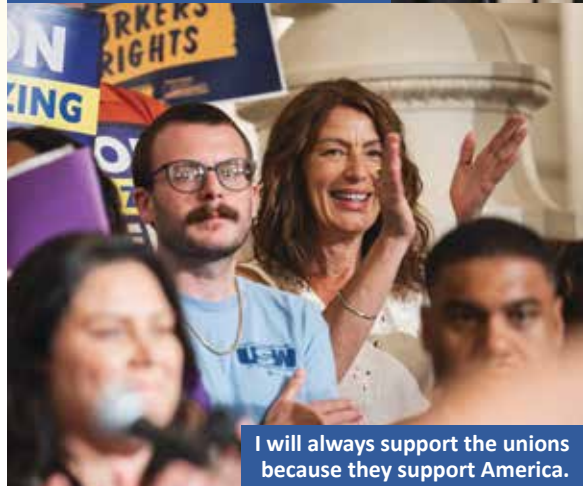
PRO-FAMILY, PRO-WORKER BILLS PASS THE HOUSE

These are some of the pro-family, pro-worker bills that have passed the House in the last year.

- ✓ **H.B. 299** would create the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act, which establishes workplace safety standards for public sector employees that are consistent with federal OSHA requirements.
- ✓ **H.B. 413** would increase specifications for classifying employees as independent contractors in the construction industry.
- ✓ **H.B. 577** would create the Keystone Saves Plan – a voluntary retirement account for workers who don't have access to an employer-based plan
- ✓ **H.B. 760** would allow workers' compensation claimants to have benefits delivered via direct deposit.
- ✓ **H.B. 930** would ensure that workers who suffer from serious and permanent disfigurement are eligible for workers' compensation benefits, increases number of eligible weeks for compensation, and allows claimants to collect disability and disfigurement benefits simultaneously.
- ✓ **H.B. 950** would guarantee workers the right to organize and collectively bargain and prohibits any other laws that may interfere with or diminish collective bargaining rights.
- ✓ **H.B. 1449** would establish clear requirements that firms bidding on public infrastructure projects must meet, including having a state or federally registered apprenticeship program.
- ✓ **H.B. 1465** would apply prevailing wage rates and minimum safety standards to all contracted construction work on underground systems regulated by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission.
- ✓ **H.B. 1481** would extend eligibility for unemployment compensation to workers who are unemployed due to a work stoppage.
- ✓ **H.B. 2153** would protect worker pay and prohibit the use of "split rates" by which some contractors pay workers at two different rates for the same job on the same day.



Supporting our unions with Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton.



I will always support the unions because they support America.

WORKING FAMILIES DESERVE A BREAK

I am proud to have worked with Gov. Josh Shapiro to deliver for working parents and caregivers as we more than tripled the state's Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to help nearly a quarter-million Pennsylvania families keep more of their hard-earned money. The previous one-child credit of \$180 is up to as much as \$1,050, and the previous two-or-more children credit of \$360 is up to as much as \$2,100.

This is not just for child care. If you are paying for care of someone who is elderly or living with a disability, you could also qualify for the tax credit. If you qualify for the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, you also qualify for the state credit.



PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM IS BIGGER AND BETTER

You may be eligible for the expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program and my office is here to help.

I was proud to vote for a law that expanded and improved the state's PTRR Program. The law raised the income limit to \$45,000 for homeowners and renters and raised the maximum rebate to \$1,000. Cost-of-living increases will keep pace with inflation so that seniors retain eligibility with modest raises in Social Security benefits.

The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians aged 65 or older; widows and widowers aged 50 or older; and people with disabilities age 18 or older. Spouses, personal representatives, or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2023 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

Give my office a call at 570-420-2850, send an email or stop by and see us and my team will be happy to help you apply. The deadline to apply is December 31.



Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, MORE money back!

Homeowner & Renter Income	Max Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$45K	\$380

SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS



Covering Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries for First Responders

HB 1632 establishes that first responders may collect workers' compensation for post-traumatic stress injuries sustained in the course and scope of their work.



Expanding the Fire Company & EMS Grant Program

Provides additional **\$30 million** in funds to support fire companies, EMS companies, and other emergency service providers.

I was proud to vote for legislation that would make post-traumatic stress injury an eligible claim for first responders filing for workers' compensation. If enacted, Pennsylvania would be the 26th state to provide workers' compensation benefits to first responders suffering from PTSD.

I also voted to expand the Fire Company and EMS Grant Program by investing an additional \$30 million in grants to fire and EMS companies. Grants also could be used for cancer screening and other preventive health measures for first responders. The bill would make non-transport EMS squads grant-eligible and authorize a new Hazardous Materials Team and Specialty Team Grant Program.

First responders are the backbone of our public safety system, providing lifesaving care in all communities.



EQUITABLY FUNDING SCHOOLS WILL LOWER PROPERTY TAXES

There have been a lot of ads on social media and text messages going around about my vote to properly fund public schools.

Don't believe the lies! The 2024-25 state budget DOES NOT raise taxes!

The organization spreading these lies is funded by Jeffrey Yass, the richest man in Pennsylvania who is worried that he might make fewer millions. Meanwhile, the property taxes in Monroe and Pike counties have gone up repeatedly... year after year.

Despite what you may have heard, we have NOT voted on a bill that will close any cyber charter school. Anybody who sends their child to a cyber charter school can still do that. But your property taxes shouldn't be going to cyber charter schools so they can spend your hard-earned tax dollars on sports tickets and advertising.

For years, the public school districts in Monroe and Pike counties have been the most underfunded across the entire state, with local taxpayers footing the bill. After 20 years of Republican inaction, thanks to the House Democratic majority and the 2024-25 state budget, we can finally do something about that.

It's time to stop the bleed and fund our schools equitably!

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

Pennsylvania needs to fix its ailing mental health care system. The House has outlined and advanced a bipartisan plan (**H.B. 849**) that would allocate \$100 million in federal funds to address Pennsylvania's mental health needs, including investing in recruiting and retaining mental health professionals, expanding criminal justice and public safety programs, and preventing suicide.

We know the problems and we have solutions. Funding is available. The uses have been thoroughly vetted. It's time to get this money out the door to serve Pennsylvanians. Call your state Senator and tell them to support \$100 million for mental health needs.



HELPING VETERANS WITH STATE PROGRAMS

DEMOCRATS DELIVER FOR OUR VETERANS



The PA House passed a bill to exempt veterans' disability benefits from income requirements for:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebates
- PACE & PACENET prescription programs
- PennDOT processing fees

Proud to help those who served!



The House passed the "VetConnect" bill, which would require employers with more than 50 employees to display information about veterans' benefits and services in a place accessible to all employees. The PA Department of Labor and Industry would be required to publish standardized posters in a printable format with the information. This would help more veterans locate the services that are available to them.

I believe we have a duty to treat our veterans, who have sacrificed for our freedom, with respect and dignity. That is why I co-sponsored **H.R. 335**, which calls for the creation of the Pennsylvania Task Force on Agent Orange. This resolution was unanimously adopted by the House and will help PA veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange obtain benefits that are available to them through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

In addition to my **H.B. 1401** that would expand the state's Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption program to provide proportional discounts as determined by the VA, I also co-sponsored **H.B. 1227** that would allow non-wartime veterans who are 100% disabled to get property tax relief.

If you or a family member are a veteran, please contact my office at 570-420-2850 for information about state programs that can benefit you.

IMPROVING HIGHER EDUCATION

As a member of the House Education Committee, I was proud to vote for legislation that would:

- ✓ Remove the growing financial burden to recruit more new teachers (**H.B. 1331**).
- ✓ Bring more young people to the teaching profession by creating the Teacher Pipeline Scholarship program (**H.B. 688**).
- ✓ Help college students earn a degree faster at less cost with the Degree with a Guarantee Act (**H.B. 897**).



INVESTING IN STUDENT TEACHERS = IMPROVING PA'S TEACHER PIPELINE.

Student Teacher Stipends

Degree with a Guarantee

means credits from a community college degree can be applied toward earning a four-year degree faster with less cost.



HB 897

The 7th annual Women's Expo was a great success and we had a full house all day! Thank you to all the incredible exhibitors and attendees who came out and to Rep. Maureen Madden for partnering with me to put on this event for our communities.



My staffer Cheryl and I were invited to a demonstration immersion from the Delaware Township Volunteer Fire Co. - Station 28. We geared up and were in a controlled burn that hit 1,000 degrees, and it was eye opening to say the least.



The Pennsylvania Association of Realtors are true professionals and work hard every day in our communities.

39,000 REALTORS: UNWAVERING ADVOCATES FOR YOU.



I will always stand up for clean air and clean water. We only have one Earth!



Tourism is essential to our district. I always learn something new when I am with The PA Restaurant and Lodging Association who do everything they can to make The Poconos a great destination to live and visit.





State Representative

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A Spanish version of this mailer is available on my website www.RepProbst.com.

Hay una versión en español de este correo en mi sitio web www.RepProbst.com.

lpo.sh.0724



I was honored to be named 2024 Public Servant of the Year by JNESO, a labor union that represents professional health care workers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

PROBST OFFICE CAN HELP YOU!

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation.
- Pennsylvania state income tax questions or problems.
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms and application assistance.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Problems or questions about the state lottery.
- PACE cards for senior citizens.
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups.
- Information about state and local government agencies.
- Questions about the Veterans Property Tax Exemption.
- Assistance applying for Human Services: Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, and LIHEAP.
- Any state government service or issue!

PIKE COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICES

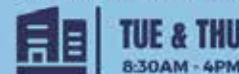
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REPRESENTATIVE
TARAH PROBST



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We will be offering constituent services, PTRR, and more!



STAY UP TO DATE!

Sign up to receive my email updates at www.pahouse.com/Probst/emailsignup or scan the QR code.