



STATE REPRESENTATIVE Scott Conklin

77TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SUMMER 2022
WWW.REPCKONKLIN.COM



Capitol: 314 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202077 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2077 • (717) 787-9473
State College Service Centers: 301 S. Allen St., Suite 102 • State College, PA 16801 • (814) 238-5477
213 N. Front St. • Philipsburg, PA 16866 • (814) 342-4872

WEBSITE: www.RepConklin.com | [f](#) [@](#) [t](#) @RepConklin



SCHOOL SAFETY, NOT POLITICS, MUST COME FIRST

Like many of you, I watched the events earlier this year in Texas in stunned disbelief. That we were watching the same tragedy play out before our eyes, again. That helpless children had been murdered, again. That families had been destroyed, again. That another community would have to live through the terror, the horrific trauma of this, again.

And I felt a deep rage that I know so many of you shared – that this was happening, again.

And while my own son is now out of school, I remember how it felt in the aftermath of other mass shootings. The visceral anger, the fear, the helplessness – that resigned feeling that we, as a society, have started to accept this as ‘normal.’ Well, this is not normal, and I refuse to give into those feelings of despair.

The bottom line is we as a community cannot wait for Congress or the legislature in Harrisburg to act. Despite the best, good-faith efforts of folks like myself to seek a path forward, meaningful legislation to address mass shootings and mental health has been stymied by political infighting and outside special interests.

I cannot tell you how this enrages me. I don’t care where you fall on the political spectrum – **the safety of our children should be priority one, not our political beliefs.** And when it comes to working to ensure that our schools are safe for our children, **politics should be left at the doorstep.**

There is no time or room here for finger pointing or arguing. We need to be working together, right now, because we cannot wait for the federal or state government to do this for us.

The good news is that as part of this year’s state budget in Harrisburg, my colleagues and I fought for – and succeeded in – having more than \$180 million in additional funding set aside for school safety. This is in addition to \$135 million in new funding for law enforcement, \$75 million for community violence intervention and prevention, and \$215 million in new money to expand mental health services across our commonwealth.

The funding specifically for schools – the \$180 million I mentioned previously – will be available to school districts to not only improve physical safety at our schools, but also to provide mental health services to students to prevent another tragedy.

I am absolutely committed to making sure our local communities and schools get their fair share of these dollars, but it will likely be up to our local school districts to file the applications based on their individual needs.

My office is ready and willing to work with our local administrators and boards – regardless of the personal politics – to get these grants and to help fund the improvements and programs we need to keep our kids safe. We also must be looking at what other policies and programs we can bring to our local schools to increase student safety. Because I cannot, simply cannot, believe that anyone would put politics or ideology ahead of that mission. Quite simply, there is too much at stake.



Domestic violence bill gaining traction across state

I'm pleased to report my legislation that would bar individuals convicted of domestic violence from serving in the state legislature or holding any public office of trust or profit in state government is gaining traction across our commonwealth.

From op-eds in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* to local news coverage, my bill has brought this topic into the public discourse. Several public officials have signed on to support it, as has the PA Federation of Democratic Women.

I introduced this bill because I believe in accountability, and because I believe that legislators who themselves have been convicted of domestic violence-related crimes cannot be trusted to act ethically on behalf of domestic violence survivors.

Pennsylvania's constitution currently prohibits people "convicted of embezzlement of public moneys, bribery, perjury or other infamous crime" from serving in the General Assembly. My legislation would explicitly make domestic violence convictions a disqualifying offense. Critically, individuals whose records have been expunged, had their convictions overturned, or received a pardon would not be excluded from holding public office.

In Pennsylvania, it is estimated that one in four women and one in seven men experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner. At least 109 people have died as a direct result of domestic violence in the last year alone, while Pennsylvanians bear an estimated \$156 billion in lifetime economic burdens due to intimate partner violence.



State budget makes major investments in education, communities

While I have come to learn that no state budget is perfect, I am pleased to report that this year's state budget has a lot to like.

Using federal and surplus funds, we were able to secure a historic increase in state education funding – money that will help our underfunded schools while also helping families with childcare and Pre-K programs.

Altogether, school districts in the new 77th District will be receiving almost **\$5 million more in education funding** from the state than they did last year.

This budget also includes a one-time benefit increase for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which helps seniors and people with disabilities, and includes the Whole-Home Repair program, which will provide grants to homeowners for needed home repairs.

It also sets aside \$100 million for affordable housing construction and makes major investments in the outdoors and our environment.

While there are many other things that I would have liked to have had included, at the end of the day I think this budget is a good one for the people of Pennsylvania and our community, which is why I voted to support it.

Working for you here and in Harrisburg



Meeting with HD77 public school representatives (right to left) Dr. Gregg Paladina – Philipsburg Osceola School District superintendent, Jaqueline Huff – State College Area School Board member, Tim Baine – Philipsburg Osceola School Board president.



Meeting with representatives from Penn State University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) for Penn State Capitol Day.



Discussing the PA GI Bill at a news conference. The GI Bill was passed two years ago to help National Guard members and their families pursue higher educations.



It was great to be a part of the State College 2nd annual Pride Parade, hosted by Centre LGBTQA Support Network. Next year's Pride is scheduled for June 10, 2023.

Bringing Harrisburg to home



Earlier this year, the PA House Democratic Policy Committee held a hearing and tour of Penn State's Innovation Hub in State College. We discussed how to make Pennsylvania's economy stronger, focusing on workforce issues, innovation, growth opportunities, market pressures, and regulations impacting manufacturing in Pennsylvania. The committee is a diverse group of lawmakers from all over Pennsylvania.



State Representative
Scott Conklin
P.O. Box 202077
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2077

lpo.ts.0822



Rep. Scott Conklin's Summer Update

INSIDE:

- ✓ **PEOPLE, NOT POLITICS**
- ✓ **WORKING FOR YOU HERE AND IN HARRISBURG**
- ✓ **A STATE BUDGET THAT INVESTS IN EDUCATION AND OUR COMMUNITIES**

REPRESENTING THE STATE COLLEGE AREA, PHILLIPSBURG AND PORTIONS OF THE BALD EAGLE AND MOSHANNON VALLEYS.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Issues with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program problems or questions
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Any state government-related matter!

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY STATE OR GOVERNMENT-RELATED SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE AT (814) 238-5477 FOR ASSISTANCE.