



State Representative
Kyle T. Donahue
 113th Legislative District

Dear neighbor,

It is a tremendous honor to serve the residents of the 113th District as your State Representative in Harrisburg. It is a responsibility I do not take lightly. Our office works diligently every day to help residents with state-related issues, fights to make certain we receive our fair share of state funding, and advocates for legislation that will have a positive impact in our community.

As I have traveled throughout the district listening to the concerns of residents, meeting with local officials and organizations, I can certainly say that our community's greatest strength is our people. Whether we met at an event or you came into my district office in need of assistance, it created a connection that helps our office focus on what is important to the people we serve.

My staff and I are here to serve **YOU**, so I encourage you to reach out to my office for any assistance with any state-related issue you may have.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kyle Donahue



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The 113th District
has been awarded over

\$1.3 Million

from the Monroe County
Contiguous Local Share Account



- \$261,681** for Lackawanna Avenue Streetscape Improvements in Scranton
- \$190,537** to renovate the West Scranton Hyde Park Community Center on Washburn St.
- \$140,000** for building renovations to the Friendship House in Downtown Scranton
- \$117,431** to create a Tech Hub at the Scranton Area Community Center
- \$100,400** to United Neighborhood Center to rehabilitate residential properties into affordable rental units
- \$100,000** to renovate Billy Barrett Park in Minooka for Phase 1 Improvements to Clover Field in West Scranton
- \$100,000** to Covington Township for Dirt Road Improvement Project
- \$88,386** to Elmhurst Township for Municipal Garage Project
- \$62,842** to replace roof at the 20th Ward Social Club
- \$27,500** for a permanent welcome sign/gateway for Scranton Veterans Memorial Stadium
- \$11,000** for security and facilities upgrades at Scranton Co-Op Farmers Market

GRANTS AWARDED

I was proud to help secure funding for our community during my time in office this legislative year. We've had \$1.3 million in Local Share Account funding awarded for community improvement projects, including facility upgrades for multiple organizations, along with streetscape improvements to improve pedestrianization. Improved pedestrianization is always great for the safety of pedestrians, as well as for businesses who are thinking of franchising here or starting here.

I also worked with my House colleague state Rep. Bridget Kosierowski and Senate colleagues, including Sen. Marty Flynn, to secure stormwater infrastructure and art grant funding. This was a total of \$4.3 million in funding that will be used to improve stormwater systems in our community to ensure greater protection against floods. This means that more money will stay in the pockets of all of you, as we can worry less about a higher risk of property damage from flooding.

Additionally, the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple and the Civic Ballet Company of Scranton received funding for marketing and operating expenses, so they can continue to provide leisurely experiences and opportunities for those in the community.



Rep. Donahue secures over

\$3.2 Million

for the 113th District through CFA Arts & Culture,
H2O and Small Water & Sewer grant programs



- \$2.6 Million** to the City of Scranton to make stormwater infrastructure improvements
- \$315,264** to Elmhurst Township Sewer Authority to rehabilitate the wastewater treatment plans and replace a grinder at the meter station
- \$233,131** to the Spring Brook Township Sewer Authority to construct an ammonia removal system at the wastewater treatment plant in Roaring Brook Township
- \$47,901** to the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple for marketing expenses
- \$10,000** to the Civic Ballet Company of Scranton for operating expenses

BUDGET

While the budget we passed last year was nowhere near perfect, the finished product was the result of bipartisan negotiation where progress was made on many significant fronts. We took a step forward in fulfilling our constitutional obligation to fund public education adequately and fairly in every school district throughout Pennsylvania. As a result of this budget, the state allocation for the Scranton School District will increase by 15% to \$81.4 million and the state allocation for the North Pocono School District will increase by 10% to \$12.8 million.

When we support our children and fund their education, we are funding their future. This budget also included \$175 million for school facility improvements, a \$46 million increase for universal free breakfast for every child; a \$23.5 million increase for Career and Technical Education; and \$10 million for student teacher stipends.

This budget also made other important investments, including \$40 million for violence prevention programs, a 6.9% increase for State Veterans Homes, such as Gino Merli Veterans Center in Scranton, and an expansion of the Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit to provide working families the support they need.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

The Fiscal Code bill enacted as a part of the 2023/24 budget package (Act 34 of 2023) expanded the Pennsylvania Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit from 30 percent of a taxpayer's federal tax credit amount to 100 percent of their federal credit. In other words, the amount that Pennsylvanians receive under the PA Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit will match what they receive from the federal government during the same tax year, as opposed to receiving only a portion of what they received.

This expansion is effective for tax year 2023, meaning that Pennsylvania taxpayers will first see an increase in their Pennsylvania Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit amount when they file their taxes in April 2024.

Minimum Wage Increase

I was also proud to support and vote for legislation that would raise the minimum wage in Pennsylvania starting this year. House Bill 1500 is a compromise bill with the Pennsylvania Senate Republicans and although it is not perfect, it is a step in the right direction for workers across our Commonwealth, especially with the continuing rising costs across Pennsylvania.

The legislation would increase the minimum wage in Pennsylvania to \$11 per hour on Jan. 1 in 2024, \$13 per hour on Jan. 1 in 2025 and \$15 per hour on Jan. 1 in 2026. There would also be an annual cost-of-living increase beginning in 2027. Additionally, the legislation would also set the minimum wage for tipped workers at 60 percent of the hourly minimum wage – which has been stuck at \$2.83 per hour since the 20th century.

ASSIGNED COMMITTEES

As a legislator, it is important that I advocate for all of those who I serve in my community – as well as all Pennsylvanians – within all sectors of public policy. That is why I was so proud to be assigned to the Gaming Oversight Committee, the Housing and Community Development Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Labor and Industry Committee and the Local Government Committee. These posts allow me to weigh in on matters that are handled in those areas so that I can provide respective legislation and, again, represent all of you in my community.



HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is accepting applications for 2023-24. As the weather gets colder, I want to make sure everyone knows about the resources available to assist in keeping you and your family warm during the cold months. 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. The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants range from \$300 to \$1,000 based on household size, income and fuel type. Remember: this is a grant and does not have to be repaid.

There are **two ways** to apply for LIHEAP:

Online: Apply for benefits online using COMPASS, the online tool for Pennsylvanians to apply for health and human service programs and manage benefit information.

On paper: You can download a paper application, print it, fill it out, and return it to the County Assistance Office. You can also come in or call my office, and we would be happy to assist you!

CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL REFORM

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed H.B. 1422, Cyber Charter School Reform, with a bipartisan vote of 122-81 in early July. House Bill 1422 would ensure that cyber charter schools are held to the same rules and regulations as traditional public schools. As a result of H.B. 1422, estimated savings in the 2024-25 school year would total over \$1.1 million for the North Pocono School District, and Scranton School District would save over \$4.1 million. H.B. 1422 has the support of Governor Shapiro and is awaiting consideration by the state Senate.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Expansion



Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program 2024 Expansion

MORE people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		

I was proud to support the expansion to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. It has been 16 years since income limits were last increased under this program. This new law will raise the maximum rebate for seniors from \$650 to \$1,000; increase the income cap for homeowners/renters to \$45,000 a year; and automatically increase the income cap to cost of living increases moving forward. As a result, approximately 175,000 more Pennsylvanian's will qualify for this program. This legislation was signed into law by Governor Shapiro in Scranton!

Applications are now open. If you have any questions or need assistance with your application, reach out to my office by calling (570) 342-4348 or emailing repdonahue@pahouse.net.

MY LEGISLATION

H.B. 1751 Construction Workforce Misclassification Act

This important legislation would strengthen and improve Pennsylvania's Construction Workplace Misclassification Act to combat worker misclassification. Employees who are misclassified as independent contractors are robbed of important workplace benefits and protections, including sick pay, unemployment and workers' compensation.

The Joint Task Force on Misclassification of Employees, established by Act 85 of 2020, was explicitly charged with investigating the practice of employee misclassification occurring within the Commonwealth. According to the task force, nearly 11,000 misclassified employees in 2021 suffered injury or illness at work but were denied Workers' Compensation. Additionally, \$91 million in revenue was lost to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.

House Bill 1751 would strengthen existing law by implementing several of the unanimous task force recommendations. The bill increases penalties on contractors who misclassify employees, empowers the state and local authorities to investigate and prosecute worker misclassification, and provides misclassified employees with an avenue to pursue justice. This legislation passed the House with a bipartisan vote of 121-82 on Dec. 11 and is awaiting action in the State Senate.

H.B. 1843 – Sentencing Relief for Child Survivors of Trafficking, Sexual Abuse and Assault

House Bill 1843 would provide sentencing relief for child survivors of trafficking, sexual abuse, and sexual assault who commit crimes to escape their abusers. The sentencing relief would apply if the survivor-defendant proves by clear and convincing evidence that the person against whom the defendant was convicted of committing the offense trafficked the minor or sexually abused or sexually assaulted the minor within one year before the commission of the offense.

Existing self-defense laws are inadequate when it comes to protecting children in these situations. A self-defense claim is usually valid only when the individual feels that "the danger of bodily harm is imminent." For many child victims of abuse or trafficking, they are not always in danger of "imminent harm" under the legal definition when they commit crimes against their abusers.

Instead of condemning children who commit offenses against their abusers to prison terms, child victims could still be held accountable for their actions in a trauma-informed and age-appropriate manner. This legislation would ensure that judges who encounter children in these situations have more sentencing options and greater discretion. This bill passed the House Judiciary Committee with a bipartisan vote of 25-1 on Dec. 8 and is awaiting consideration by the full House.

H.B. 1368 – Allowing Local Police to Use Radar

Pennsylvania has one of the highest rates of speed-related traffic deaths in the country, and more than 85% of speed-related fatalities in our state occur on local roads. Despite this tragic reality, Pennsylvania is the only state where local police cannot use radar to enforce speed limits.

This hamstrings our local police officers, making it challenging for them to keep roadways in our state safe. That is why I, along with my colleagues, introduced a bill to allow local police to use radar. This will bring Pennsylvania in line with the rest of the country and will save lives. Police officers in our state work every day to keep us safe. As state legislators, it is important that we provide them the resources they need to do their job effectively. This bill is currently awaiting action in the House Transportation Committee.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Kyle T. Donahue

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MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- Birth Certificate applications
- PennDOT driver and vehicle documents
- Disability plates and placards
- Concerns about potholes and state road conditions
- Unemployment Compensation issues
- Unclaimed Property search and forms
- Questions about Real ID
- Department of Human Services benefits (SNAP, Medical Assistance, LIHEAP)
- Consumer complaints

any state-related issue or program!