



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Liz Hanbidge

61ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Dear Friends,

As we near the end of a year full of incredible hardship, I remain committed to keeping our community safe as we continue controlling the spread of COVID-19 and rebuilding Pennsylvania's economy. I am grateful for how hard our community has worked together to keep COVID-19 at bay in a time that many of us are being pulled in multiple directions as we navigate family, business, and health concerns. I am especially in awe of the balancing acts that parents and those caring for family members are currently managing. I hope that the resources included in this newsletter will help you.

This pandemic has repeatedly illustrated the extreme disparities that exist within our economic and social systems. For example, North Penn and Wissahickon School Districts' students were given relatively rapid access to technology so they may continue school remotely. Meanwhile, there are still students in rural and impoverished areas unable to attend school. Childcare access remains unaffordable for many essential workers, who never expected to have to budget for full-day childcare. Many must now choose between their careers and caring for their children – particularly Pennsylvania's working women. Moreover, COVID-19 has disproportionately affected communities of color, which have significantly poorer health outcomes following outbreaks. Our Unemployment Compensation system has issues exacerbating the financial stressors created by the pandemic. I remain committed to ensuring that we find legislative measures to combat these issues and make sure that all Pennsylvania families get relief.

We also are now seeing the effects of weaknesses in Pennsylvania's budgeting process. For more than a decade, the legislature has been over-promising its income expectations and under-forecasting its expenses. While all of us are well aware that that's no way to budget, Pennsylvania keeps doing so. To "close the gap," the commonwealth has been raiding special funds, and now there is very little left.

As we face an over \$5 billion shortfall this year, I hope that we will budget wisely to create a more sustainable long-term plan for Pennsylvania. When the legislature revisits the fiscal plan this month, I'll be advocating for a legislative solution ensuring that we maintain firm financial footing and do not put ourselves at further financial risk.

Best,

Liz Hanbidge



MY RECENTLY PROPOSED LEGISLATION



Pennsylvania Emergency Childcare Act - comprised of HB 2809 and HB 2810

HB 2809 establishes a grant program to help defray the cost of childcare for Pennsylvania's essential workers. HB 2810 is an income-based childcare bill that would establish a grant program to reimburse childcare costs incurred as a result of COVID-19 for parents and caretakers who are not eligible for the Child Care Works Program. Child Care Works currently helps low-income families pay their childcare fees.

Last Action: Referred to the House Children and Youth Committee on Sept. 1, 2020. The committee has not called them up for a vote.

Temporary Suspension of Nurse Licensure Fee Increases - HB 2956

Some nurses are expecting a 100% license fee increase, which many cannot afford. In the middle of a pandemic this puts public safety at risk. HB 2956 would temporarily waive the fee increase for nurses and other related health professionals during the COVID-19 crisis and the six months following the suspension of the disaster declaration.

Last Action: Referred to the House Professional Licensure Committee on Oct. 28, 2020.

Lobbyist Reform - HB 2940

This bill would close loopholes that permit ex-lawmakers to lobby on behalf of special interest groups following their time in the General Assembly. Under my bill, former lawmakers who become lobbyists would not receive their pension or health benefits for any calendar year in which they lobby the House.

Last Action: Referred to the House State Government Committee on Oct. 15, 2020.

Require Continuing Education Requirements for Attorneys in Pennsylvania - HR 1059

Diversity makes us more innovative and creative, enables better decision making, and results in deeper, more effective engagement with clients. Understanding the impact of diversity, equity and inclusion is particularly important for the legal industry, as lawyers can directly impact the disenfranchised. I introduced this resolution urging the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (PACLE) board to mandate on ethics continuing legal education on diversity, equity, and inclusion for every active lawyer in this commonwealth.

By requiring attorneys to stay current on updated educational requirements, it helps to create a more equitable environment for all people in the community, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity.

Last Action: Referred to the House Judiciary Committee on Oct. 19, 2020.

Manufactured Home Lot Rent Reform - HB 2941

Constituents approached me regarding large rental fee increases in manufactured home parks and little ability for them to combat any drastic fee increases under PA law. HB 2941 would require manufactured home property owners to publicly post a proposed rent increase six months before going into effect. This legislation would give mobile home tenants the ability to voice opposition by allowing them to present their case to a magisterial district judge if the proposed rent increase is significantly above costs and inflation.

Last Action: Referred to the House Urban Affairs Committee on Oct. 19, 2020.

Recognize October 2020 as Civic Education Awareness Month - HR 1014

Civic knowledge and voter participation remain low in Pennsylvania. This resolution encourages Pennsylvanians to continue learning about and participating in the “last great experiment” that is our American republic. Civic education increases voter turnout, lowers school dropout rates, and encourages citizens of all ages to take an active role in our democracy.

Last Action: Unanimously adopted by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Oct. 20, 2020.

Juvenile Case Review - HR 1060

Each year, an estimated 250,000 children are prosecuted in adult criminal courts and subject to the consequences of adult criminal conviction. As a result, youth are incarcerated in adult jails and prisons, putting them at greater risk of mental health issues, physical and sexual assault, and recidivism.

This resolution urges district attorneys in Pennsylvania to recognize this and review juvenile cases with a focus on rehabilitation versus incarceration of youth. By investing resources in helping rehabilitate young people with criminal histories, we are investing in their future, and improving the health of communities and lowering prison costs.

Last Action: Referred to the House Judiciary Committee on Oct. 19, 2020.

WE'RE ALL IN THIS

TOGETHER



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on our community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you or your loved ones need help during this very difficult time. There are several community resources available to provide aid during these unprecedented times. While these resources have always been available, the need is even greater due to the longevity of the pandemic. We want to ensure that anyone who needs help, knows how to get it.

Please consider volunteering for anyone (or multiple) group(s) listed, if you have the capacity. With the increase in demand for services, comes an increase in the need for volunteer help.

1. Non-Profit Food Banks

- a. Community Cupboard – 150 N. Main Street, Ambler, PA (215) 628-3002
- b. Manna on Main – 606 Main Street, Lansdale, PA (215) 855-5454

2. Info for How to Apply on COMPASS for Food Stamps/Medical Assistance

- a. Visit www.compass.state.pa.us
- b. Click “APPLY NOW” to apply
- c. Click “Renew Now” to renew

3. Non-Profit/Gov’t Domestic and Child Abuse Resources

- a. Montgomery Child Advocacy – 409 Cherry St, Norristown, PA (610) 279-1219
- b. Laurel House – 180 W. Germantown Pike #2, East Norriton, PA (610) 277-1860
- c. Child Advocacy Center Montgomery - 180 W. Germantown Pike #1, East Norriton, PA (484) 687-2990
- d. Victim Services Center of Montgomery County – 325 Swede Street #2, Norristown, PA (610) 277-0932
- e. National Sexual Assault Hotline – 1(800) 656-4373
- f. National Domestic Violence Hotline – 1(800) 799-7233

4. Mental Illness Resources

- a. National Alliance on Mental Illness Montgomery County – 100 W. Main Street, Unit 204, Lansdale, PA (215) 361-7784
- b. Resources for Human Development Critical Time Intervention – 1000 Sandy Hill Road, Norristown, PA (610) 279-4240
- c. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1(800) 273-8255, En Espanol 1(888) 528-9454
- d. The Crisis Text Line – Text “HELLO” to 741741
- e. Veteran’s Crisis Line – 1(800) 273-8255, Press 1. Or Text 838255
- f. Safe Helpline for Members of the Military – 1(877) 995-5247
- g. Disaster Distress Helpline – 1(800) 985-5990. Or Text “talkwithus” to 66746
- h. Trevor Lifeline for LGBTQIA+ Community – 1(866) 488-7386 or Text “START” to 678678
LGBTQIA+ Senior (50+) Hotline – 1(888) 234-7243
- i. Trans Lifeline – 1(877) 565-8860

SEPTA SENIOR KEY CARDS

My office has received countless calls from seniors wondering when they can apply for their SEPTA Key Card. All legislative offices are unfortunately unable to issue SEPTA passes at this time, due to ongoing technical issues. A SEPTA works diligently to find a solution, you may visit SEPTA headquarters at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Please note that SEPTA cannot accept walk-ins at this time, you *must* make an appointment prior to your visit. To make an appointment, please call (215) 580-7145.

My office can keep you up to date on the latest information from SEPTA as it becomes available. We look forward to issuing passes again as soon as we are able!

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Did you know that you may have unclaimed funds with the Pennsylvania Treasury’s Bureau of Unclaimed Funds? The PA Treasury receives hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property every year. These items and funds go missing, often for reasons as simple as a misspelled name or an out-of-date address. In the coming months, my office will be sending letters to constituents informing them of funds we have found in their name.

To check if there are any unclaimed funds in your name, you may visit www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property. You may claim funds for yourself, as well as a deceased spouse, parent, or grandparent. If you are claiming for yourself and the amount is under \$1500, the form will not need to be notarized. If you are claiming for an individual that is deceased, you will need to include an original death certificate and the forms will need to be notarized.

The average time to receive your funds is six months if you are processed as a general claim. The time is cut to approximately three months if it is done through a legislative office. To be processed as a legislative claim, you will need to obtain an envelope with my legislative return address that you may send.

My office will be happy to answer any general questions or assist you in this process! You may contact my office at (610) 277-3230 or e-mail my district director, Melissa, at mcosmo@pahouse.net. If you are in need of a notary service you can call the office or e-mail our notary, Meg, at mdiehl@pahouse.net to schedule an appointment.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY OUR OFFICE

- Unclaimed Funds (Department of Treasury)
- Car Registrations, Special Tags, Titles and License Applications
- Unemployment Compensation and PUA
- Birth and Death Certificate Applications
- Pennsylvania State Income Tax forms
- Department of Human Services (SNAP, LIHEAP etc.)
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones)
- Consumer Complaints
- PennDOT Issues
- Disability Plates and Placards
- PACE Cards for Senior Citizens
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Issues or Questions
- Local Government Officials' Problems with State Agencies



Constituent Service Advisor Meg is ready to assist you with Property Tax/Rent Rebate questions.

Please know that my office staff is here to serve constituents during these difficult times. Although we are continuing to limit in-person services, we are able to complete most constituent services via phone or e-mail. We are available Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please contact us at (610) 277-3230 or send us an email. Our e-mails are listed below for your convenience.



Constituent Service Advisor Nicole, a licensed notary, helps our district office dog, Sailor, with some paperwork.

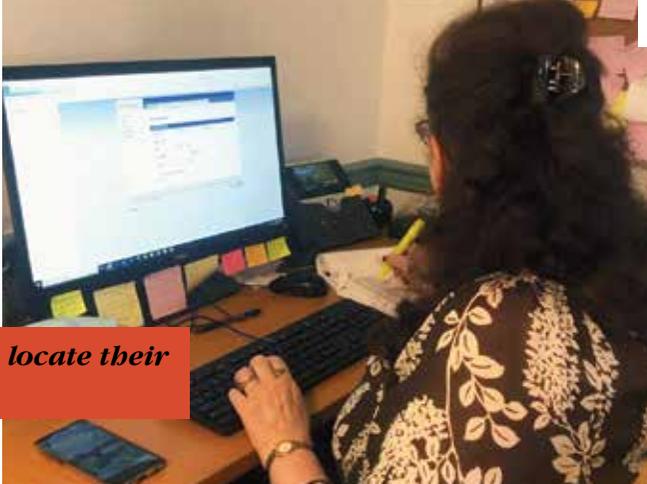
rephanbidge@pahouse.net - Office Email

mcosmo@pahouse.net - Melissa Cosmo: District Director

mdiehl@pahouse.net - Meg Diehl: Constituent Service Advisor

mruf@pahouse.net - Maureen Ruf: Constituent Service Advisor

nthompson@pahouse.net - Nicole Thompson: Constituent Service Advisor



Constituent Service Advisor Maureen has helped many people locate their unclaimed property from the Pennsylvania Treasury.



Representative Liz Hanbidge
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