

BRIDGET M. KOSIEROWSKI



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KOSIEROWSKI VOTES FOR PATIENT SAFETY ACT

I am proud to be a prime co-sponsor of legislation that



would protect the safety of patients by requiring minimum nurse staffing levels at hospitals across Pennsylvania.

House Bill 106, which would set minimum direct care nurse staffing ratios for patient care for various levels of care, passed the state House of Representatives and awaits action in the state Senate.

As a nurse for more than 25 years, I can vouch for the attention that is required to appropriately care for a patient. By requiring hospitals to maintain staffing ratios, patients can feel confident that they will receive adequate care, while ensuring that nurses are not unnecessarily overwhelmed in what is already a stressful job.



MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF PLAN PASSES HOUSE

It's time that we create the PA Medical Debt Relief program in Pennsylvania.

People in debt because they, or a family member, are fighting a disease should not be harassed by a debt collector. This program would erase the medical debt of thousands of financially vulnerable state residents.

As a prime co-sponsor of this bill, I was glad to see it pass the House by a bipartisan vote, and it is now in the state Senate.



HISTORIC BREAST CANCER SCREENING LAW

Early last year, I supported legislation, which was later signed into law, that will be a major step forward in the fight against breast cancer and help save lives.

Act 1 of 2023 removes out-of-pocket costs associated with genetic testing for hereditary breast, ovarian, prostate, and other cancer syndromes – as well as supplemental breast screenings for women with a high lifetime risk of breast cancer.

This landmark legislation is the first of its kind in the nation and will ensure that critical health care will be accessible and more affordable for more Pennsylvanians.



\$10 MILLION IN STATE GRANTS TO HELP OUR AREA

One of the most gratifying parts of my job as your state Representative in Harrisburg is seeing your tax dollars returned to our area through various state grant programs. Many of the projects funded by these grants would either not be possible for local governments to afford, or they would require local taxes to be increased.

Some of the grants awarded to our area include:

Lackawanna County Planning and Economic Development

- \$800,108 to clean the Dickson coal pile.

Dickson City Borough

- \$175,000 for the final phase of the Dickson City Riverfront Park Development Project.
- \$310,000 to rehabilitate Crystal Park.

Dickson City Recreation Authority

- \$102,757 to rehabilitate the Dickson City Civic Center.

Lackawanna Valley Conservancy

- \$50,000 for the Depot Street Trail Head.

Abington Regional Wastewater Authority

- \$500,000 to replace a wastewater disinfection system in South Abington Township.

Clarks Green Borough

- \$304,200 for a stormwater infrastructure rehabilitation project.

Scott Township Sewer and Water Authority

- \$250,000 for a pump station replacement project.

Waverly Community House Inc.

- \$31,014 for new programs and marketing.

Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple

- \$47,901 for marketing expenses.

Civic Ballet Company of Scranton

- \$10,000 for operating expenses.

West Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch Community Center

- \$190,537 to renovate a multipurpose athletic training room.

Friendship House

- \$140,000 for building renovations.

Scranton Area Community Foundation's offices at the Century Club:

- \$117,431 to create a "Tech Hub."

United Neighborhood Community Development Corp.

- \$100,400 to rehabilitate single and multifamily residential properties in the city of Scranton.

Waverly Community House

- \$100,000 to replace the HVAC system.

South Abington Township

- \$70,000 for renovations at Hillside Park.
- \$57,882 to purchase a police vehicle.

Scranton Veterans Memorial Stadium

- \$27,500 to purchase and install a permanent welcome sign and gateway for the front entrance.

Scranton Co-Operative Farmer's Market

- \$11,000 for security and facilities upgrades.

Lackawanna County

- \$250,000 for preliminary engineering of the Lackawanna River Pedestrian Bridge in Scranton.
- \$500,000 to reconstruct the bathhouse at the McDade Park pool in Scranton.

- \$175,000 to fabricate 50 portable vendor huts for events and festivals.

Lackawanna County Transit Authority

- \$500,000 to remodel the maintenance and administration building in Scranton.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

- \$50,000, on behalf of the Electric City Trolley Museum, to restore the floor and frame of Car #505.

City of Scranton

- \$2.6 million for stormwater improvements throughout the city.
- \$1 million to install a new splash pad area at the Nay Aug Pool Complex in the city.
- \$500,000 to complete streetscape improvements in the city.
- \$396,239 to renovate Grace Street Park.
- \$100,000 to renovate Billy Barrett Park.
- \$100,000 for phase one of improvements to Clover Field Park in West Scranton.
- \$100,000 for playground equipment at the Green Ridge Little League Park.
- \$17,224 for equipment purchases at Connell Park Little League fields.
- \$62,842 to replace the roof at the 20th Ward Social Club.
- \$57,000 for improvements to Tripp Park at the Miss-E Little League fields.
- \$261,681 for streetscape improvements along Lackawanna Avenue.
- \$50,000 for the Davis Trail Revitalization.
- \$100,000 for Leggett's Creek Greenway Eco-Restoration.

Greenfield Township

- \$60,000 for community park improvements.

Greenfield Township Sewer Authority

- \$505,782 to replace its deteriorating Route 247 pump station.



I joined Sen. Marty Flynn and Dickson City officials for a ribbon cutting at the borough's Riverfront Park to mark the addition of a new dog park and canoe/kayak launch area into the Lackawanna River.



Sen. Marty Flynn, Rep. Kyle Mullins and I joined in assisting Scott Township with grants for their new Dive/Rescue facility and a Sewer & Water Authority pump station replacement.

MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

The number of people struggling to get by is only growing, especially among our seniors.

For almost 20 years, many people lost access to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program because of small changes in their income. A new law, which I voted for, will help thousands more people in Lackawanna County, renters as well as homeowners, to stay in the homes and communities they love. The expansion:

- ✓ Raises the income limit to qualify for rebates to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters.
- ✓ Ensures this income cap will keep pace with inflation.
- ✓ Increases the maximum rebate from \$650 to \$1,000.



At the bill signing for the expanded PTRR Program were Attorney Pat Brier, a long-time advocate for senior citizen and consumer issues, along with former PA Secretary of Aging and former Lackawanna County Director of Area Agency of Aging Teresa Osborne of Scranton.

Remember, when calculating your yearly earnings, you need to claim ONLY half of your yearly Social Security allocation to qualify.

Visit my office or give us a call at (570) 562-2350 if you have any questions or need assistance applying.

PA MUST INVEST IN SCHOOL FACILITIES

My Democratic colleagues and I recognize that the state must take action to address outdated and toxic school buildings in Pennsylvania.

We passed legislation, now law, that would start to fund the construction and improvement projects that are required to bring so many of our schools into the 21st century.

Lead, asbestos, radon, mold and other hazardous elements are frequently found in our schools, which has significant short- and long-term effects on children and faculty. As a practicing nurse for 25 years before becoming a legislator, I know that these negative impacts range from physical health and safety to academic achievement. Toxic schools are a public health crisis, and we need to clean them up to keep our kids and school staff safe.



STATE BUDGET DELIVERS HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

While the 2023-24 state budget isn't perfect, I believe there are some great things in it to help Pennsylvanians. Here are a few highlights:

- A historic \$8.4 billion in basic education.
- Childcare services to help parents earn a living.
- Support for hospitals that continue to face post-pandemic challenges.
- Public safety and violence reduction programs to make our communities safer.
- Veterans' and seniors' programs.
- Reauthorization of the Whole-Home Repairs program, which will allow countywide agencies to do more to address habitability and safety concerns, improve energy efficiency and make homes accessible for those with disabilities.
- A universal free breakfast program for students.
- Funding for the state's first-ever public legal defense fund to support no-cost legal representation to those who have been accused of a crime but cannot afford an attorney.



I went on the road with many of my fellow state representatives listening to our residents about issues that they are facing in their respective neighborhoods and school districts.

NEED HEATING ASSISTANCE THIS WINTER?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program 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. LIHEAP is open until April 5, and my staff can assist you throughout the process.

OUT AND ABOUT



My staff and I participated with other regional legislative offices and were joined multiple times by the Regional Director of the Governor's Office Drew Popish and PA Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich to assist packing food for seniors and those in need, as well as joining Meals on Wheels Community Services of NEPA in serving and packaging over 400 holiday dinners.

My office can assist you in arranging visits and tours of our state Capitol. I had the distinct pleasure of co-hosting visits by the Scranton High School Advanced Chorus (who performed in the Capitol Rotunda!) and the State Champion Girls Tennis Team from Scranton Prep.



Rep. Kyle Donahue and I were recent guests of two dedicated teachers at Scranton High School, Sean Curry and Jerry Skotleski (Mr. Skot), who not only teach American History, Social Studies AND politics, they immerse their students in it. We were part of an assembly where we spoke of policy and procedures, and they listened intently and then proceeded to politely "grill" us. If these students are our future leaders, we will all be in good hands!

I was so glad that my family was able to join me for my swearing in last year. This is not always an easy task with my husband's law practice, three children away at college and one son still in a local school. While this was my third swearing in, it is still an incredibly special day that I do not take lightly. I am honored to be able to serve residents in the 114th District. I hope to be forever guided by this constant deep desire to improve the lives of every man, woman and child to make our community a better place to live, to work and to raise a family.



State House members held a Policy Committee hearing in Scranton regarding the passenger rail service that would connect Scranton to the Poconos, New Jersey and New York City.



A recent article by The Childrens Bureau pointed out some of the benefits of reading to children. I recently had the opportunity and honor of reading to a group of pre-school children at Little Gals & Pals Daycare Center. While my four children have now grown into wonderful young adults, I often reflect on the joy that my husband and I experienced in reading to them in their earlier years. Reading to children supports cognitive development, increases concentration and discipline skills, improves language skills, helps to develop imagination and creativity, cultivates a love of reading, and prepares these children for academic success.



For the last few years, our Lackawanna County legislators have joined together to present a Senior Expo at the Marketplace at Steamtown. This great event brought together over 70+ vendors from around the state to provide information on vital services to the community.

DEMOCRATS ARE DELIVERING FOR PA

Since taking over the majority in the state House of Representatives last year in Harrisburg, Democrats have been working together and have led the charge to lower your taxes, help you save for retirement, put more teachers in your schools, and make your community safer.

We're putting people ahead of politics – because better jobs, better schools and better communities benefit everyone. And we're just getting started. In Pennsylvania, it doesn't matter where you live, how old you are or who you love, House Democrats are fighting for you.



To learn more, visit <https://www.pahouse.com/deliveringforpa> or scan this QR code.

NEW LAW EXTENDS PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE



In November, I had the chance to join my colleague Rep. Kyle Donahue and Scranton's own Jason Kavulich, the secretary of the PA Department of Aging, to celebrate 40 years of PACE. PACE has been providing needed prescription drug coverage assistance to seniors across the commonwealth.

We are fortunate to have such a great program, and I look forward to its continued success for years to come. Please contact my office if you need help applying for PACE/PACENET.

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY		
Call: 800-225-7223	PACE	PACENET
Age 65+	✓	✓
PA Resident for at least 90 days	✓	✓
Individual Income	under 14,500	between 14,501-33,500
Married Income	under 17,700	between 17,701-41,500

BIGGER CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDITS

House Democrats fought and won for working families, prioritizing a significant increase in the Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit.

This tax credit eases the burden for working families who pay for and rely on child and dependent care to work. The tax credit can be claimed on federal and state tax returns.

Eligible families who qualify for the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit are eligible for the state tax credit, which had been equal to 30% of the federal credit. PA will now provide a 100% match

to the federal tax credit. Families will see their state tax credits more than triple.

Prioritizing access to affordable child and dependent care is a win for families, a win for our workforce, a win for businesses and a win for our economy.

As you get ready to file your 2023 taxes through April, be sure to check out this newly expanded tax credit so that you can make the most of Pennsylvania's programs and services. Please contact my office if you have any questions.



IT'S TIME TO RAISE THE WAGE IN PA

Every state surrounding Pennsylvania has a higher minimum wage than we do. It is past time for us to help thousands of Lackawanna County workers, and the state House of Representatives took a step in that direction by passing H.B. 1500 with my yes vote.

The bill would raise the minimum wage incrementally until it reaches \$15 per hour, and it also includes a mechanism for future increases to keep up with inflation.

This bill awaits action in the state Senate.



Regional labor leaders joined our legislative members at the site of the historic "Champion of Labor, Defender of Human Rights" John Mitchell monument to rally for a reasonable, higher minimum wage and for the need to provide family sustaining wages and benefits for the people of Northeastern PA.



State Representative
BRIDGET M. KOSIEROWSKI

1901 North Main Ave.
 Scranton, PA 18508
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DISTRICT OFFICE MOVING!

Due to extensive renovations at the building, my district office will be moving in the coming weeks to the Lackawanna Executive Park on Main Street in Dickson City. The phone number will remain the same (570) 562-2350.

lpo.tb.0224

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
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the PA House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE/PACENET cards for senior citizens
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

State Rep **Bridget Kosierowski**

2023
Year in Review

\$10 Million 
 in Funding Awarded to the District

200+ 
 Bills Passed to Help Working Families

11,032 
 Constituent Services Provided

 @RepBridget

Any issues with state government! Please contact us at (570) 562-2350.