



State Representative | 156th Legislative District

# CHRIS PIELLI

115B East Wing | P.O. Box 202156 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2156 | (717) 705-2075 | Fax: (717) 780-4751

121 W. Miner St., Suite 1E | West Chester, PA 19382 | (610) 696-4990 | Toll-Free: (833) 321-6544 | Fax: (610) 738-2163

RepPielli.com | RepPielli@pahouse.net | @RepPielli

## Rep.'s Remarks

My staff and I hope this Winter 2026 Newsletter finds you all well with the start of a new year and the 250th birthday of our great nation. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "We have it in our power to begin the world over again." As we face this year with unprecedented political and financial challenges, we look forward, seeking the best ways to improve and protect the lives and liberties of our fellow Pennsylvanians.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of what we accomplished over the past year and what remains for us to do.

As always, my staff and I are honored for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to any questions or concerns you may have. Until our next issue, Stay well, Stay safe, and Stay strong.

## Primary Election Dates and Deadlines



**May 4 -**  
Last day to register to vote



**May 12 -**  
Last day to request a mail-in ballot



**May 19 - Primary Election Day!**  
Vote in person at the polls between 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Mail-in and absentee ballots must be returned to Chester County Voter Services or in a secure drop box by 8 p.m.

\*For more info and to register online, visit [vote.pa.gov](http://vote.pa.gov) or contact my district office to obtain a voter registration paper application, available in English and Spanish.



**Remember, your vote is your voice.**  
**Make sure you are ready to vote in the 2026 Primary and General Elections.**

## 2025 Legislation Highlights

This past year, my House colleagues and I have been working tirelessly for the hard-working families of Pennsylvania through the introduction of meaningful legislation. Despite a divided legislature, I am proud of what we have accomplished to address affordability issues for all Pennsylvanians, including new and historic measures such as the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit; increased Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit; Cyber Charter Reform Taxpayer Savings; increased investment in our children's education; and more. There is still much work to be done on affordable housing and raising the minimum wage, and I look forward to continuing the fight for Pennsylvania's workers and families.



# CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE & WORKING PENNSYLVANIANS TAX CREDITS



**WORKING PENNSYLVANIANS TAX CREDIT** Putting money back in YOUR pocket

Dependents	Income Limit (Single/Head of Household)	Income Limit (Joint)	Maximum Tax Cut Back in YOUR Pocket
Zero	\$19,104	\$26,214	\$65
One	\$50,434	\$57,554	\$433
Two	\$57,310	\$64,430	\$715
Three or More	\$61,555	\$68,675	\$805

\*Returns filed jointly are counted as two individuals. Does not reflect qualifying children or dependents



**CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT**

Expanded Tax Credit	Income Under \$43,000	Earning Above \$43,000
Max Credit for One Eligible Dependent	\$1,050	\$600
Max Credit for Two+ Eligible Dependents	\$2,100	\$1,200

Don't forget this money back in your pocket when you file your taxes.



Despite a one seat majority in the House, my colleagues and I are working hard to keep our promise to help the millions of working families in Pennsylvania struggling to make ends meet. I'm proud that we have legislated a first-time tax credit for Working Pennsylvanians and an enhanced tax credit for Child and Dependent Care to help alleviate rising costs, inflation, and stagnant wages. Our promise is an ongoing one as we look forward to more ways of helping every Pennsylvanian to become financially secure.

As such, I'm reminding eligible residents to take advantage of Pennsylvania's Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit and Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit before the April 15, 2026, tax filing deadline.

**The Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit** provides financial relief to working families with child or dependent care expenses. The credit matches 100% of the federal Child Care Tax Credit, providing a maximum of \$1,050 for one child or dependent and \$2,100 for two or more, with minimum amounts of \$600 and \$1,200, respectively. Eligible expenses include care for children under 13, as well as spouses or other dependents who are physically or mentally incapable of

self-care. The credit is refundable, meaning taxpayers can receive the full amount even after their tax obligations are met.

Eligible taxpayers can now claim the **Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (WPTC)**, created in the 2025-26 budget signed by the Governor last year. Modeled after the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the WPTC can provide up to \$805 in tax relief.

The credit is expected to deliver \$193 million in tax savings to approximately 940,000 Pennsylvanians this year. Anyone who qualifies for the federal EITC automatically qualifies for the state credit, helping to put more money back into the pockets of working Pennsylvanians. To learn more about this tax credit, visit [pa.gov/wptc](http://pa.gov/wptc) to check eligibility using an online calculator, or contact my district office.

You can find more information about these tax credits by scanning the QR Code below or by contacting my district office.



Scan to get more information about Tax Credits

## TWO OF MY BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR SHAPIRO IN 2025:

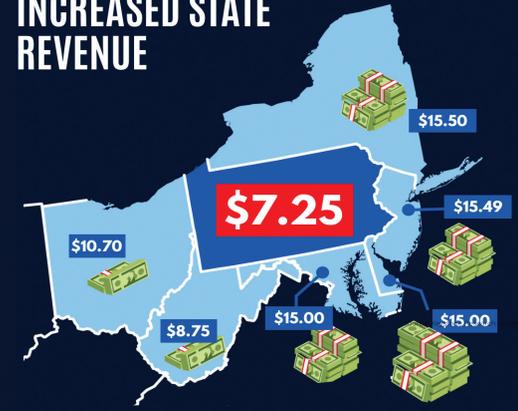
In a time of extreme partisan politics, I am also proud to report that two of my bills were passed unanimously by both the House and the Senate, then signed into law by Governor Shapiro.

## CONTINUING THE FIGHT FOR A LIVING WAGE

### RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

**A LIVING WAGE FOR WORKERS**

### INCREASED STATE REVENUE



PA House Democrats have worked hard to pass legislation multiple times to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and tie it to inflation thereafter. However, the State Senate Leadership has refused to act each time we passed a bill. Pennsylvania has not increased the minimum wage since 2009, when the federal rate was set at \$7.25 per hour. No one can live on that. It's time for State Senate Leadership to stop supporting tax breaks for billionaires and start supporting our working families!

Raising the minimum wage would not only benefit working Pennsylvanians; it would also bring in \$53.3 million in estimated revenue and save \$300 million in Medical Assistance benefit costs.



**UNANIMOUS PASSAGE BY THE SENATE**

**YES**

on **HB 355** which provides a sentencing enhancement for courts to consider in sexual assault cases where the defendant is a mandated reporter.



Rep. Pielli's | HB 491

**Protecting Military Children & Families Through our Legal System**

**UNANIMOUS PASSAGE BY THE SENATE**



✓ **House Bill 355** - Allows a sentencing enhancement for courts to consider in sexual assault cases where the defendant holds a position of authority and is a mandated reporter. Mandated reporters are legally required to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Examples include clergy, school employees, health care professionals, childcare providers, law enforcement, and social service workers.

✓ **House Bill 491** - Establishes concurrent jurisdiction of Pennsylvania and the Federal government on military installations. This would ensure military children have access to juvenile-focused resources, including mental health treatment, and that they are not unfairly tried as adults to address misconduct.

# MY LEGISLATION THAT PASSED THE HOUSE IN 2025:

## Protecting Vulnerable Individuals at Risk of Losing Their Homes

Would help vulnerable older adults and incapacitated individuals remain in their homes by creating an option for them to designate a person to receive notice should their property taxes fall into arrears.

PASSED THE HOUSE ✓



HB 96 | REP. PIELLI

✓ **House Bill 96** - Would help vulnerable older adults and incapacitated individuals remain in their homes by creating an option for them to designate a person to receive notice should their property taxes fall into arrears.

✓ **House Bill 393** - Would allow all Second-Class Townships to Increase Funding for Fire and Emergency Services.

✓ **House Bill 441** - Would protect endangered insects and pollinators that are vital to our environmental health and agricultural industry while upholding our constitutional right to the preservation of natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic values of the environment.

**HB 393 Passes the House**

My bill allows 2nd Class Townships to increase funding to Fire and EMS companies throughout PA.

✓ **House Bill 968** - Would allow the PA Attorney General to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states to recognize lawfully issued Fishing & Hunting Licenses for Active-Duty Service Members and Disabled Veterans as resident licenses in each state.

✓ **House Bill 1102** - Would expand recruitment efforts for the PA National Guard by expanding the partial tuition reimbursement program - unanimously passed the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee.

**HR 234**

Urges Congress to pass the **Major Richard Star Act**

PASSED THE HOUSE ✓

✓ **House Resolution 234** - "Urging Congress to Support the Major Richard Star Act," which would enable all military service members who are medically retired to have full access to both military retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits. Today, for every dollar of disability pay that they receive, veterans with less than 20 years of service and a disability rating of less than 50% have their retirement payments reduced by a dollar.



## FIGHTING FOR THE FUNDING WE DESERVE - OVER \$8.8 MILLION IN STATE GRANTS AWARDED TO OUR DISTRICT IN 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ALONE!



OVER **\$8.8 MILLION**

Brought to Our District in 2025



Properly funding our infrastructure, safety, and health is one of my biggest priorities. Bringing this essential support to our district is what every good legislator should do for the benefit of their constituents. I am pleased to report that the total grant funding for our district is approximately \$8,900,000!



# CHRIS PIELLI

121 W. Miner St., Suite 1E  
West Chester, PA 19382  
(610) 696-4990

RepPielli.com

@RepPielli

## WORKING FOR YOU!

We helped **3,148** unique constituents and organizations

We helped deliver **3,864** total services to constituents and organizations

- Consumer Rights Issues and Complaints
- PA Birth and Death Certificates
- PennDOT Vehicle and Licensing Services
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program (Deadline: June 30, 2026)
- SEPTA Senior Key Card applications (Residents 65+ ride free!)
- State Benefits like heating assistance (LIHEAP) (Open Nov. 2025 - April 2026), SNAP, and Medicaid
- And many more **state government-related services!**

### STAFF MEMBERS:

**Julie K. Mesaros**, District Office Director

**Matthew DeWese**, Constituent Services Advisor

**Ryan DeStefano**, Constituent Services Advisor

**Olivia McClain**, Constituent Services Advisor



lpo.aa.0326

## \$8.8 MILLION IN STATE GRANTS AWARDED

- **\$4,233,475** - PA Department of Education to Schools & Libraries
- **\$3,233,221** - Commonwealth Financing Authority for Roads, Water Treatment & Infrastructure
- **\$818,576** - PA Department of Community & Economic Development to First Responders
- **\$335,500** - PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- **\$93,966** - Office of State Fire Commissioner to Fire & EMS Companies
- **\$86,193** - PA Department of Environmental Protection
- **\$12,090** - PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency for Crime Prevention
- **\$2,525** - PA Department of Aging for Services to Older Residents
- **\$8,815,546 - 2025 TOTAL**

## SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION THROUGH INCREASED FUNDING & CYBER CHARTER REFORM TAXPAYER SAVINGS



2025-2026 PA State Budget

### INCREASING FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

**West Chester Area School District**

**More than \$643K (3.2% ↑)**

all without raising taxes!



### Cyber Charter School Reform

**SAVES \$569,191**

**for West Chester Area School District in 2025-26 School Year**



Our most important priority is our children. They are our future. As such, we are proud to continue investing in our students because the future dividends will reap the continuation of an extraordinary gift - a free, fair, and unconquerable nation. This year we delivered tangible results for students, parents, and taxpayers across Pennsylvania. It also fulfills our state's constitutional obligation to give every student the resources they need to succeed.

For West Chester Area School District, the state budget allocates a \$643,000 (or 3.2%) increase in state funding, ALL without raising your state taxes.

Another historic and long overdue first, this state budget includes Cyber Charter Reform solutions designed to improve the quality of education for ALL public school students in Pennsylvania:

We developed a fair funding formula for cyber charter schools helping to address overpayments and profits at the expense of real brick-and-mortar, taxpayer-funded, public schools. This will save PA taxpayers \$178 million and our local West Chester Area School District taxpayers \$569,191.