



State Representative | 157th Legislative District

# MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN



**District Office:**

42 E. Lancaster Ave., Unit A | Paoli, PA 19301 | (484) 200-8260

**Capitol Office:**

114 Irvis Office Building | P.O. Box 202157 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2157 | (717) 787-7524

Summer  
2023

RepShusterman.com | @RepShusterman

## Dear Neighbor,

Majority Matters! It has been 12 very long years since Democrats had control of the PA House and we are not wasting a minute to pass meaningful legislation for Pennsylvania residents. As deputy vice chair of the majority Policy Committee, I am proud of the listening tours we have conducted across the commonwealth to learn from residents what issues matter most to them and how legislators can work within our communities to improve the lives of all Pennsylvanians.

It is also an honor to serve on the House Commerce, Judiciary, Health, State Government, and Rules Committees. Each committee engages with policy experts and those with impactful personal experience to determine which proposed legislation makes the most sense for Pennsylvania. After a successful committee vote, legislation is then considered by the full PA House.

Right now, we are working on approving this year's state budget. Gov. Josh Shapiro put together a fantastic budget proposal that would invest in education, develop our workforce, and keep our families safe, and House Democrats want to help him move Pennsylvania forward!

It has been an honor to serve on my committees, craft and approve legislation in their areas of oversight, and to help make Pennsylvania the best that it can be.

Sincerely,

REPRESENTATIVE  
**Shusterman**  
157th Legislative District

**2023-2024  
Committee  
Assignments**

Commerce

Health

Judiciary

Rules

State Government

**DISTRICT OFFICE  
SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE # PA-157  
**MELISSA  
SHUSTERMAN**  
*Working for you*

**WE CAN HELP!**

- Senior SEPTA Key Cards
- Tax & PennDOT Forms
- Property Tax & Rent Rebates
- Disability Plates & Placards
- Birth & Death Certificates
- Unclaimed Property
- Drivers Licenses & Vehicle Registration
- Other State Government Services

My district office in Paoli is available to you! We can help you with SEPTA Senior IDs, birth certificates, accessing state services and programs, and much more. As always, if you need assistance with any state-related issue, you can contact my office at (484) 200-8260 or email [RepShusterman@pahouse.net](mailto:RepShusterman@pahouse.net).



(484) 200-8260

[repshusterman.com](http://repshusterman.com)

42 E. Lancaster Ave.  
Paoli, PA 19301

@RepShusterman

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## HOUSE BILL 917: TAKING THE STING OUT OF FAMILY LAW

I am happy to announce that the house has passed my first ever bill on the House floor. House Bill 917, also known as the Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act, would give families another option to resolve Family Court disputes fairly. Arbitration would also reduce stress on our burdened state court system. This bill struggled to make it to the House floor over the past few years, so to see it pass with the unanimous approval of my colleagues made the moment just that much more special.

## HOUSE BILL 922: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Just days later, the House passed my bill, H.B. 922, to expand and modernize the Second Stage Loan Program. Businesses need capital for growth, and the Second Stage Loan Program can provide financial assistance, especially for the life sciences, advanced technology, and manufacturing industries. Certified Economic Development Organizations (CEDO) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) often act as clearinghouses for similar economic development programs. My legislation would expand the Second Stage Loan Program to include CEDOs and CDFIs, ultimately making funds more accessible for local investment and ensuring more job opportunities for Pennsylvanians!



**Building Safer Communities by Preventing Gun Violence**  
Passed the House with bipartisan support

**HB 714**  
Expanded background checks help keep guns away from people who should not have access.

**HB 1018**  
Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws) to empower loved ones and law enforcement to temporarily take away gun access from people in crisis—upon approval from a judge.

## COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY BILLS & COURTHOUSE WEAPONS BAN

Passing commonsense gun safety legislation is also one of my top priorities. So far this session, the House voted to pass H.B.s 714 and 1018. House Bill 714 would expand background checks to help keep guns away from people who should not have access, and H.B. 1018 would allow a judge to temporarily remove gun access from people in crisis through an extreme risk protection order.

I have also introduced my own gun safety bill, H.B. 912, which would prohibit firearms and other dangerous weapons from being brought into courthouses. It would close a dangerous loophole that currently makes it permissible to bring dangerous weapons into waiting areas where victims

and the accused can potentially interact. Emotions tend to run high in courtrooms, and municipal judges have been asking for an update to existing law to help them and any courthouse visitors feel safe.

## BREAST CANCER ACT

I was proud to stand with Gov. Josh Shapiro as he signed his first bill into law. Act 1 of 2023 will save thousands of lives by eliminating out-of-pocket costs for genetic testing for those most at risk for breast cancer. By removing this financial barrier, more people will be able to seek preventative treatment sooner when early detection can mean the difference between life and death.

## HOUSE BILL 1259: EXPANDING THE PA CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT

Child care costs have exploded exponentially, forcing many parents to make tough economic decisions about whether they stay home for their families or pursue their careers. Here in the commonwealth, childcare for ONE child averages nearly \$12,000 per year; in some areas, it can be more than double. That's why Rep. Tina Davis and I sponsored H.B. 1259, which

would expand the PA Child Care Tax Credit and ensure it keeps pace with inflation. More than 50 chambers of commerce across Pennsylvania have signed a letter supporting this legislation because the business community understands that easing the burden of childcare costs enables them to hire much-needed workers. House Bill 1259 passed in the House with bipartisan support and now moves to the Senate.



## ANIMAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION & BEAGLE FREEDOM ACT

As co-chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Animal Protection Caucus, I was proud to stand with so many of my colleagues as we introduced a slate of bills that would protect and improve the lives of our



furry friends. One package of bills, The proposed Beagle Freedom Act would give dogs bred for and used in scientific experiments a second chance at a life full of love while also adding protections against animal cruelty. Other legislation includes:

- 🐾 Banning Traveling Wild Animal Acts
- 🐾 Banning For-Profit Horse Drawn Carriages
- 🐾 Victoria's Law
- 🐾 Dog and Cat Protection Act
- 🐾 Animal Cruelty Investigation Fund
- 🐾 Banning Cat Declawing
- 🐾 Exotic Wildlife Contact Ban
- 🐾 Ending Live Pigeon Shoots
- 🐾 Endangered Species Tracking
- 🐾 Balloon Release Litter Ban.

## FAIRNESS ACT

The House passed H.B. 300, otherwise known as The Fairness Act, introduced by Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta. House Bill 300 would update Pennsylvania law to ensure LGBTQ+ people have the same protections from discrimination under the law as everyone else. These long overdue protections would make Pennsylvania a fairer society for everyone, no matter who they love.

# IN THE DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

## CHESTER COUNTY PRIDE FEST

What a great turnout for Chester County Pride Fest in Phoenixville!



## HONORING ESTHER LONG

I presented Esther Long with an official citation to recognize her perseverance in the face of adversity as the last living survivor of the 1932 Berwyn School Segregation Fight. Thank you to the T/E School District Board for acknowledging Esther and this moment in our history and the community for their tremendous show of support. Esther's story continues to serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of fighting for justice and equality for all.

## SHREDDING EVENT

Thanks to you, my shredding and canned food drive event was a HUGE success! Nearly 200 turned up to say hello, recycle their documents, and drop off food items for the Chester County Food Bank. The food bank filled two large donation boxes and received nearly \$500 in cash donations, such a fantastic outpouring of generosity that we agreed to do it again in the fall! See you then!



# IN THE DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS



## DOM FIXES BIKES

I presented an official state citation to 14-year-old Dom Pecora, recognizing his hard work and amazing generosity to our community. Dom has been passionate about biking since he was 10 when he started his own business fixing bikes to raise funds to purchase one of his own.



## TREDYFFRIN MOVIE NIGHT

Getting to meet so many energetic young people and those young at heart at Tredyffrin Township's Movie Night in Wilson Farm Park was a blast!

## CONESTOGA CAREER DAY

I had the pleasure of attending Career Day at my alma mater, Conestoga High School! I'm always excited to encourage young people to get involved in their communities, whether that be through leadership, volunteerism, or advocacy. I also discussed my experience as an entrepreneur and video producer with the school morning news crew. They are such a great bunch of intelligent, ambitious kids, and I can't wait to see what they do in the future!



## WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST

Since 1996, WCT has been integral to preserving our local watersheds and the diverse wildlife they support. To date, I've helped secure over half a million dollars in state funding for their important conservation work for our region.

## SCAM TOWN HALL

Protect yourself from scams by viewing the informative townhall I held in conjunction with senior advocates, legal/banking industry experts, and local police on detecting and avoiding financial scams. Learn from experts what to do if you or a loved one falls victim to a scam, what resources are available, and other prevention tips. View the townhall at: [www.bit.ly/157ScamInfo](http://www.bit.ly/157ScamInfo).

**FINANCIAL SCAM PREVENTION**  
**VIRTUAL TOWN HALL**



State Representative  
**MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN**

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Paoli, PA 19301

## Keeping Up with Shusterman!

@RepShusterman

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lpo.kw.0623

# SAVE THE *Date*

## EVENT COMING UP SOON!

Veterans, friends, and family are ALL WELCOME to my Annual Veteran's BBQ at Wilson Farm Park Pavilion on Saturday, July 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In addition to a BBQ buffet, several organizations will be available to answer questions about benefits and services for those who have served.

RSVP by July 5 by calling 484-200-8260 or visit: [www.bit.ly/ShustermanBBQ2023](http://www.bit.ly/ShustermanBBQ2023).



MELISSA **SHUSTERMAN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



ANNUAL VETERANS

*Barbeque*



Wilson Farm Park Pavilion  
600 Lee Road,  
Chesterbrook, PA 19087



SATURDAY

**JULY 8TH, 2023**

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Please RSVP by July 5th by calling 484-200-8260  
or by visiting [bit.ly/ShustermanBBQ2023](http://bit.ly/ShustermanBBQ2023)