

PAM SNYDER, MEMBER  
50TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**  
101 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202050  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2050  
(717) 783-3797

**CARMICHAELS OFFICE:**  
104 SOUTH MARKET STREET, SUITE 101  
CARMICHAELS, PENNSYLVANIA 15320  
(724) 966-8953

**BROWNSVILLE OFFICE:**  
113 THORNTON ROAD  
BROWNSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 15417  
(724) 785-8477

**WAYNESBURG OFFICE:**  
61 W. HIGH STREET, SUITE 2  
WAYNESBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15370  
(724) 627-8683



**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

CHAIR, SOUTHWEST DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION

DEPUTY WHIP

**COMMITTEES**

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS, SECRETARY  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR  
ON CONSUMER PROTECTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
LABOR & INDUSTRY, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR  
ON WORKERS COMPENSATION

**CAUCUSES**

BROADBAND CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR  
COAL CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

February 24, 2021

Ms. Alison Beam, Acting Secretary  
PA Department of Health  
625 Forster Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Dear Acting Secretary Beam:

**We respectfully request the Department of Health change its Phase 1A category to include teachers and school personnel; corrections officers and staff; and limit smokers to only those 65 and older.** This change in prioritization will truly put our seniors and high-risk workers at the top of the list and allow at-risk smokers to still receive the vaccine.

Healthcare organizations have been overwhelmed since the Department of Health made the decision to permit anyone over 65 and those with preexisting conditions into the Phase 1A category. This decision was made without notifying these organizations or giving them time to prepare to meet their communities' needs.

As institutions struggle to meet the extremely high demand for the vaccine in Phase 1A, we're baffled why the Department of Health would prioritize young adult smokers in the same classification as our seniors and high-risk populations. It is our understanding this is not under federal recommendations, but a state decision that must be reevaluated.

Pennsylvania has one of the highest populations over 65 in the entire country, and to give young smokers equal prioritization is a disservice to our seniors.

The addition of young smokers in Phase 1A is an insult to our teachers and school personnel, as well as corrections officers and staff that have been forced to wait until Phase 1B despite their necessity of close congregate work. They should have access to immunizations before young people that chose to smoke.

While we recognize the number of vaccines is dependent upon federal allocations, Pennsylvania is not effectively communicating with our healthcare institutions. It is impossible for our hospitals and community health clinics to schedule vaccine appointments without knowing how many vaccines they can expect, or when they will arrive. These institutions are on the ground-level and begging for assistance with little acknowledgement from the Department of Health. It is imperative that those actually getting the doses into arms know when and how many they can prepare. It is absolutely unacceptable that they continue to guess and be left in the dark until a shipment arrives.

Pennsylvanians and healthcare providers are disappointed and frustrated with the vaccine rollout process and the legislature would like to be a part of a solution with the Department of Health that more efficiently distributes the vaccine and communicates its availability.

We are committed to making their voices heard and improving the system so that people can receive this lifesaving medicine more quickly and efficiently. We ask that you please improve communication with providers across the commonwealth so that those on the frontlines have the resources they need to vaccinate Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,



Pam Snyder, Member  
Southwest Delegation Chair  
50<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Ryan A. Bizzarro, Member  
Democratic Policy Committee, Chairman  
3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Tina Davis, Member  
Democratic Caucus Secretary  
141<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Mike Schlossberg, Member  
Democratic Caucus Administrator  
132<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Tim Briggs, Member  
149<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Danilo Burgos, Member  
197<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Frank Burns, Member  
72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Mike Carroll, Member  
118<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Morgan Cephas, Member  
192<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Joseph Ciresi, Member  
146<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Dan Deasy, Member  
27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Michael Driscoll, Member  
173<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Marty Flynn, Member  
113<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



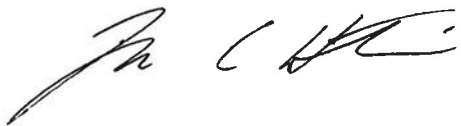
Nancy Guent, Member  
152<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Patrick Harkins, Member  
1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Carol Hill-Evans, Member  
95<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Joseph Hohenstein, Member  
177<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Kristine Howard, Member  
167<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Malcom Kenyatta, Member  
181<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Patty Kim, Member  
103<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Emily Kinkead, Member  
20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Bridget M. Kosierowski, Member  
114<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Leanne Krueger, Member  
161<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Mark Longi, Member  
7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



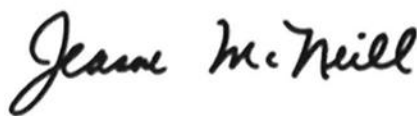
Maureen Madden, Member  
115<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Steve Malagari, Member  
53<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Brandon Markosek, Member  
25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Jeanne McNeill, Member  
133<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Robert E. Merski, Member  
2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Gerry Mullery, Member  
119<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Kyle Mullins, Member  
112<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Darisha Parker, Member  
198<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Nick Pisciotto, Member  
38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Chris Sainato, Member  
9<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Ben Sanchez, Member  
153<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District



Pete Schweyer, Member  
22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Dan Williams, Member  
74<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Regina Young, Member  
185<sup>th</sup> Legislative District