



State Representative  
**Stephen Kinsey**  
 201st Legislative District

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**REP. KINSEY REPORT TO THE PEOPLE**

**HELLO NEIGHBOR,**

I hope this mailing finds you doing well. As we've entered a new year, I wanted to share with you a recap of much that occurred in the past year throughout our community and at the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

Many changes occurred in Harrisburg as Democrats became the majority party in the PA House of Representatives, my colleague Joanna McClinton became the first woman and second African American Speaker of the PA House of Representatives, Josh Shapiro was sworn in as our new governor. I was appointed Majority Chairman of the House Human Services Committee.

In the northwest community, my staff and I continue to remain active in addressing gun violence, education, health care and quality of life for individuals. We brought home state funding, hosted many events and helped many constituents with state services and programs.

It's my honor to serve as your state representative and I always enjoy interacting with the wonderful folks who live in our legislative district. If you ever need assistance with a state service or applying for a state program, feel free to contact my office or visit us in person.

**Honoring the Tuskegee Airmen**

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first group of African American military aviators, who fought during World War II. Despite facing rigid racial barriers and constant segregation, these airmen were among the most accomplished and effective pilots of the entire war. Upwards of 900 pilots who graduated from Tuskegee Airfield flew 1,578 missions and 15,533 sorties, destroying 261 enemy aircraft and earning themselves more than 850 medals, collectively. In 2022, I was proud to help pass legislation (H.B. 2586) that now recognizes March 29 every year as "Tuskegee Airman Commemoration Day" in Pennsylvania. It's very important that we continue honoring and recognizing these incredible men and women for their sacrifice to protect our country while facing horrific forms of oppression.



*On March 29, 2023, I joined Gov. Shapiro, former Mayor Jim Kenney and multiple House colleagues to celebrate the inaugural "Tuskegee Airman Commemoration Day" in Pennsylvania.*

*I hosted a Veterans' Day luncheon that took place at Treasures Banquet Hall honoring the Tuskegee Airmen and local veterans.*



# IN HARRISBURG



## Human Services Committee Chairman

I was appointed to serve as Chairman of the House Human Services Committee. This committee reviews bills pertaining to social service issues in Pennsylvania such as mental health, substance abuse and much more.

I bring real-world experience to many of the issues, having worked in this field before I became a state rep. I've worked with individuals who have intellectual disabilities and mental health illness, as well as directed programs to get folks re-engaged in the workforce.

In my first year as Chairman, we moved many pieces of legislation out of this committee that are currently waiting for a vote in the House or have passed the House and are waiting for a vote in the Senate.



## Bipartisan Caucus

I am proud to be a co-chair of the House Bipartisan Caucus, along with Democratic state Rep. Patty Kim and Republican Reps. Jill Cooper and Jamie Flick.

Amid intense political divisions in our state, this Caucus serves as a platform to bring Democratic and Republican members together to listen to people, organizations and businesses across the Commonwealth and work collectively to address issues facing Pennsylvania.

I originally started this caucus in 2021, with Republican state Sen. Greg Rothman when he was a state rep. This summer, my new co-chairs of the caucus and I held a press conference at the state Capitol, rolling out our agenda for this legislative term. I look forward to working with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle on this caucus to help break the political divisions in Harrisburg and move our state forward.

## Drug & Alcohol Department Statewide Engagement Tour

The Pennsylvania Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs brought their statewide engagement tour to our community to hear top issues and concerns surrounding substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and prevention efforts in response to the opioid and overdose crises in the city. As chairman of the PA House Human Services Committee, ensuring we can prevent substance use disorder, but also help treat individuals already suffering from it, is a top priority of mine. I appreciate Department Secretary Dr. Latika Davis-Jones for coming to our community to hear from myself, other local elected officials and organizations addressing this issue in our community daily.



# MY LEGISLATION

## Signed *into* Law

**H.B. 1258 (Act 52 of 2023):** will improve the funding mechanism for dual enrollment programs by removing the requirement that students enrolled in such programs are removed from the school's average daily membership. Commonly referred to as the "ADM," the average daily membership impacts state funding to local school districts. Dual enrollment programs allow high school students to enroll in college-level classes, earning college credits while still enrolled in high school. In some cases, college classes are taught by certified high school teachers and in the high school facility. I joined Rep. Jill Cooper to introduce this bill.



*Here I am with Rep. Cooper holding the official House vote on our bill.*

## Legislation that Passed the House

(These bills are currently waiting for consideration in the Senate)

**H.B. 580:** would re-establish the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, a program that operated from 2004 to 2010 and provided grants and low-interest loans for the construction, rehabilitation or expansion of grocery stores, farmers markets and other healthy food retail establishments in low- to moderate-income areas in need and other underserved communities.

**H.B. 1305:** would establish sustainable funding for Pennsylvania's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in line with Gov. Shapiro's budget proposal. The lifeline was launched in July of 2022 and allows anyone in the U.S. to call, chat or text 988 to receive support and resources during a suicide, mental health or substance use crisis. This lifeline would be funded similarly to how communities fund 911 by creating a monthly fee on all wireless devices to ensure these emergency services will not experience any funding gaps.

## Legislation Reported Out of Committee

(These bills are currently waiting for consideration in the House)

**H.B. 587:** would create a medical parole process authorizing a court that imposes a sentence to modify a term of imprisonment in a number of cases. Those eligible for this type of parole would be incarcerated people with serious health issues, such as a chronic and debilitating physical or medical condition, as well as individuals 55 or older who have served the lessor of 25 years in prison or one half of their imposed minimum term and do not pose a danger to others if released.

**H.B. 1410:** would amend the state Constitution to create greater opportunities for incarcerated Pennsylvanians to receive a pardon or have their sentences commuted by changing the unanimous vote requirement of the Pardon Board to a three-out-of-five votes requirement, which would save taxpayer resources by reducing the burden on the state's correctional institutions while contributing to overall reform of the criminal justice system. I joined House Speaker Joanna McCClinton to introduce this bill.

**H.B. 462:** would outlaw the use of the standard chokehold in making an arrest as well as any action that inhibits breath or the flow of blood to the brain due to physical position.



*I joined prison reform advocates to celebrate movement on this bill the day it was reported out of the House Judiciary Committee.*

# BUDGET



**DEMOCRATS DELIVER**

**WHAT WE ACHIEVED:**

- Record basic education funding increase
  - \$175 million for school facility improvements
  - \$10 million for student-teacher stipends
  - EITC Transparency and Administrative Fee Reforms
- Increased Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit – move from 30% to 100% of federal credit – more than tripling the state level credit
- Increased violence intervention to \$10 million
- \$7.5 million for indigent defense

The 2023/24 Budget

## Increases Funding for Schools in our Community



**Philadelphia School District**  
**\$1.48 Billion (6.1% ↑)**



## Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

**MORE** people eligible, **MORE** money back!

Homeowner Income	Rebate	Renter Income	Rebate
Up to \$8K	\$1,000	Up to \$8K	\$1,000
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund!

I voted to support the state budget for 2023-24 as it invests in many sound areas that will help people across the commonwealth. These investments include historic education funding (especially here in Philadelphia), Increased Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, investments in public safety, and expansion to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program that will take place this year.

I believe this budget will help to push our state and community forward and address some of our most pressing issues.



## Lingelbach Elementary Visit

I joined Pennsylvania Department of Education Secretary Dr. Khalid N. Mumin and School District of Philadelphia Superintendent Dr. Tony Watlington for a tour of Lingelbach Elementary School. We got a firsthand look at some of the school's classrooms and outdoor learning activities, and had the chance to engage with students in a Q&A. Being able to engage directly with students lets us know how their education is impacting them and what can be done to improve their educational experience.

Throughout the visit, we highlighted the historic investments in education from this year's state budget and how it can help public schools across the commonwealth like Lingelbach. A big thank you to Principal Lisa Waddell for having us!



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## State Funding Brought to the District

I was proud to help bring millions of dollars in state funding back to our community to address some of our most pressing issues such as public safety, water infrastructure and overall community development. It's always great to see worthy organizations and projects be awarded by the state, and I have no doubt that they will do great work with this funding and our community will reap the benefits!



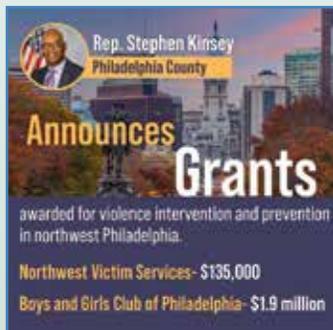
**\$4,183,188**  
AWARDED TO  
the Philadelphia Water Department  
for sewer line improvement along the 21st Street storm sewer.  
WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS  
from the Commonwealth Department of Transportation



**Good News!**  
Over **\$100,000** awarded to:  
Commonwealth Youthchoirs Inc  
Historic Germantown Preserved  
Mamadele Foundation  
PRISM Quartet Incorporated  
Wyck Association  
Yes And Collaborative Arts



**MORE THAN \$600,000**  
in state grants for community improvement awarded to:  
• Friends of the Wissahickon  
• The Artist Bank Inc.



Rep. Stephen Kinsey  
Philadelphia County  
**Announces Grants**  
awarded for violence intervention and prevention in northwest Philadelphia.  
Northwest Victim Services - \$135,000  
Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia - \$1.9 million



## Grumblethorpe

I had the privilege to present a \$100,000 check in state funding to Grumblethorpe — an iconic landmark in our community, part of Historic Germantown. Grumblethorpe does such a great job representing our community's history, traditions and culture. I was proud to present them this well-deserved funding! I was joined by Kayla Anthony, executive director of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks; Tuomi Forrest, executive director of Historic Germantown; and Norman Marcus, Grumblethorpe House committee chair, PhilaLandmarks Board, and Historic Germantown Consortium Board.

## Combatting Gun Violence



In 2022, I started a collaborative effort with local police, elected officials, nonprofit organizations, clergy and community members to combat gun violence in our community.

In 2023, we resumed these efforts, joining on the third Thursday of every month throughout the spring and summer. We went into neighborhoods throughout northwest Philadelphia that have been heavily impacted by gun violence and shared information and resources to assist the folks living there.

If we're going to eradicate gun violence in our community, it's going to take an all-hands-on-deck approach. That's why it's important to see so many members of our community come out and join this fight. I hope more of you can join us this year when we start holding these events!



I hosted a roundtable discussion on gun violence with Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis at Grace Baptist Church. We were joined by local organizations and multiple Philadelphia elected officials from the state and local levels.

This discussion was part of the Lieutenant Governor's statewide safer communities tour, which highlighted local efforts — funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency — that are working to address gun violence and make Pennsylvania's communities safer.

It was a very productive discussion, as we got to hear from organizations who are on the front lines every day addressing this issue in our community. Hearing from them gives us a better idea of how to take on gun violence at the state and local levels. My colleagues and I will continue our work to ensure our communities are safe.



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**Need Energy Assistance?**  
**2023-2024 LIHEAP Applications are Now Open!**

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$21,870
2	\$29,580
3	\$37,290
4	\$45,000
5	\$52,710
6	\$60,420
7	\$68,130
8	\$75,840
9	\$83,550
10	\$91,260

Each additional person \$7,710

As we're in the thick of winter, it's important that you're able to stay warm in your homes during the coldest time of the year. You can apply for assistance with your heating bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Contact my office for more information, to see if you qualify and to apply.

## 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
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- 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 of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania 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

**Stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the district by signing up for my email updates. Go to [www.pahouse.com/Kinsey](http://www.pahouse.com/Kinsey) to sign up.**