

State Representative | 114th Legislative District

# BRIDGET M. KOSIEROWSKI

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## Dear Neighbor,

Serving the residents of the 114th District has truly been the most rewarding feeling. I spent the last 27 years working as a Registered Nurse because I have always felt it was my calling to help and to care for others no matter who they are or where they come from. As a legislator, my intentions and calling remain the same.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished in the short time I have been in office. From introducing historic legislation for victims of domestic violence and addressing the opioid crisis head on to providing so many constituent services and working to bring money back to our district, I could not be any more grateful.

I am excited to continue the progress we have made and will continue to work hard for all of my constituents. You deserve it.

Sincerely,

*Bridget M. Kosierowski*



## INSIDE

DRUG RECOVERY TASK FORCE • BILLS I SUPPORT  
RENEWABLE ENERGY • \$5.5 MILLION BROUGHT TO DISTRICT  
LIHEAP & REAL ID INFO • VETERANS PROGRAMS

# DRUG RECOVERY STUDY TASK FORCE



In July, I was appointed to serve as a member of a legislative task force to study drug recovery. The task force is conducting a study on “warm handoff to treatment” for Pennsylvanians fighting drug addiction. It is exploring options to make it easier for those who survive drug overdoses to receive treatment after being discharged from the hospital.



Spending over 25 years working as a registered nurse showed me first-hand the struggles loved ones go through battling addiction. We need to make sure overdose survivors get into treatment before it's too late.

The task force was created by H.R. 216, which was unanimously adopted by the House in June. It will be assisted by an advisory committee consisting of physicians, emergency services representatives, law enforcement officials and drug treatment experts. A report on its findings and recommendations to the House is due later this year.



In September, I met with Lackawanna County District Attorney Mark Powell to discuss research on the Opioid Crisis that is sweeping our nation and is shattering our county.

Serving as an appointed member of the legislative task force to study drug recovery, I will be a part of the study being conducted on the “warm handoff to treatment” for Pennsylvanians fighting drug addiction. It will explore options to make it easier for those who survive drug overdoses to receive treatment after being discharged from the hospital.

As a mother, a nurse and now a legislator I am determined to help find a solution to this crisis.

## FIRST RESPONDERS BILL

I was pleased to see my colleagues in the House unanimously pass a bill in October that would help emergency service companies fund recruitment efforts.

Currently, the Pennsylvania Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service Grant Program provides grants to fire and EMS companies across the Commonwealth to fund protective equipment and training. Under H.B. 1834, that program would be extended and expanded to also provide and allow funding to be used for volunteer recruitment.

These emergency companies are facing a serious

shortage of recruits, which can greatly impact responses to fires and emergencies. I am pleased to support the expansion of this program to ensure these fire and EMS companies are able to attract and retain the recruits they need.

This bill is one of a number of bills passed by the House to expand support for emergency first responders and companies. It is awaiting approval in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



## GROUNDBREAKING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS BILL

Survivors of domestic violence who were coerced into criminal activity by their abusers would be provided with alternative sentences under H.B. 2047, which I introduced in November.

There is no reason to lock up domestic violence survivors who have already suffered so much at the hands of their abusers. This legislation would help break the cycle of continued victimization these survivors endure after receiving long prison sentences.

Under H.B. 2047, individuals who were survivors of domestic violence at the time of an offense would have their history of domestic violence



taken into account during sentencing and be provided shorter or alternative sentences. Those individuals would need to show that violence was a significant contributing factor.

House Bill 2047 is currently awaiting action in the House Judiciary Committee.



## NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT BILL

This year I am hoping to see my colleagues in the House support my bill, which would authorize Pennsylvania to join the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Under H.B. 1888, Pennsylvania would join 30 other member states of the NLC, which would increase access to health care. The NLC allows out-of-state nurses to practice in Pennsylvania and vice versa without having to obtain additional licenses.

There is a real need for qualified nurses to take care of our loved ones when they need treatment. By joining the NLC, Pennsylvania can better ensure the quality of care while allowing our nurses to also practice in other states.

House Bill 1888 is currently awaiting action in the House Professional Licensure Committee.



## VACCINATION BILLS

Over the past several years, there have been outbreaks of whooping cough, measles, mumps and meningitis across the country, all of which can be successfully prevented by vaccination. That is why I announced legislation to promote childhood immunizations and protect Pennsylvanians from preventable diseases.

Under my bill, H.B. 1767, the Public School Code would be amended to have school districts post on the website the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated students enrolled in each school in the district.

This bill was introduced along with a companion bill, H.B. 1771, announced by my colleague, state Rep. Dan Frankel, from Allegheny County. That bill would require families who are seeking non-medical exemptions to state vaccination requirements to meet with a doctor every year to discuss the science of immunizations and the risks to forgoing them.

Both bills are currently in the House Education Committee.



## EXPLORING EXPANDING CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

As part of my ongoing effort toward a cleaner Pennsylvania, I held a House Democratic Policy Committee public hearing to discuss expanding clean renewable energy while protecting the environment.



Increasing the use of clean renewable energy like wind and solar will help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. This will be a big part of making a greener Pennsylvania. Experts from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and PennFuture Energy Center discussed how clean renewable energy has the potential to create hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the Commonwealth.

The hearing was among a series held across the state and throughout the year on the House Democrats' Plan4PA, focused on putting people first by growing good jobs, providing health care access, creating quality schools and providing training for jobs in a fair economy. More information about the plan is available at [www.plan4pa.com](http://www.plan4pa.com) and hearing materials are at



# \$5.5 MILLION BROUGHT BACK TO THE DISTRICT

Over the course of the year, more than \$5.5 million in state grants were awarded to fund several projects in the 114th District in Lackawanna County. This includes more than \$1 million in gaming grants which were just announced in January.

I would like to thank Governor Wolf and my colleagues in Harrisburg for recognizing the importance of these projects which will keep our communities thriving and safe for residents and visitors.

Here are some of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, Commonwealth Financing Authority, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Community and Economic Development and Pennsylvania Department of Education Safe Schools Targeted grants:

- **Carbondale:** \$500,000 for installing sidewalks and ADA-compatible ramps along Pike Street to extend the Lackawanna Heritage trail.
- **Old Forge School District:** \$500,000 to conduct a district-wide analysis of energy improvements and make energy-efficient changes. Also, \$19,998 to provide training and/or compensation for school resource officers.
- **Riverside School District:** \$22,003 for the purchasing of safety and security-related equipment.
- **Lakeland School District:** \$50,000 to resurface the district's track which is nearly 20 years old and in serious disrepair.
- **Upper Valley YMCA:** \$232,800 for Phase 2 of the Greater Carbondale YMCA Community Park.
- **North Abington Township:** \$166,900 for the purchasing of nearly 65 acres of land for passive recreation and connection to other protected lands.
- **Dickson City:** \$77,500 to purchase 2 acres of land for the creation of a community park.
- **Mayfield Borough:** \$60,116 for the purchase of a commercial slope mower which can handle cutting several acres of vegetation along the existing levee system.



## OUT AND ABOUT



*I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the Jermyn Borough for inviting me to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Borough.*



*It was my pleasure to present a House citation to volunteer firefighter Alan Rudalavage for his heroic actions while answering the call of duty.*



*Proud to participate in the Keystone State Literacy Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania's event to encourage children to read. They had the pleasure of hearing me read to them, "Dragons Love Tacos."*



*Thank you to Rotary Club of the Abingtons for inviting me to speak at your meeting in August. It's so inspiring to hear all of the wonderful work you're doing for our area. #ServiceAboveSelf*



*In November, my office partnered with the Borough of Old Forge, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Association, the Lackawanna River Conservation Association, and the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation for a Community Cleanup Event.*

*We cleared trash and debris on the Heritage Trail that runs alongside the river in Old Forge. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped keep our community safe and beautiful!*



# ANNUAL SENIOR FAIR

I hosted my first Senior Fair in July at Riverside Junior Senior High School in Taylor. It featured over 30 vendors offering valuable information to help seniors continue living healthy and productive lives.

Events like the Senior Fair are a great one-stop shop for people to learn about new and exciting services which benefit our senior citizens. It also gives me a chance to meet with our older residents and learn about the issues and concerns they have which I can then advocate for in Harrisburg.

We are planning another Senior Fair in 2020 so stay tuned for more updates.



*This fall, I had such a great time making breakfast at the Dickson City Civic Center for seniors in the 144th District and discussing how our office can better assist them.*



## REAL ID REMINDER

This year you will need a federally compliant ID card to board a domestic flight or enter secure federal facilities. If you don't have a U.S. Passport or active military ID, you'll need a REAL ID for this purpose by Oct. 1, 2020.

To obtain one, take the listed documents to a Driver's License Center.

Call my office if you need assistance obtaining documents or with questions!

**October 1, 2020**

**The federal REAL ID Act takes effect in Pennsylvania.**

The best thing you can do to prepare for REAL ID is to get your documents together:

- ✓ Proof of identity
- ✓ Proof of Social Security number
- ✓ Two current, physical proofs of PA residency
- ✓ Proof of all legal name changes

Visit [PENNDOT.GOV/REALID](http://PENNDOT.GOV/REALID)

## HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE

The state's **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program** is now accepting applications. LIHEAP helps low-income families pay their heating bills and deal with heating emergencies such as a broken furnace, fuel shortage or utility service shutoff.

Renters and homeowners who qualify can have a cash grant – which does not need to be repaid – sent directly to their utility company or fuel provider. Grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 based on household size, income and fuel type. Crisis grants are also available.

Paper applications are available through local county assistance offices or my district office, and my staff can help you apply.



2019-2020  
**INCOME GUIDELINES**  
for homeowners and renters

Apply Online Today

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM INCOME
1	\$18,735
2	\$25,365
3	\$31,995
4	\$38,625
5	\$45,255
6	\$51,885
7	\$58,515
8	\$65,145
9	\$71,775
10	\$78,405



EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON: ADD \$6,630



State Representative  
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FOLLOW ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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lpo.km.0220

## 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 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
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 570-562-2350 for assistance.



Area veterans are invited to take part in the monthly support program at my district office.

A representative from the American Legion Service Office

Outreach program is available to provide information on programs and services available to veterans and their families. The representative is available to discuss education, health care, and death benefits.

Legion membership is not required to take advantage of the help, but anyone interested in speaking to the advisers must schedule an appointment. Please call my office at 570-562-2350 to find out available dates and times.