

News From State Representative

# CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County



## Dear Neighbor,

As I head into my second year serving as your State Representative, I am humbled by the confidence you have placed in me. It is an honor to represent those I have always considered my neighbors and to fight for our many shared priorities in Harrisburg.

In this newsletter you will find information about my work over the last year, as well as some of the initiatives I will be looking to move forward in 2020. I also share frequent updates on Facebook and through my weekly e-news, which you can sign up for by contacting my district office or visiting my website. My office is committed to serving you. Please call my office anytime at (484) 200-8264 or email [RepSappey@pahouse.net](mailto:RepSappey@pahouse.net) with any of your questions and concerns.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Sappey'.

**Capitol Office:** 111A East Wing | P.O. Box 202158 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2158 | (717) 772-9973 | Fax: (717) 772-3072

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 /RepSappey |  [pahouse.com/Sappey](http://pahouse.com/Sappey)

# HEALTH CARE

## Fighting for Better Health Care

I am a strong supporter of multiple discharge petitions that would force important pieces of legislation out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote. House Bills 469, 470, 471 and 913 have been sitting in the House Insurance Committee for nearly a year. Each of these bills seeks to protect and improve insurance coverage for Pennsylvanians. This includes preserving coverage for pre-existing conditions; ensuring coverage for emergency services, prescription drugs and behavioral health treatment; ending lifetime coverage limits; and preserving the right of adult children to remain on their parent's/guardian's insurance until they are 26 years old. We cannot, and should not, rely on Washington to ensure these protections remain in place, so it is imperative we act in the legislature.

## Warning Labels on Opioids

While the state has made great strides addressing the opioid epidemic, more work is needed to further prevent addiction. That is why I introduced House Bill 2092, which would require a warning label on all prescription opioid containers similar to those found on alcohol or tobacco products. The addition of warning labels will ensure patients and their families across the commonwealth are advised of the risks associated with prescription opioids every time they are used.

## Insulin Price Cap

Today, the average monthly out-of-pocket cost for insulin exceeds \$400, forcing individuals and families to ration medication. I have signed on to House Bill 1873 which would set a mandatory price cap on the cost of insulin for patients at \$100 a month and call upon the attorney general to investigate the sharp rise in insulin prices.



*Free health screenings were provided at my October Senior Expo at Kennett Middle School.*

# EDUCATION

## More Mental Health Providers in Schools

Mental health is a critical component of a child's overall well-being. For this reason I support legislation that would help remove stigma and provide our school students access to counseling services. House Bills 1500, 1525 and 1622 all aim to achieve this by providing schools with options to hire social workers, school psychologists, nurses and guidance counselors.

## Addressing Lead Contamination in Schools

The presence of lead in drinking water has been a nationally recognized problem for many years. House Bill 930 would require Pennsylvania schools to test all water outlets used for cooking and drinking annually for lead to ensure it is safe for consumption. All children deserve a safe learning environment, and I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation.

# ENVIRONMENT

## Single-Use Plastic Reduction

I'm proud to co-sponsor multiple bills that would help Pennsylvanians gradually move away from single use plastics. House Bill 1608 would promote reusable water bottles by requiring state buildings to install water bottle filling stations; House Bill 1176 would prohibit establishments from offering plastic straws except upon the specific request of a customer; House Bill 1610 would require commonwealth agencies to ban the use of non-recyclable and non-compostable food and beverage containers in state-owned buildings; and House Bill 1611 proposes a Plastic

Pollution Task Force in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to study methods on reducing and managing plastic waste and combatting impacts from plastic pollution.

## Protecting Riparian Buffers

Riparian buffers are planted zones near rivers and streams that secure waterway banks, provide natural filtration, support ecosystems, prevent runoff and protect homes and businesses from flooding. I'm working closely with colleagues in Harrisburg to introduce riparian buffer protection legislation. This is particularly important with the increased strong

storms we are experiencing.

## Conservation Corridors

I support House Bill 1475, which proposes a study on the economic benefit of conservation corridors. These corridors would provide designated open space to protect wildlife and create recreational opportunities. Pennsylvania is a leader among states for outdoor recreational activity and related consumer spending. Continued development has encroached on safe habitats for many native species. Providing Pennsylvania wildlife protection and supporting ecotourism is a win for us all.

# GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: PROTECTING RIGHTS AND PROMOTING SAFETY

I believe in the Second Amendment and will continue to work with both gun owners and non-owners to implement commonsense gun control measures that ensure the safety and welfare of all our citizens.

## Expanding Background Checks

Comprehensive background checks aid in preventing gun violence. I support measures such as House Bill 673, which would require firearm sales to be subject to background checks, and House Bill 1494, which would require background checks to purchase ammunition.

## Increasing Firearm Training

House Bills 1858 and 1753, which I support, would encourage responsible gun ownership by requiring mandatory training and certification courses prior to purchasing a firearm or receiving a concealed carry permit. This gun safety training would instruct new owners on proper handling and storage of firearms, responsible practices that will ensure the welfare of all citizens, especially children.

## Raising Firearm Purchase Ages

I have co-sponsored legislation, House Bills 1857 and 1162, that would raise the minimum age to purchase a semi-automatic assault rifle from 18 to 21. Research has shown that brain development is generally not complete into the 20s and that impulsive behavior with no fear of consequence is more likely for this reason. This legislation would help keep deadly weapons out of the hands of young people who may be unable to grasp the magnitude of what these powerful weapons are capable of.

## Extreme Risk Protective Orders

House Bill 1075 seeks to temporarily disarm those who exhibit suicidal or homicidal behaviors. Through extreme risk protection orders (ERPO), family members of individuals exhibiting signs, or "red flags," that they are in crisis and could hurt themselves or others may go before a judge to request that guns be taken away. I support this bill as it provides for due process while preventing potential tragedy.

## ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION

### Passing Election Reform

I was pleased to vote in favor of Pennsylvania's most significant improvements to our elections in the last 80 years. Act 77 of 2019 creates a new option to vote by mail up to 50 days before an election, extends the deadline to register to vote by 15 days and helps pay for safer, more secure voting systems with a paper trail. This legislation will take effect for the April 2020 primary election. My office can help answer any questions on the new voting laws.



*The county's new voting machines were on display at my West Chester Senior Expo.*

### Supporting First Responders

Pennsylvania has seen a decline in volunteer emergency personnel for decades. As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I proudly supported a package of bills that will encourage volunteers and support those who answer the call. The package contains over a dozen pieces of legislation, including bills that will provide tuition assistance and forgiveness on existing student loans, provide property tax relief, increase access to mental health resources, end realty transfer taxes and exempt volunteer companies from Right-To-Know laws. These bills passed the House and are currently awaiting consideration in the Senate.

### Taking on Telemarketers

Pennsylvania's new, stronger "Do Not Call" law went into effect in December. Under the new law, which I voted in favor of, telephone numbers registered with the state database no longer need to be re-registered every five years. Business telephone numbers may also be added to the "Do Not Call" list. For more information or assistance registering your phone number to the "Do Not Call" list, contact my office.

# AGRICULTURE

## PA Farm Bill Update

The 2019 PA Farm Bill, which I voted in favor of both in the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and on the House floor, was a package of bills designed to support Pennsylvania's number one industry. Since it was signed into law on July 1, 2019, we've seen the positive impact of the farm bill right here in the 158th. The package engages youth, protects against development by helping farmers with succession planning and incentivizes conservation best management practices. Agriculture creates countless jobs for Chester County residents and feeds Pennsylvanians throughout the commonwealth. In fact, Chester County is the state's second-highest agricultural producer, widely thanks to our number one cash crop - mushrooms. With the more than \$24 million the PA Farm Bill invests in farming across Pennsylvania, we can keep that momentum going and ensure the prosperity of our local farmlands for generations to come.

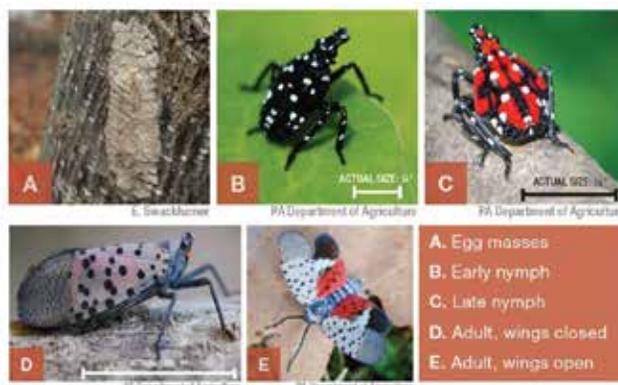
## Spotted Lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly can cause significant damage to personal property, trees and farmers' crops, as well as affect residents' quality of life during the spring and summer months. Although spotted lanternfly adults do not survive the winter, it is important to continue fighting against this invasive pest. I encourage you to keep an eye out for their egg masses and promptly remove any you may find. When freshly laid, they appear as a smear of mud, varying in color from white to tan to gray. They can be found on trees, rusty metal, plastic yard objects, cars, trailers and many other surfaces.

The state is continuing to fund research to address this invasive species and working closely with businesses in the quarantined area to prevent the spread. Those interested in learning more about the spotted lanternfly can contact my office.



*2019's Little Miss Agriculture Representative at my Fall Harvest Festival.*



# INFRASTRUCTURE



*Area legislators joined me at my recent policy hearing on stormwater management and infrastructure.*

## Pipeline Safety

Most townships in Chester County have pipelines. I have sponsored House Bill 1567, which would increase oversight of the eminent domain process used by public utility corporations for pipeline construction. House Bill 1568 would establish a pipeline safety and communication board to alert affected residents on the planning, siting, construction, operation, maintenance, management, inspection and safety of emergency response procedures for pipelines. Additionally, I have co-sponsored bipartisan legislation that would require pipeline operators to share emergency response plans with local county emergency management while protecting sensitive security information.

## 1-800-FIX-ROAD

Residents can report potholes and other roadway concerns on state roads directly to PennDOT by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD (349-7623) or my office at 484-200-8264.



# COMING UP THIS YEAR

## REAL ID in 2020

Come out to my REAL ID Information Session on Thursday, Feb. 20 at West Goshen Township Building, 6 p.m.-7 p.m. Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and decide if REAL ID is something they need. The event will cover what REAL ID is, how it is used, the cost of obtaining one and more.

If you already know you need a REAL ID, don't procrastinate! Lines at the DMV are expected to grow as we approach the Oct. 1 implementation date.

## Seniors Ride Free with SEPTA

My office can help residents 65 and older apply for a SEPTA Key Senior ID Card. Call today for details!

## We All Count

The U.S. Census counts, and so do you. Nationwide, approximately \$650 billion in federal funding is distributed annually based on information derived from the Census. The state receives this funding for programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, CHIP and WIC as well as grants for education and highway construction. When you respond to the Census, you help our community get its fair share of federal funds that will go to schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other programs.

Every home will receive an invitation to participate by April 1. You will have the option of responding for your household online, over the phone or by mail.

For more information, visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) or contact my office.





State Representative  
**CHRISTINA SAPPEY**

698 Unionville Road  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

lpo.ad.0220

## SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES!

Each week, I send a multi-subject email containing information useful to residents of the 158th. If you'd like to receive emails from me, go to my website, [pahouse.com/Sappey](http://pahouse.com/Sappey), and sign up.



News From State Representative

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158th Legislative District | Chester County

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### REAL ID Information Session

**Thursday, Feb. 20 | 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

West Goshen Township Building  
1025 Paoli Pike  
West Chester, PA 19380

### Veterans Luncheon

**Friday, March 20 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Marshallton United Methodist Church  
1282 West Strasburg Road  
West Chester, PA 19382

*\*Please RSVP for this event by contacting my district office at 484-200-8264 or [repsappey@pahouse.net](mailto:repsappey@pahouse.net)*

### Sustainable Living Forum

**Thursday, April 2 | 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

East Bradford Township Building  
666 Copeland School Road  
West Chester, PA 19380

### Litter Clean Up in the 158th

**Saturday, April 18 | 9 a.m. – noon**

*If interested in volunteering, please contact my district office at 484-200-8264 or [repsappey@pahouse.net](mailto:repsappey@pahouse.net)*

### Town Hall Meeting

**Thursday, May 7 | 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Southern Chester County  
Regional Police Department  
8934 Gap Newport Pike  
Landenberg, PA 19350

*\*Please register for this event by contacting my district office at 484-200-8264 or [repsappey@pahouse.net](mailto:repsappey@pahouse.net)*

### Free Shredding Event

**Saturday, May 16 | 9 a.m. – noon**

Willowdale Town Center  
692 Unionville Road  
Kennett Square, PA 19348