



# State Representative KYLE MULLINS

Proudly Representing the 112th Legislative District

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## DEDICATED TO LACKAWANNA COUNTY

*Dear Neighbor,*

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health. My prior newsletter to you was titled “A Vision for 2020” and would have arrived at your home only a few weeks before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, when our world came to a halt and significant sacrifices were asked of all of us. That early vision included important legislative priorities and community investments that I remain strongly committed to. However, I never imagined that vision would include dedicating everything I had to keeping our residents safe from the spread of a virus and helping our region to emerge from unprecedented economic hardship.

I quickly realized that the foreseeable future of my public service would be dedicated toward a regional recovery. Thankfully, the communities of northeastern Pennsylvania – especially those in the 112th district – are strong thanks to our resilient people, our local pride, and dedicated workforce. I have great confidence in our collective ability to get through this.

In early May, my wife Lauren and I, along with our young son Conor and chocolate lab Jagger welcomed a baby girl named Caroline to this world. She was born ahead of schedule, with a frightening yet treatable heart arrhythmia, and a compromised immune system. The decisions I make as a legislator, the requirements to wear a mask, the unnatural distancing we must adhere to – all of this is being done to protect the vulnerable people in your life and mine. As we continue the safe reopening of Pennsylvania, please continue to do your part in keeping your loved ones, friends and neighbors safe.

In this newsletter, you will find information on my work in 2020 and what to expect as we head toward the year’s end. I also invite you to get updates on my legislative Facebook page and through my e-newsletter, which you can sign up for by contacting my district office or visiting my website at [www.RepKyleMullins.com](http://www.RepKyleMullins.com).

My office is committed to serving you. We are here to help navigate state programs, locate resources, make referrals and to share information. Please don’t hesitate to reach out for help by phone at 570-383-9795 or email [RepMullins@pahouse.net](mailto:RepMullins@pahouse.net) with any questions and concerns.

In service,

Kyle J. Mullins  
State Representative




**MY OFFICE IS  
NOW OPEN**

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO  
SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Masks are required!

570-383-9795

[RepMullins@PAHouse.net](mailto:RepMullins@PAHouse.net)



*From left to right: Chief of Staff Bill Davis, state Rep. Kyle Mullins, and Constituent Service Representatives Elizabeth Luchansky O'Brien and Colleen Possanza.*



*For your safety and ours, we will come to your car.*

## My Office is Here to Help

The COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped us from serving you and your family. Since the onset of the health crisis, my dedicated team has been working day-in and day-out helping hundreds of constituents find solutions and resources despite often-impossible circumstances and frustrations with various government programs. Since Lackawanna County went into the "green phase" of reopening, our district office has been open by appointment. To ensure your safety and the safety of my team, we have made numerous adjustments to our office procedures, following CDC guidelines with sanitization

and social distancing in mind. In fact, most services can be delivered remotely or at your car window. Please call 570-383-9795 or email RepMullins@pahouse.net for assistance, or to make an appointment for services that require an in-person visit. We will do everything in our ability to help you with Unemployment Benefits, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Rent/Mortgage Assistance, COVID-19 DHS benefits/services and other state-related issues and concerns.

## Unemployment Compensation Problems

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, my staff and I have helped hundreds of unemployed workers who reached out to our office after their calls to Unemployment Compensation offices went unanswered. This has been an extremely difficult and stressful time for so many of you, and it has been made even more difficult without having an easy way to contact an unemployment compensation officer.

The PA Department of Labor and Industry has issued more than seven million checks so far to workers who lost their jobs or were furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the department remains focused on mailing out more to keep up with demand, there is no question it was unprepared to handle the influx of applications. I plan to dig deep into this problem and work toward solutions to ensure the system has adequate staff and resources to prevent this from happening again.

If you have any further questions about unemployment, or any other state-related matter, don't hesitate to contact my office by phone at 570-383-9795 or email RepMullins@pahouse.net.

### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS RUNNING OUT?

If you exhaust your regular unemployment compensation (UC) + federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC),



you may qualify for **13 additional weeks** of payments through PA's **UC Extended Benefits program.**

\*No application needed. After the balance of your PEUC claim hits \$0, your EB claim will set up automatically, approximately two days later.

Learn more: [bit.ly/3eQwY17](https://bit.ly/3eQwY17)





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: RESPONDING TO COVID-19



In the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic, I voted to pass a series of emergency measures in response to the growing crisis, which included: waiving the 180-day school

requirement, changes to our election laws, critical funding for medical equipment and supplies to hospitals and other health care facilities, expanding unemployment eligibility, and grant programs for small businesses and first responders. While these measures were vitally important, there is still much more that needs to be done in the legislature to support individuals and small business owners who are still struggling mightily to make ends meet and keep their doors open.

## Small Business Support

Sadly, our small business community shouldered the weight of the various closure orders. It quickly became my priority, along with state Sen. John Blake and other House and Senate Democrats to provide grants – not loans – to our smallest businesses that were hit the hardest. I was proud to support a \$225 million grant program that was passed in conjunction with our state budget in June, and I am currently fighting for more program funding to ensure we reach any small business that was financially impacted by COVID-19. For more information on upcoming application windows, go to [pabusinessgrants.com](http://pabusinessgrants.com).

## Relief for Restaurants, Bars and Clubs

Our area has claim to some of the best restaurants, bars and clubs around; and the quality of our food and those who prepare it is unmatched. Most are family-owned cornerstones of our community and have hosted some of our most cherished memories – weddings, graduation parties, first dates, and retirement dinners. Unfortunately, this remains the longest-impacted industry of the Governor's closure orders. While we hope these orders are short-lived, these establishments need help now to survive. I along with my House Democratic colleagues have proposed a package of bills that would provide grants to local restaurants, bars and clubs, reduce and eliminate specific licensing fees, extend discounts to licensees and protect businesses by guaranteeing their insurance pays out in future emergencies.



*Rep. Mullins speaks by phone with a local restaurant owner.*



## Fire, Rescue, and EMS Company Grants

I was proud to support a \$50 million grant program, signed into law as Act 26, that will provide some much-needed financial assistance to fire, rescue and EMS companies that have found it difficult to keep their operations running due to COVID-19. The men and women who dedicate themselves to public safety in our communities deserve our unending support and appreciation, and it is my hope that this program will help to bridge the gap so many companies are facing through these challenging times.

## COVID-19 IMPORTANT SITES

[health.pa.gov](http://health.pa.gov)

[pa.gov/COVID-19](http://pa.gov/COVID-19)

 [www.RepKyleMullins.com](http://www.RepKyleMullins.com)

 [/RepKyleMullins](https://www.facebook.com/RepKyleMullins)

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# STATE FUNDING SUPPORTS LOCAL JOBS, OPPORTUNITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## New Manufacturing Facility to Bring 400 Jobs to Olyphant

Last month, CANPACK Group, a global manufacturer of aluminum cans and glass bottles, announced it will continue its expansion by building a new 908,000-square-foot facility in Olyphant at the former Cinram site. The company has pledged to invest nearly \$366 million into the project and will create more than 400 executive, professional and technical manufacturing jobs within three years.

I know a great number of constituents, including relatives of mine, remember with fondness their family-sustaining employment at the former Specialty Records/Cinram facility and we all look forward to a major employer returning to that site. Now more than ever in light of COVID-19's impact, our region needed some good news, and I am proud that CANPACK saw such value not just in the prospective site, but most importantly in our extraordinary local workforce that will fill those good-paying jobs.

I was proud to join state Sen. John Blake in advocating to Gov. Tom Wolf for the investment of \$6 million toward the project via the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, and I applaud all local officials for recognizing the critical role public-private partnerships like this must play in our local economy.



*Rep. Mullins inspects crumbling sidewalk on Ash Street Bridge.*

## Scranton Bridge Replacement

Last month, I was pleased to announce that the City of Scranton would receive more than \$1 million in Multimodal Program grant funding to replace the Ash Street Bridge, improving the overall safety of pedestrians and motorists who travel that road every day for work, medical appointments or daily errands.

This is a critical infrastructure project in the 112th District as the heavily used Ash Street Bridge is showing its age, wear and tear. The city of Scranton – like so many other communities across the state – is facing serious, ongoing financial challenges. So, this grant funding will go a long way to ensure an important infrastructure asset is being properly maintained and improved without diverting significant resources from the city's budget.

## Have you filled out the census yet?

If not, please, do it right now! Here's a link where you can complete the census for your household: <https://2020census.gov/>.

Every 10 years, the United States conducts a census. This count of U.S. residents helps determine how \$675 billion is spent by the federal government for programs like CHIP, Medicaid, SNAP and WIC.

It's vital that every person in every household be counted in the census. Completing the census only takes a few minutes.

**THE CENSUS COUNTS.**

**SO DO YOU.**

 **CENSUS COUNTS 2020**



## Frontline Worker Hazard Pay

Our frontline workers have always been the backbone of our economy, but for so many it was not until the outbreak of COVID-19 that their health and safety were put at risk simply by going to work. These workers continue to carry us through this incredibly difficult time, providing us with life-sustaining goods and services. I applaud the Governor for establishing a \$50 million grant program to provide hazard pay to some of the most at-risk professions. However, we must dedicate greater funding and significantly expand the list of eligible workers – an effort I am proud to be committed to in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



## Helping the Homebound

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and Gov. Wolf's Stay-at-Home Order, it became clear there was a need to ensure the homebound and elderly residents in our community got the help they required. I was pleased to partner with the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, along with the support of the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, CEO/ Weinberg, Northeast Regional Food Bank, Lackawanna County Commissioners, United Neighborhood Centers, Scranton Area Ministerium, NeighborWorks, Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency, Lackawanna County Sheriff's Office, and the Scranton Mayor's Office to launch our Helping the Homebound Program.



Participants were provided green and yellow sheets of paper with instructions and a phone number printed on them. People who placed the green sheet in a window indicated that they were OK while the yellow sheet indicated they needed help or an errand from a neighbor or the Agency on Aging. The colored paper was designed to alert neighbors and volunteers in the program that a participant was in need.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that our most vulnerable loved ones and neighbors need our help. These are people who are at high-risk of contracting coronavirus if they leave their homes. Whether it's a run to the grocery store or the pharmacy, or a simple phone call to ensure their safety, Helping the Homebound provides assistance along with comfort and peace of mind for our elderly neighbors.

If you are in need of help, please call the Area Agency on Aging at 570-963-6740 or email at [aaa@lackawannacounty.org](mailto:aaa@lackawannacounty.org).



## Congratulations Class of 2020

Graduation ceremonies were forced to follow a completely different format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the last few months of our high school seniors' experiences were so impacted, it does not diminish their hard work and accomplishments. I was honored to be the guest speaker – albeit virtually – at Valley View High School's annual "Memories" ceremony to congratulate and share my reflections with the graduating class. These seniors rose to the occasion and accepted the challenge of these unprecedented circumstances and that makes their achievements even more significant. I offer all the graduates of 2020 my sincerest congratulations and look forward to seeing them succeed in their future endeavors!





## State Representative **KYLE MULLINS**

520 Burke Bypass, Unit 1  
Olyphant, PA 18447



Please bookmark my legislative website:  
[www.RepKyleMullins.com](http://www.RepKyleMullins.com).  
It has links to information on state services, legislation that I introduce or co-sponsor and includes a form that allows you to contact my office by email. And, be sure to follow me on social media for more important updates.

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## 2020 GENERAL ELECTION IMPORTANT DATES

- OCT 19** Last day to register to vote for the general election.  
[register.votesPA.com](http://register.votesPA.com)
- OCT 27** Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot.  
[votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](http://votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot)
- NOV 3** Voted mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the county by 8pm.  
[votesPA.com/County](http://votesPA.com/County)
- NOV 3** General election day. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.  
[votesPA.com/Polls](http://votesPA.com/Polls)

**VotesPA.com**

Your vote is your voice. Don't sit this one out, folks. Instead, make sure you speak out this Election Day and make your voice heard.

Voting by mail is a safe and convenient way to vote without having to go to a physical polling location. You can apply for your vote-by-mail ballot online at [www.votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot](http://www.votesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot).

## 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
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- 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
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 570-383-9795 for assistance.

### CAPITOL OFFICE:

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Harrisburg, PA 17120-2112 • (717) 783-5043

### DISTRICT OFFICE:

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