

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARVIND VENKAT, MD

## District Office:

9800B McKnight Rd., Suite 130 | Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
(412) 348-8028

## Capitol Office:

101B East Wing | P.O. Box 202030  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2030  
(717) 772-2363

RepVenkat.com | @RepVenkat



## Meeting constituents

The best part about serving as your state representative is the opportunity to engage with and assist the residents of our community. Since January, my office provided 9,978 constituent services to people from all parts of



the 30th Legislative District. Through my legislative outreach program, I have personally knocked on 6,787 doors, which allowed me to meet more than 1,400 residents. We discussed legislation I have introduced, Pennsylvania's budget, state services, and how I can best help the community in my role as our state legislator.



Throughout the year and during all seasons, I traveled across the 30th Legislative District to meet constituents in their communities. It was great to meet so many residents and address their legislative concerns.

## *Hello neighbor,*

As my first year in office concludes, I'm writing to provide you with an update on my work as state representative for McCandless, Franklin Park, Ohio Township, Kilbuck, Emsworth, Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, and western Hampton Township.

My district office staff and I are available to assist you with all state services. Please contact my office at 412-348-8028 or RepVenkat@PAHouse.net with any questions or requests.

In this newsletter, you can read about my work in the community, satellite and district office hours, my work in Harrisburg, and services available to Allegheny County and Pennsylvania residents.

Happy holidays from my family to yours!

*Arvind Venkat*

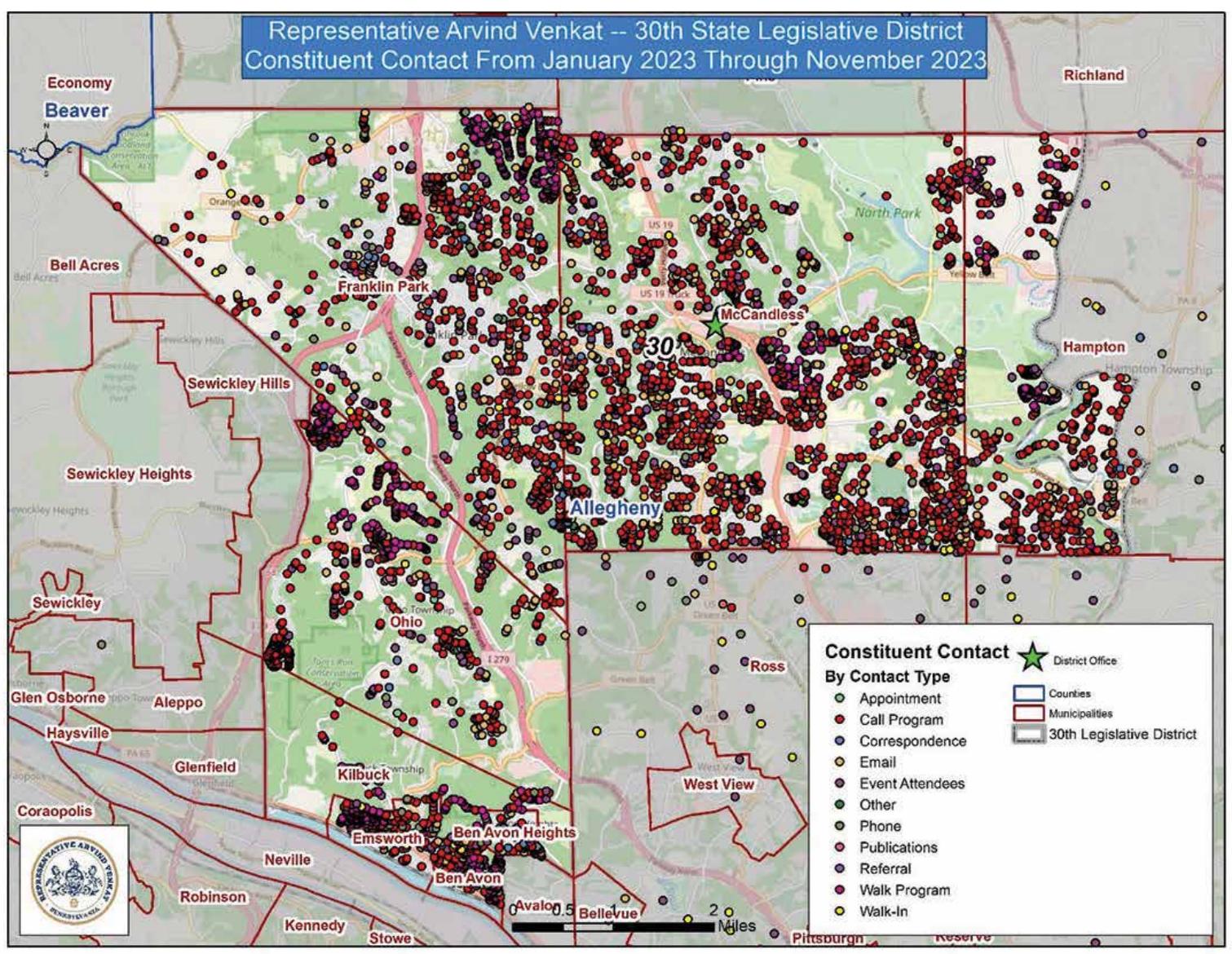
Rep. Arvind Venkat, MD  
30th Legislative District



Visit [www.pahouse.com/venkat/EmailSignup](http://www.pahouse.com/venkat/EmailSignup) or scan the QR code on the left to subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter to receive updates on my work as our state representative and learn more about what is happening in our community.

# 2023 Constituent Contact

This map represents all of the contacts my staff and I have made with residents of our community through our outreach and constituent services in 2023. We were happy to talk with and assist people from all corners of the 30th Legislative District!



I look forward to continuing my service and helping even more constituents in 2024. If you have any concerns, please contact me at [RepVenkat@PAHouse.net](mailto:RepVenkat@PAHouse.net) or 412-348-8028.

# Working for the Community



On Tuesday, Jan. 3, my family joined me in Harrisburg as I was sworn into office.



In January, I hosted the PA House Democratic Policy Committee's hearing at the McCandless Town Hall on the health care staffing crisis.



Later in January, I hosted an open house to welcome constituents to my district office, located at 9800B McKnight Road, Suite 130, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.



I hosted a town hall at the A.W. Beattie Career Center in April to discuss my work in our community and Harrisburg.



In June, I partnered with AAA to help constituents replace peeling and illegible license plates.



In August I hosted a shredding event in Franklin Park, and in September I partnered with state Sen. Lindsey Williams, D-Allegheny, to host another shredding event in McCandless. In total, we helped more than 390 constituents shred paper and provided valuable information on how to protect yourself from identity theft.



In celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, I hosted an open house in November with over 150 attendees to inform constituents about the state services available to them, as well as my work as their state representative. In partnership with North Hills Community Outreach, we collected 394 items for their food pantry!

# Working on legislation to benefit our community and Pennsylvania

As your state representative, I continue to work on legislation to benefit our community and Pennsylvania. Since January, the House of Representatives passed two bills I introduced: the Medical Debt Relief Act and H.B. 436, which would designate Diwali as a state holiday.

With Americans owing more than \$195 billion in medical debt as of 2019 and medical debt being the leading cause of bankruptcy in our county, it is time to address the issue so that thousands of Americans do not have to rely upon GoFundMe and similar sites to raise funds to pay for access to health care. Health care professionals have a responsibility to their patients. Similarly, legislators have a responsibility to constituents to make health care more accessible through legislation such as the Medical Debt Relief Act, also known as H.B. 78.

The Medical Debt Relief Act would establish the Medical Debt Relief Program within the Department of Health to discharge medical debt of eligible residents by contracting with a medical debt relief coordinator. It would also require hospitals to make patients aware of charity care programs and assist patients with applying for charity care when eligible.

The House also passed H.B. 436, which would designate the 15th day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Kartik as Diwali, a holiday commonly celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists. With Pennsylvania being home to nearly 200,000 South Asian residents and Diwali celebrated by more than 1 billion people worldwide, it is important that we recognize the diversity in the state.

After passing in the House, these bills now await consideration in the Senate.

I also introduced legislation which would:

- Protect children from sexual violence by preventing sexually violent predators from residing near schools and day care centers.

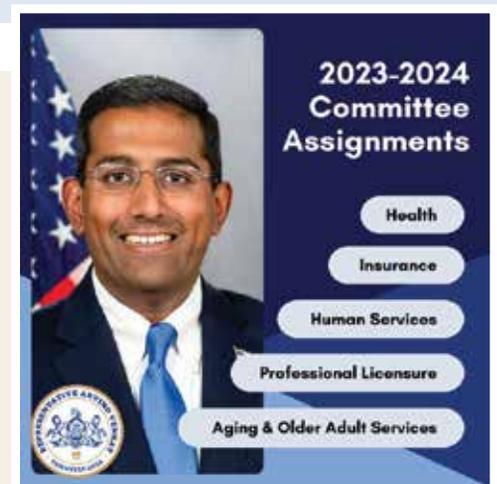
- Require the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council to review legislation mandating health insurance coverage prior to its consideration in the General Assembly.
- Authorize Pennsylvania to join the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.
- Regulate the usage of artificial intelligence in the health insurance claims process.
- Direct the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of Pennsylvania's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Create materials to educate Pennsylvanians about opioid overdoses, the dangers of fentanyl, and the opioid crisis.
- Mandate the Department of Health to create a food allergy awareness program, require restaurants to have staff educated on this program, and notify customers to make restaurants aware of those food allergies.
- Prohibit mandatory electronic credit card fees in the payments from insurers to health providers.
- Ban the enforcement of non-compete clauses in the contracts of health providers.
- Eliminate start-up fees for small businesses owned by veterans affected by their service, women, members of marginalized groups, and microenterprises, and reduce fees for all other small businesses.

These bills would enhance children's welfare, improve health care, prepare the state for future public health emergencies, and protect and enhance the health and well-being of our community and Pennsylvania.

If you have any legislative concerns, please email me at [RepVenkat@PAHouse.net](mailto:RepVenkat@PAHouse.net) so my staff and I may work to address the issue.

# Working to address issues in health care and more

As an emergency physician in the House of Representatives, I am continuously working in all areas of public policy that affect health care. In addition to the Health, Insurance, and Professional Licensure committees, I now also serve on the Human Services and Aging & Older Adult Services committees. I look forward to working with members of all five committees to advance legislation that improves access to health care in Pennsylvania.



# Learn more about the county and state services available

## Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program applications due Sunday, Dec. 31

Applications for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program close Sunday, Dec. 31. This year, Pennsylvanians 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older, and people with disabilities with an income of \$35,000 for homeowners or \$15,000 for renters may qualify for a rebate. Please apply online at [mypath.pa.gov](http://mypath.pa.gov) or call my district office at 412-348-8028 if you require assistance.

In 2024, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program will expand to:

- Increase the maximum income-eligibility limit from \$35,000 to \$45,000 for homeowners.
- Increase the maximum income-eligibility limit from \$15,000 to \$45,000 for renters.
- Automatically increase the income-eligibility limit to grow with inflation, beginning in the claim year 2024.
- Increase the maximum rebate from \$650 to \$1,000.

To check if you're eligible for PTRR in 2024, please call my district office at 412-348-8028.

## Apply for Pittsburgh Regional Transit's Senior ConnectCard

Allegheny County residents 65 or older qualify for Pittsburgh Regional Transit's Senior Citizen ConnectCard, which allows seniors to ride public transit vehicles for free across Pennsylvania. To apply or renew your Senior Citizen ConnectCard, please visit my district office at 9800B McKnight Rd., Suite 130, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

# Over \$5.33 million in grants secured to benefit the community

Since January, I have successfully advocated for over \$5.33 million in state funding for the 30th District.

Most recently, we received crucial funding for the following projects:

- **\$1,604,184** to the Town of McCandless from the Department of Transportation's Green Light-Go Program to update signal equipment at Peebles Road and McIntyre Square, Peebles Road and Duncan Avenue, Ingomar Road and Blazier Drive, Thompson Run Road and Red Coach Road, Perry Highway and 19 North Drive, and Peebles Road and Remington Drive.
  - **\$99,800** to Emsworth Borough from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Community Conservation Partnerships Program to revitalize Marmo Park.
- Other major investments include the following projects:
- **\$750,000** to the Northland Public Library from the Department of Education's Office of Commonwealth Libraries to install equipment and upgrade security systems.
  - **\$500,000** to Northland Public Library from the Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Local Share Account (LSA) to replace stairs and make the library's entrance compliant with the American with Disabilities Act.
  - **\$500,000** to Franklin Park Borough from DCED's LSA to provide for a public works garage.
  - **\$500,000** to the Town of McCandless from DCED's LSA to improve the McCandless Town Hall.
  - **\$451,483** to McCandless Township from PennDOT's Automated Red-Light Enforcement Program to upgrade signal equipment.
  - **\$300,000** to Ben Avon Borough from DCED's LSA to renovate the Ben Avon Borough Building.
  - **\$250,000** to Hampton Township from DCED's LSA to replace the Clearview Road Bridge.
  - **\$149,905** to Ben Avon Heights Borough to repair the lining in the sewer system.
  - **\$20,000** to the Ohio Township Police Department from DCED for new computers in police vehicles.

These investments will improve our community by enhancing safety, accessibility, infrastructure and more. I look forward to continuing my work in 2024 to secure state funding to support our community.





## REP. ARVIND VENKAT, MD

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### 30TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



lpo.ts.1223

## Upcoming event

Hosted by Representative  
**Arvind Venkat**

**TELEPHONE  
TOWN HALL**

Thursday, February 15 | 7 PM

My district office will contact you directly to invite you to the Telephone Town Hall.

Call my district office at 412-348-8028 to ensure we have your phone number on file.

## Areas where my staff can help:

- Finding and Recovering Unclaimed Funds
- Unemployment Compensation assistance
- Pittsburgh Regional Transit Senior Citizen ConnectCard applications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- Acquisition of State Tax Forms
- Questions regarding Medicaid, Food Stamps, LIHEAP, etc.
- Birth and Death Certificate applications
- Disability Plate and Placard Applications
- And any other state-related issue you may be having!

## Office hours

### McCandless

9800B McKnight Road, Suite 130, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Monday through Thursday

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Friday

### Emsworth

171 Center Ave., Emsworth, PA 15202

9 a.m. - noon | Second and fourth Monday of the month