

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARVIND VENKAT, MD

District Office:

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

Capitol Office:

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Harrisburg, PA 17120-2030
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RepVenkat.com | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) @RepVenkat



Hello neighbor,

As state representative for the 30th Legislative District, which includes McCandless, Franklin Park, Ohio Township, Kilbuck, Emsworth, Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, and western Hampton Township, I represent all 64,000 residents of our community in my work in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Currently, I serve on the House Aging & Older Adult Services; Health; Human Services; Insurance; and Professional Licensure committees which allows me to address issues across the delivery of health care.

Since taking office in 2023, I have worked to alleviate medical debt, protect access to reproductive health care, end non-compete covenants for health professionals, improve food allergy safety in restaurants, and so much more through legislation.

As importantly, my staff and I have focused on providing responsive constituent services and ensuring our communities receive state funds to improve the quality of life for all.

As always, please email me at RepVenkat@pahouse.net or call my office at (412) 348-8028 if you have any issues. My staff and I are available to assist you with state services.

Arvind Venkat

Rep. Arvind Venkat, MD
30th Legislative District



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

Grants Awarded to the 30th Legislative District

Since taking office, I have secured more than **\$8.1 million** for the communities of the 30th Legislative District, including **\$1.6 million in 2024**:

- » **\$300,000** to the McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority to purchase an ambulance.
- » **\$215,000** to the Franklin Park Borough to rehabilitate Acorn Park.
- » **\$168,139** to the Sisters of Divine Providence to install a walkway along Babcock Boulevard.
- » **\$165,000** to the Quaker Valley Council of Municipalities to repair Kilbuck Township's sanitary sewer.
- » **\$142,418** to the Town of McCandless to construct sidewalks and ramps along North Meadow Drive.
- » **\$139,801** to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to close the Toms Run and Tippery Meadows Well.
- » **\$98,931** to the Town of McCandless to construct the Parks Master Site Development Plan and Pine Creek Corridor Trail Feasibility Study.
- » **\$85,000** to the A.W. Beattie Career Center to purchase equipment to train students in its career and technical education programs.
- » **\$75,000** to the McCandless Swimming Club to repair leaks.
- » **\$50,000** to the McCandless Police Department for cameras to read license plates.
- » **\$22,000** to Ohio Township to install new restrooms and utility extensions.
- » **\$20,000** to La Roche University to combat food insecurity on campus.
- » **\$16,951.99** to the Peebles District Volunteer Fire Co. for facility repairs, equipment, training, and more.
- » **\$15,784.85** to the Highland Fireman's Association for facility repairs, equipment, training, and more.
- » **\$15,201.29** to the Emsworth Volunteer Fire Co. for facility repairs, equipment, training, and more.
- » **\$15,201.29** to the Ingomar Volunteer Fire Co. No. 2 for facility repairs, equipment, training, and more.
- » **\$15,000** to the McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority for facility repairs, equipment, training, and more.
- » **\$14,617.72** to the Ohio Township Volunteer Fire Co. for facility repairs, equipment, training, and more.
- » **\$14,034.16** to the Franklin Park Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 for facility repairs, equipment, training, and more.
- » **\$13,839.63** to the Hampton Township Volunteer Fire Department No. 1 for facility repairs, equipment, training, and more.



For more information on grant opportunities and how to apply, visit my website at <https://pahouse.com/venkat/News/?id=133639> or scan the QR code on the left.

Around the District



My wife Veena, son Ashok, and I attended the Muslim Association of Greater Pittsburgh's Interfaith Iftar dinner during Ramadan. I am proud to represent such a diverse community, including a robust Muslim population.



During Lent, it is great to have dinner at fish fries around the district. I enjoyed attending the one at St. Catherine of Sweden in Hampton Township, part of Sts. Martha and Mary Parish.



I spoke with nearly 50 residents of Summer Seat, located within Ohio Township, at a town hall to discuss the issues facing our community and the state services available to our seniors, including the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program and Prescription Assistance Program.



As an advocate for workers and businesses, I participated in the House Democratic Policy Committee's discussion with UFCW Local 1776 and Coffee Tree Roasters' workers and owners to discuss how unions are good for business.



I attended Avonworth School District eighth grade's Night at the Museum at the Heinz History Center. While there, I learned more about how so many western Pennsylvanians overcame adversity to build a more perfect union.



I toured Google's headquarters in Pittsburgh with the House Democratic Policy Committee for a hearing on artificial intelligence. This technology is revolutionary, but we must regulate it. That is why I introduced H.B. 1663, which would regulate health insurance companies' usage of AI.



On Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Veena and I went to La Roche University in McCandless to celebrate this American icon and learn more about how we may "hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope," as he eloquently said.



My wife Veena and I attended the Pittsburgh Area Telugu Alliance's celebration for Sankranti, a South Indian harvest festival. I am always proud to recognize and support the many cultures in the communities I represent.

Legislation I Introduced

Alleviating Medical Debt



More than 10% of Pennsylvanians have an average of \$1,473 in medical debt in collections, which prevents them from accessing health care and strains their finances. To address this issue, I've introduced the Medical Debt Relief Act to establish a state Medical Debt Relief Program (H.B. 78).

I introduced this bill because of a patient I treated early in my career as a practicing emergency physician. She delayed her breast cancer treatment due to existing medical debt. As a result, the cancer spread by the time I saw her, and she died. We can help people like her and so many more Pennsylvanians with investments in the Medical Debt Relief Program.

This legislation would establish the program within the PA Department of Health to discharge medical debt of eligible Pennsylvanians. It would also require hospitals to inform patients of their financial assistance programs and assist them with applying if they qualify. The legislation passed the House on a bipartisan basis in June 2023.

In February of this year, Gov. Josh Shapiro proposed appropriating \$4 million to alleviate up to \$400 million in medical debt in collections in Pennsylvania, modeling his proposal after my Medical Debt Relief Act.



Banning Non-Compete Covenants for Health Care Professionals

Non-compete agreements in the health care industry disrupt the continuity of care and limit patients' abilities to see the physicians they want. Originally used to protect business trade secrets, non-competes are increasingly used to prevent clinicians from practicing elsewhere in the region, causing many of our physicians and other health care professionals to

leave the state. This hurts both patients and health care providers.

State Rep. Dan Frankel of Allegheny County and I introduced H.B. 1633, which would ban non-compete clauses for health care professionals, improving patients' access to health care. This legislation passed the PA House on a bipartisan basis and now awaits consideration in the Senate.

Addressing Food Allergy Safety in Restaurants

I introduced H.B. 1869 after my constituent Kathy Briden of Franklin Park told me about her son Matthew who died after an accidental exposure to peanuts while eating at a restaurant. We began working together to introduce my bill, which would require restaurants and retail food facilities to prominently display written information on food allergies in their food preparation and service areas. It would also require statements on menus, asking customers to notify their servers about their food allergies. This legislation would allow us to protect millions of Pennsylvanians with food allergies and potentially save lives such as Matthew's.



Designating Diwali as a State Holiday

More than 1 billion people – including my family and so many other South Asian residents in the 30th Legislative District – celebrate Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights. This holiday, which Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs celebrate, recognizes the victory of light over darkness, marking a bright future for us all. I introduced H.B. 436, which would recognize the 15th day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Kartik as Diwali. The legislation passed the House by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 200-1. It now awaits a vote in the Senate.



Continuing to Work for Pennsylvanians

I have also introduced the following bills that would:

- » Prohibit sexually violent predators from residing within 2,500 feet of a day care center or public, private, or parochial school.
H.B. 77 – referred to the House Judiciary Committee.
- » Require the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council to review legislation on health insurance coverage and make recommendations.
H.B. 1116 – referred to the House Insurance Committee.
- » Authorize Pennsylvania to join the Audiology & Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact.
H.B. 1235 – referred to House Professional Licensure Committee.
- » Require health insurance companies to disclose their use of artificial intelligence and ensure they follow existing laws protecting against discrimination in insurance decisions.
H.B. 1663 – referred to the House Insurance Committee.
- » Require health insurance companies to provide multiple payment methods to health care providers and disclose the fees charged with each method of payment.
H.B. 1867 – referred to the House Insurance Committee.

Learn more about the services available to you!

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

I was proud to vote in favor of expanding eligibility for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. This year, Pennsylvanians 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older, and people with disabilities with an income of \$45,000 for homeowners and renters may qualify for a rebate.

In 2024, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program expanded 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 in McCandless or the Emsworth Borough Building from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

Recently, we tripled the state's Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit – matching it to the federal tax credit – and putting more money back in their pockets to pay for child care, one of the biggest financial burdens on working families. This tax credit will ease the financial burden for working families that rely upon child care in order to work, helping more than 17,000 of families in Allegheny County.

Claim this tax credit when filing state taxes! If eligible, claimants will receive the money after filing their taxes as part of their tax refund.

	Income Under \$43,000	Income Above \$43,000
Maximum Tax Credit for 1 Eligible Dependent	\$1,050	\$600
Maximum Tax Credit for 2 or More Eligible Dependents	\$2,100	\$1,200



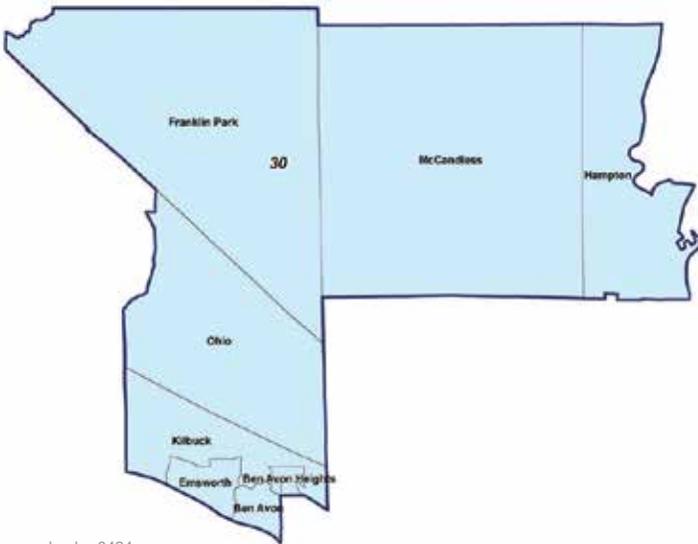
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30TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



lpo.kw.0424

Upcoming event

PAPER SHRED **SATURDAY**
MAY 4TH
PAPER ONLY

10AM-11:30AM
MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU
Franklin Park Municipal Building
2344 W. Ingomar Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237

- Shred documents, as well as learn more about protections against identity theft.
- Two box limit

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call (412) 348-8028

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 Mondays of the month