



REPRESENTATIVE RYAN BIZZARRO'S

# =3 /= REPORT

NEWS FROM HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY CHAIRMAN RYAN BIZZARRO

#### **WORKING FOR YOU**

My first job was working at a family-owned local business. It's one of the places where I learned firsthand about the struggles and needs of working people and working families. We might not have everything we want, but we have each other.

It's why I continue to fight for working people, and it's why House Democrats put them first and foremost by passing 226 bills last year, including numerous reforms to save taxpayers money. My team helped secure \$52.7 million in funding to bolster our region's schools, clean water supply, roads and more. My team provided 21,520 services last year for people – spread across 61 of PA's 67 counites – helping anyone regardless of party affiliation or ZIP code.

So when Harrisburg critics & so-called Philadelphia big shots go after me, ask yourself why?

I make dark money groups angry because I stand in support of fairly funding our schools, and some very rich & powerful people do not want that to happen. Private for-profit schools and their backers are coming after Millcreek and Fairview School Districts – and I am standing in their way.

These people are trying to funnel as many dollars out of our high-performing public schools to make a profit on the back of taxpayers. It's a vendetta against people like me who stand in

their way, but I don't represent them—I represent you.

I'm sorry out-of-town critics keep bombarding Erie County residents with lies. Please know, I will always stand up for working people and our schools, and I'll never back down from a fight against special interests or their dark money.





#### Bizzarro announces \$23.9M for water upgrades

Low-interest loans to remove lead pipes

#### **\$50K HEADED TO MCDOWELL MANUFACTURING**

State supports student-run enterprise

#### **HOUSE PASSES 226 BILLS**

Democratic majority delivers for working people



#### **HOUSE MAJORITY POLICY WINS**

The Policy Committee hosted 53 events across the state in 2023. As the committee chairman and a member of the House Democratic Leadership team, I am always looking to increase our number of events.

The committee experienced multiple wins this year, turning your ideas and feedback into legislation and eventually, law. I talked to people and experts while shining a spotlight on issues to improve lives across PA. I'm proud to say the House passed legislation to help on so many issues, but unfortunately the Senate GOP continues to drag its feet. I will persist in highlighting why change in PA is needed.



#### **SPENDING UPDATE**

House Democrats reached a compromise with Senate Republicans in December to finalize spending on key issues that included:

- No new taxes
- Record school funding
- Tripled child/dependent care tax credit
- Extend 911 center funding
- Invest in school building projects
- Fix the teacher shortage, including student teacher stipends

#### **BRINGING YOUR TAX DOLLARS BACK TO ERIE**

In 2023, my team helped secure \$52.7 million in funding for projects in the Erie region. A few of the highlights included:

- > \$23.9 million in low-interest loans to upgrade Erie water, including removing hazardous lead pipes.
- ▶ \$1.97 million in grants for water/sewer upgrades, including \$500,000 for Millcreek Township thanks to President Biden's federal funding.
- > \$94,161 for Erie historical organizations, helping to keep our community's collections unique and open to the public.
- ▶ \$50,000 grant for McDowell Manufacturing, a student-run enterprise training students for tomorrow's workforce.

#### **IMPROVING ERIE SAFETY**

- ▶ **\$4.45 million** in grants to support road & pedestrian improvements, community violence prevention programs and school safety.
- ▶ \$833,585 in grants in recent months for local emergency vehicles, police recruitment, training & equipment.
- > \$310,000 to bolster drug and alcohol recovery hub in region.

#### **HOUSE PASSES 226 BILLS**

I recently joked, 2023 has been organized chaos. Democrats won the majority for the first time in 12 years. We switched Speakers, and in spite of holding the slimmest majority, 102-101, we still passed 226 bills in record time! Change can be difficult, but



#### ▶ HB 126 – First-time homebuyers' savings account

► HB 127 – Waive license fee for youth experiencing homelessness to help children enroll in schools, receive care

**BILLS PASSED, SPONSORED & INTRODUCED** 

- HB 130 Permit EMS providers to administer care in patients' homes
- ▶ HB 134 Provide advocate for drivers with disabilities on PennDOT's advisory board
- ► HB 1318, HB 1319, HB 1320 Package of bills to help end needless animal cruelty in unneeded testing
- ► HB 1335 Ensure seniors are provided information on in-home care before committing to institutional care
- ► HB 1466 Free Speech Protection Anti-SLAPP





#### **DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

It sickens me to know some state officials continue to peddle baseless election denial claims and challenge the very foundation of democracy. If our country – particularly elected officials – cannot support the idea of one person, one vote, we have failed somehow as a democracy. I can understand if people are disappointed after an election, but to claim nonexistent voter fraud is a step to the extreme.

Elections have consequences, and so do riots. I am ashamed at fellow PA politicians who continue to push baseless claims, all the while downplaying the January 6th riot that

resulted in four deaths and the assault of 140 members of law enforcement. I have a series of bills to improve election security, in order to make sure these type of baseless lies are never repeated. The package includes a bill that would only allow a constitutional amendment to pass with two-thirds majority, ending the recent foray of legislating by constitutional amendment. I also targeted campaign reform to demand politicians clean up their signs after their election – HB 131– as well as same-day voter registration – HB 128 – to bring greater security to PA's elections.









#### **GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR**

I want to thank the Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association for naming me the Government Official of the Year for 2022-23!

Tourism and recreation is an important aspect of our state's & region's economy, and with roughly 6,000 miles of trails, snowmobiling has more than a \$65 million economic impact on communities across our commonwealth. I'm always happy to help secure resources to ensure these trails are safe and fun for riders all season.

# Resident Unit

#### MY TEAM IS HERE TO HELP

As state representative, one of my most important jobs is helping you get the most out of state government. Here is how we can help:

- ▶ Unemployment compensation.
- ► FREE notary (excludes title transfers).
- Property tax/rent rebates for seniors.
- Voter registration and vote by mail applications.
- ► Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance).
- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- ▶ Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems.
- ► Information on financial assistance for higher education.

- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
- ▶ Birth and death certificates.
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission.
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies.
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications.
- Problems or questions about the state lottery.
- ▶ PACE cards for senior citizens.
- Consumer complaints.



HOSTED BY REP. RYAN BIZZARRO & MILLCREEK TWP

Thursday, February 29 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Millcreek Township Building Assembly Room 3608 West 26th Street





#### Property Tax / Rent Rebate 2024 Program Expansion

MORE people eligible, MORE money back!

Homeowner Income Up to \$8K	Rebate \$1,000	Renter Income Up to \$8K	Rebat
Up to \$15K	\$770	Up to \$15K	\$770
Up to \$18K	\$460	Up to \$18K	\$460
Up to \$35K	\$380	Up to \$45K	\$380
Up to \$45K	\$380		1.2

Questions? Contact my office for help receiving your refund by calling (814) 835-2880 or emailing RepBizzarro@pahouse.net



## PROTECTING FREE SPEECH

The House finally passed my bill that would help protect people from meritless lawsuits and preserve free speech. House Bill 1466 addresses nuisance lawsuits filed against a person or organization for statements made or positions taken in connection with a matter of public interest or regulation. These lawsuits, known as Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, or SLAPPs, are used to silence or deter critics with mounting legal expenses.

My bill would create a process to quickly dismiss SLAPP lawsuits based upon protected speech through a motion to dismiss



# **HELPING YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

Through no fault of their own, thousands of children will experience homelessness this school year, and many are caught up in bureaucratic red tape despite wanting to improve their lives. I have a bill that would help address

this issue by removing costs associated with acquiring a driver's license for homeless youth, allowing them to transfer schools, get access to food and housing assistance, and attend doctor visits.





#### **ORGAN DONATION REGISTRATION**

PA has always supported organ donation, and there is no more selfless act than to register as an organ donor. People make that determination when obtaining or renewing a driver's license, but an increasing shift to online services has meant fewer opportunities for registration. That's why several of my colleagues and I are introducing a package of bills to increase opportunities for organ donation registration. Our legislation would provide people the option to register for organ donation on tax returns, game and fishing licenses, and more.



P.O. BOX 202003 HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2003

lpo.tb.0124

# **OFFICE INFO**

#### **FAIRVIEW OFFICE**

Fairview Township Building

7471 McCray Road Fairview, PA 16415-2401 (814) 835-2880 Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### HARRISBURG OFFICE

116 Main Capitol Building

P O Box 202003 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2003 (717) 772-2297 Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Peninsula Plaza

1101 Peninsula Drive, Suite 213 Erie, PA 16505-4169 (814) 835-2880 Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

My team is ready to help you! Find us at three locations or reach out online at RepBizzarro@pahouse.net.

