



Frank Burns

State Representative

72nd Legislative District

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Burns: Child sexual abuse victims deserve to be heard

Burns remains committed to supporting crime victims

Known for his efforts in supporting statute of limitations reform for victims of child sex abuse, Rep. Frank Burns successfully negotiated legislation to help child sexual abuse victims seek justice.

Burns' efforts implemented one of the key recommendations from last year's statewide grand jury report -- making sure abuse victims know they are not signing away their rights to talk with police should they sign a nondisclosure agreement.

He worked with his Republican colleague to add this crucial measure into legislation.

"My amendment added a key component that takes the bill a step further to ensure all child sex abuse victims know their rights," Burns said.

"I was extremely disturbed by last year's grand jury report on child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, notably a 'playbook for concealing the truth' used by the church.

No victim of sexual abuse - especially a child - should be barred from talking with police about the abuse that was inflicted upon them." - Rep. Frank Burns

Burns resolution designates 'National Police Week' in Pa.

'Peace Officers Memorial Day' also highlighted

"Law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe deserve our appreciation and respect," Burns said. "I strongly believe that most law-abiding citizens respect police officers and the job they do protecting people while safeguarding law and order."



Lawsuit filed against pharmaceutical company for role in opioid crisis

Move falls in line with Burns 2017 request to hold Big Pharma accountable

Rep. Frank Burns is applauding the state attorney general's decision to sue the maker of OxyContin for contributing to the opioid crisis plaguing Pennsylvania.

Burns, D-Cambria, commended Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a former Democratic House colleague, for filing the suit against Purdue Pharma for its overzealous marketing of the drug, which included a mind-boggling 531,000 visits to physicians' offices and pharmacies.

"My good friend Josh Shapiro has taken this company to court, alleging a multi-pronged, illegal effort to market OxyContin, an addictive opioid that doctors overprescribed and, in some cases, illegally prescribed to patients," Burns said. "This lawsuit is exactly the type of action I had in mind when I wrote letters to Mr. Shapiro and Governor Tom Wolf, asking them to take action against the makers and peddlers of prescription opioids."

Burns said he recognized early on that pharmaceutical companies were lining their pockets and putting profits ahead of the addiction and deaths of thousands of Pennsylvanians each year. He added

Burns proposes law to require people who overdose to get addiction treatment

Rep. Frank Burns' legislation would require those who experience a drug overdose event to seek addiction treatment within 30 days.

"On the one hand, we need to have accountability and responsibility on the part of those who overdose. Repeatedly reviving them with naloxone without solving their underlying problem is insane," Burns said. "On the other hand, taxpayers who had nothing to do with causing this epidemic shouldn't be asked to foot the bill for treatment. Payment should come from those who profited by promoting the problem."

Burns said that settlement from the Attorney General's lawsuit could provide the funds for treatment and prevention.

"While I support the good intention of the Drug Overdose Good Samaritan Law, we have learned from first

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February 13, 2017

Josh Shapiro, Attorney General
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
16th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies for promoting opioid crisis

Dear Attorney General Shapiro:

As we all know, Pennsylvania is facing a widespread opioid drug epidemic. Families are losing their loved ones to this dangerous and often-fatal drug – and we as a Commonwealth need to explore all avenues at our disposal to solve this problem and hold all perpetrators accountable.

I urge you to file a lawsuit against any and all pharmaceutical companies responsible for this crisis because of their negligence in informing consumers of the dangers of these types of drugs and their ruthless promotion of their use. "Big Pharma" is lining its pockets and the wallets of doctors who prescribe these medications, while the number of people addicted and affected in the Commonwealth continues to rise.

that **Shapiro's lawsuit accuses Purdue Pharma of targeting vulnerable populations, including the elderly and veterans, which is unconscionable.**

"Hearing that makes my blood boil – and makes me glad that Mr. Shapiro is going to make this drug company justify their tactics in court," Burns said. "Targeting seniors and veterans, in order to take advantage of them, is about as low as you can go."

"Families have suffered the devastation of opioids long enough. It's time these pharmaceutical companies are held responsible, and I hope there is much more to come from Mr. Shapiro on this matter."



responders that they have been repeatedly called to the same location for the same individual experiencing a drug overdose," Burns said. "It is imperative that we enact legislation to ensure that individuals suffering from drug addiction receive treatment. As such, this proposal will require, as a condition of immunity, that persons who have experienced drug overdose events participate in treatment within 30 days."



Fire and ambulance companies to share \$287,987 in state grants.

Rep. Frank Burns was pleased to announce these grants from the annual program, which he has steadfastly supported since taking office in 2009.

“Fire departments and EMS providers perform vital services in our communities. It’s hard and dangerous work, as I found out firsthand when suiting up for a Cambria County Fire School training session.”

The grants are listed below by department:

- Ashville Fire Company – \$14,811
- Cambria Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,326
- Carrolltown Fire Company – \$11,842
- Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly – \$13,656
- Cresson Area Ambulance Service Inc. – \$7,155
- Cresson Volunteer Fire Company – \$14,646
- Dauntless Fire Company – \$14,811
- East Taylor Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,326
- Ebensburg Area Ambulance Association – \$7,155
- Gallitzin Fire Company No. 1 – \$13,162
- Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$14,811
- Jackson Township (EMS) – \$7,155
- John Carroll Area Ambulance Service – \$7,155
- Loretto Fire Company – \$12,667
- Middle Taylor Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$14,811
- Patton Area Ambulance Association Inc. – \$7,155
- Patton Fire Company No.1 – \$14,811
- Portage Area Ambulance Association – \$7,155
- Portage Volunteer Fire Company – \$37,811
- Reade Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$11,512
- Summerhill Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$12,997
- Upper Yoder Volunteer Fire Company – \$12,502
- Upper Yoder (EMS) – \$3,575

Burns hosts state fire commissioner

Hearing the frustrations of firefighters and emergency responders, Rep. Frank Burns brought state fire commissioner Bruce Trego to Cambria County so he could hear directly from them about the challenges they face.



Burns co-sponsors bill to name area bridge in honor of killed corrections officer

It was early last year when Corrections Officer Mark Baserman was brutally attacked by an inmate, leading to his death.

At the time, he was honored with a House resolution. Now, there are plans to memorialize him by naming the bridge on U.S. 219 over Walters Mill Road, near SCI-Somerset where he worked.

“While we cannot bring him back, we can offer this permanent tribute to Sgt. Baserman in recognition of his life of service to the state,” Burns said.

As chairman of the Blue Lives Matter Caucus, Rep. Burns led the charge to make sure inmates’ heavy-soled work boots, which were used in Baserman’s attack, were banned from the state prison system.





It's time PA stops welfare fraud

"I'm not afraid to stand up and be counted as someone who agrees 100% with cracking down on welfare fraud. When 178 people are scamming the system for nearly \$900,000 - something is wrong."

- Rep. Frank Burns

Charges were filed recently against 178 people between January and March for welfare fraud in excess of \$886,000. This is why Rep. Frank Burns has been authoring legislation to crack down on abuse of the system.

"Enough is enough. The system is broken and it's time the legislature stops ignoring the problem and takes action. It's a slap in the face to the people who truly need assistance and to the hardworking Pennsylvania taxpayers," Burns said.

Welfare to work

Burns is supporting legislation to create a pilot program to move welfare recipients to full-time jobs within one year. The "welfare to work" bill is designed to wean welfare recipients off the system, by letting them continue to collect benefits while gradually phasing in pay for their full-time work.

"People who can work should be working, not living off the system, and the vast majority of people in my district feel the same way."

WELFARE REFORMS

Burns has sponsored several initiatives that would prevent welfare fraud:

- Require drug testing for individuals to receive public assistance.
- Add photos to welfare benefits cards so benefits can't be sold or cards used by another person.

To report suspected fraud, call the Welfare Fraud Tipline at 1-800-932-0582 or visit the OSIG website at www.osig.pa.gov. Tipsters may remain anonymous.



It's up to us to take back our neighborhoods.

REMINDER: Push Out the Pusher signs are available in my office. The reward for turning in drug dealers is up to \$8,000.

Burns calls for stiffer penalties for motorists who flee police

Seeking to tamp down the number of incidents where people are killed or injured by motorists fleeing from police, state Rep.

Frank Burns is introducing legislation that would significantly raise the penalties for fleeing an officer.

Under the bill, fleeing a police officer by motor vehicle would increase in severity from a second-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony, and create a new first-degree felony offense for seriously injuring or killing an officer while fleeing.

Additionally, because not all suspects flee by vehicle, the bill would expand the offense of resisting arrest to include fleeing or eluding an officer no matter the mode of transportation and make it a felony of the first degree if doing so causes serious injury or death to the officer.

"Unfortunately, we live in a society where too many people think one way to avoid the law is to try to outrun the police," Burns said. "But when they go that route, they are putting other people's lives at risk."

