



DAN DEASY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN, HOUSE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMITTEE

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DEASY DELIVERS TO THE DISTRICT

\$32 MILLION BROUGHT TO DISTRICT IN LAST 5 YEARS

Local municipalities and non-profit organizations face many financial challenges in addressing the needs of their communities. I commend those who apply for state and/or foundation funding to help address those challenges. I am honored to advocate along with Sen. Wayne Fontana to try and help secure state funding. Due to limited resources, not all applications are approved, but I will always do my best to try and assist. There are a variety of funding programs. Grant books are available at my office, or you can visit the Department of Community and Economic Development's website at www.dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/ for information.

SOME RECENT PROJECTS FUNDED

\$1 million – Jasmine Nyree Campus

Christy Porter and her husband, former Steeler Joey Porter, established the center in Sheraden with significant personal investment. This grant will help create a community center and start the process for affordable housing.



I was honored to attend the prayer breakfast for Black History Month at the Jasmine Nyree Campus with founders Christy & Joey Porter.

\$2.7 million - McKees Rocks

I commend and thank McKees Rocks' former Mayor Jack Muhr for his more than 40 years of service to the borough. I am grateful for the tremendous partnership with Sen. Wayne Fontana and Mayor Muhr, which led to millions of dollars in investment into the borough since I was first elected. In just the last two years, \$1.3 million was secured for a blight rehab project and \$1.4 million to extend Intermodal Way, which will divert tractor-trailer truck traffic off Chartiers Avenue and out of the main business district.



Sen. Fontana and I presented Mayor Muhr with a legislative citation.

\$500,000 – Blight Remediation Projects

\$200K will be administered by the Char-West COG to demolish twelve blighted properties and \$300,000 to McKees Rocks to renovate ten properties into affordable housing.

\$650,000 – Crafton Borough

Crafton received \$200K for a new Public Works storage garage, \$200K to replace community steps, and \$250K for much-needed community pool improvements.

LEGISLATION I AM BACKING

'IT'S ON US' PACKAGE

A package of bills has been introduced that aims to strengthen protections for students and combat sexual assault on college campuses. These four bills, which I am cosponsoring, build on Gov. Tom Wolf's 'It's on Us PA' initiative and would help keep students safe.

- **HB 1489** – would create a 'yes means yes' law that requires all postsecondary institutions to have policies with clear standards of what is and is not consent.
- **HB 1699** – would require schools to inform victims of on-campus crimes of their rights and available services and to provide protective accommodations or protective measures if requested by the victim.
- **HB 1490** – would require the Pennsylvania Department of Education to use the materials and resources available to them to assist schools with educating 7-12 grade students on how to identify and prevent dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking.
- **HR 108** – would direct the Joint State Government Commission to study sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking in grades 6-12 and postsecondary institutions.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Food and beverage containers made from Styrofoam are non-biodegradable. Billions of Styrofoam cups and containers are thrown away every year in America. When Styrofoam is left outside in the sun, wind and rain, it typically disintegrates into microscopic particles which eventually migrate to our waterways, poisoning aquatic wildlife that mistakes the small particles for food.

I am supporting legislation that would prohibit food establishments from using these products as temporary packaging for prepared foods. It would not prohibit the use of polystyrene for retail food products such as meat trays or egg cartons because it is not intended to eliminate functionally necessary packaging materials, but those that are used simply for convenience.



This prohibition is intended to reduce the amount of this harmful material, while encouraging the use of alternatives, such as paper or fiber containers that are more naturally biodegradable.

ADDRESSING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

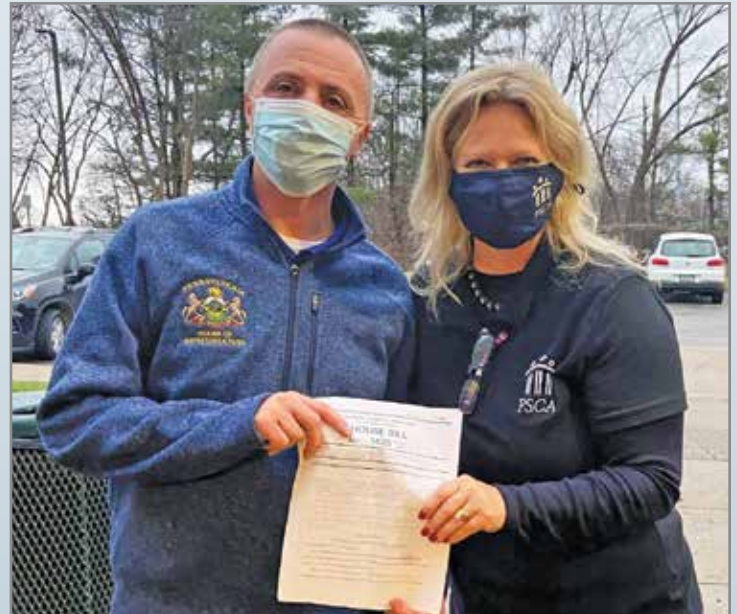
COVID-19 IMPACT ON OUR YOUTH

The impacts of COVID-19 have left a profound effect on our youth and, I believe, we will be seeing that impact for many years to come.

Over the last two years, our nation's school-aged children have had to deal with the lock-down, isolation from extended family and friends, adjusting to wearing masks, and transitioning to online/remote learning. The educational and social impact is immeasurable.

While resources have been made available to help school districts adjust to these challenges, we have not begun to address the mental health impact on students. If we don't address these matters now, children who have been mentally and emotionally impacted by this pandemic will have a harder time meeting their full academic potential.

I met with my constituent Colleen Tortorella, a school counselor at Gateway School District, to discuss HB 1825. I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation, which aims to increase student success with more school counselor support.



In addition, I recently asked President Biden to look at creating a mechanism for states to assist school districts with resources to hire more school counselors to help support and address some of the needs of our students. The National School Counseling Association recommends a 250-to-1 ratio for students to counselors. Nationally, based on 2019-2020 data, the average is 424-to-1, and in Pennsylvania, we are averaging 360-to-1. This is not acceptable, and we need to find a way to do better.

LIQUOR COMMITTEE UPDATE

PANDEMIC RELIEF EFFORTS FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY AND THE RUSHED DEBATE OVER PRIVATIZATION



As Democratic Chairman of the House Liquor Control Committee, I have continued to support efforts to provide relief for the hospitality industry as the pandemic continues. One such

bill was HB 425, which was signed into law in November as Act 81 of 2021. This omnibus bill includes several key pieces to help the restaurant industry recover and included language from my HB 452, which would allow restaurants and bars to continue to have flexibility with their outdoor seating. Other provisions would remove some restrictions on off-premises catering permits and allow restaurants and other liquor establishments an additional year of safekeeping. I was happy to stand with others to support this relief package for the restaurant industry.

As we entered 2022, the bipartisan cooperation dwindled as January brought with it a hasty, last-minute public hearing on HB 4772.



I had the opportunity to meet with some of the hard-working PA Wine & Spirits employees. The state store system brings in more than \$800 million in state revenue annually.

This legislation proposes a constitutional amendment to privatize the wholesale and retail sales of liquor in the Commonwealth. While the proposal divests of the sale of wine and spirits, it provides no answers as to how to address the nearly 5,000 family-sustaining jobs lost nor how to recoup the more than \$813 million which was returned to the General Fund, state and local government, and others in the fiscal year 2020-21 alone. While the debate to privatize the system is not a new one, the idea of doing so without a roadmap forward is irresponsible and reckless at best.

NEW LAWS I SUPPORTED

A LIFELINE FOR DRUG REHAB PATIENTS AT RISK

When a drug rehab patient leaves an inpatient treatment facility against medical advice, their loved ones may have just a narrow window of opportunity to intervene and try to get them safe. Until recently, facilities were not required to notify a designated emergency contact when a patient left against medical advice. By the time the loved one learned of their departure, that critical window had often closed, resulting in overdose deaths, patient victimization and other tragic outcomes. To change that dynamic, I supported legislation requiring rehab facilities to notify a designated emergency contact when the patient leaves against medical advice. The law requires facilities to act immediately (and at the very latest, no more than 12 hours after a patient's departure).

The new law does not affect patient confidentiality, and it contains exceptions for cases where a patient previously revoked consent to notify their emergency contact or where the facility knew or had reason to know about domestic violence allegations against the emergency contact. Requiring rehab facilities to notify an emergency contact when a patient leaves against medical advice might not guarantee a successful outcome, but it does give their loved ones a window of opportunity to intervene.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT LAW

A new law I supported will expand much-needed assistance for Pennsylvania caregivers. Act 20 of 2021 updates the Family Caregiver Support Act to provide greater resources and protections for those who care for older adults, grandparents raising grandchildren, and caregivers of adults living with a disability. Among other things, the new law removes maximum reimbursement rates for out-of-pocket expenses, home modifications and assistive device costs, which should allow more unpaid caregivers to receive higher reimbursements.

Caregivers will also benefit from improved support and services, including better access to respite services, care management, benefits counseling and caregiver education and training. Pennsylvanians of any age who care for someone with Alzheimer's Disease or other dementias are also eligible under the expanded program. The demands of caregiving – even when they involve a loved one – can be physically exhausting and mentally draining. The new law should help lighten the load a bit for thousands of these selfless Pennsylvanians.

LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is accepting applications for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). This is a new, temporary, assistance program that was created by the American Rescue Plan Act. Pennsylvania received approximately \$43.2 million to help families who have overdue water bills or risk of losing drinking or wastewater service for their home.



To be eligible:

- You must have an overdue water bill that you are responsible for paying.
- Your water provider must participate in LIHWAP.
- Your household income must meet the following income guidelines. (see chart on right.)

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$19,320
2	\$28,130
3	\$32,940
4	\$39,750
5	\$48,560
6	\$53,370
7	\$60,180
8	\$66,990
9	\$73,800
10	\$80,610
Income Limits for both LIHWAP and LIHEAP	

LIHWAP crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency and are in jeopardy of losing your water service. You can receive one crisis grant for your drinking water service and one crisis grant for your wastewater service. Crisis situations include past-due water bills, termination of utility service, and danger of having utility service terminated.

Applications can be completed online at www.compass.state.pa.us. Paper applications can also be downloaded at www.dhs.pa.gov or requested by calling my office at 412-928-9514.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is accepting applications for this season's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The program helps low-income families pay their heating bills. You can apply and check the status of your application on the state's COMPASS website (www.compass.state.pa.us). You can also pick up an application in my district office or download one yourself from the DHS LIHEAP website. Completed paper applications should be returned to the Allegheny County Assistance Office, located at 5947 Penn Avenue, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206.

Funding for LIHEAP is provided by the federal government and eligibility is based on the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Your household income must meet the income guidelines. (see chart on right.)

After your application is received, you will receive a written notice explaining your eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive. Payments are generally sent directly to a utility company or fuel provider and will be credited to your heating account. Crisis grants may also be available if you have an emergency and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. For more information, please contact the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095 or 412-562-0330. Individuals with hearing impairments can call 711.

DEASY PROUDLY SUPPORTED EXPANSION OF STATE PACE/PACENET PROGRAM

PACE and PACENET are expanding to help 100,000 more older Pennsylvanians.

Find out if you're eligible to get help covering your medication costs!



PACE Hotline 800-225-7223
Or call my office at (421) 928-9514.

PENNSYLVANIA HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE FUND

The new Pennsylvania Homeowners Assistance Fund (PAHAF) is now accepting applications from eligible homeowners. This program, funded through an award of more than \$350 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds, provides aid to homeowners who are facing unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic-related financial hardships. The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). The purpose of the program is to prevent and/or ease mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, displacement and utility disconnection. The PAHAF program will prioritize individuals and families with the greatest need, as well as those who are socially disadvantaged.



To determine eligibility, homeowners can visit PHFA's website at <https://phfa.org>, call Action Housing at 412-281-2102 or visit the Housing Stabilization Center. Center coordinator Kenya Audain gave me a tour of their facilities. We discussed programs and services available to those facing potential homelessness due to eviction or foreclosure.

DEASY AROUND THE DISTRICT



I joined my colleagues in Harrisburg in saying goodbye to our friend and colleague, newly elected Mayor Ed Gainey. Beyond excited to continue to work with him in his new role leading the City of Pittsburgh.



I recently toured Ace Wire Spring & Form Co., in McKees Rocks, with the House Manufacturing Caucus. This family-owned business is an industry leader in manufacturing custom precision springs and wire forms.

I met with Blair Cress, owner of Big Daddy's Donuts, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses and opportunities moving forward for low-interest loans.



I joined Thornburg Borough officials at a recent meeting to talk about their comprehensive plan.



I attended a tremendous event honoring veterans at the VFW in McKees Rocks. Nice to see my friend and fellow Bishop Canevin grad, Chris Deluzio, an Iraq War veteran. Thank you to all our veterans for your service.



I presented a citation to Tyler Hartlep from Banksville in recognition of the completion of his Eagle Scout Award.



I met with Johnny Lee, owner of Coach's Bottleshop & Grille, to discuss liquor-related issues and what opportunities are available to license holders during difficult times.



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Keeping Up with Dan Deasy!

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SAVE THE DATES

Rep. Deasy & Sen. Fontana's

**FREE SHREDDING &
 MEDICATION TAKE BACK**

Saturday, April 23 - Crafton Park

Saturday, May 14 - Green Tree Park

Events are 8am - 11am or until trucks are full.

VETERAN HELP

The PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has a website to help connect Pennsylvania's veterans, their beneficiaries, and advocates with resources available to them. The PA VETConnect website details available benefits, employment, financial assistance, mental wellness, substance use, post-traumatic stress, and more. To learn more about PA VETConnect, visit www.dmva.pa.gov/VETConnect. You can also call the Allegheny County Veteran's Affairs office at 412-621-4357 for more information.

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
 - Information on financial assistance for higher education
 - Unemployment compensation problems
 - Birth certificate applications
 - Pennsylvania income tax problems
 - Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, welfare)
 - Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
 - Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
 - Consumer complaints
 - Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
 - Complaints about state road conditions
 - Problems or questions about PennDOT
 - Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
 - Disability plates and placards
 - PACE cards for senior citizens
 - Complaints and problems with insurance companies
 - Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
 - Problems or questions about the state lottery
 - Local government officials' problems with state agencies
- Any problem with your state government!***