



State Representative KYLE J. MULLINS

Proudly Representing the 112th Legislative District

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DEDICATED TO LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy, doing well, and looking forward to Spring like we are in my family. I believe it's important to send these periodic updates to keep you informed of my work on your behalf, both here at home and at the State Capitol in Harrisburg. Of equal importance, it's an

opportunity to let you know how my office can try to assist you. I'm delighted when a constituent thinks to contact us and we're able to help. However, for every one of you who contacts us, I'm sure there are many more who just don't know all the ways we can help; so I'm always driven to reach more of you with these communications.

We've made great progress in recent months, bringing your tax dollars back home to fund projects to improve the quality of life and promote job growth in our area. I, along with my Democratic colleagues, fought against bad ideas in Harrisburg like partisan threats to our democracy and voting rights; and I've proudly worked toward compromise that will deliver significant support for our heroic healthcare workers.

I'm also proud of the "wins" that don't necessarily make the news, but rather, can make a constituent's day. If you've ever called or stopped by my office, then you know how much my constituent services team cares and how lucky I am to have them by my side. From unemployment compensation issues to your rent rebate check, we know how important it is to get answers and results from your state government. So, we take these things personally too and always do everything we can to help.

So, please give us a call to set up an appointment to stop in for assistance or follow me on social media for updates. The best way to get a hold of us is by phone at 570-383-9795, by e-mail at RepMullins@pahouse.net, or via social media which you can access at www.RepKyleMullins.com.

Serving you is the honor of a lifetime, and I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to check in.

In service,

State Rep. Kyle J. Mullins



BRINGING YOUR TAX DOLLARS BACK HOME

Since 2020, over \$27 million in funding for important public safety, community development, and quality of life initiatives was secured for our district such as:

- Senior Centers and Programming in Dunmore, Jessup, Scranton, and Throop Senior Centers: \$25,000.
- Flood and Stormwater Management Projects in Archbald, Blakely, Jessup, and Olyphant: \$913,000.
- Fire, Police, Ambulance and Emergency Services Grants in Archbald, Blakely, Dunmore, Jessup, Olyphant, Throop, and Scranton: \$1.1 million.
- Park Improvements, Greenspace Development, Heritage Trail Safety Improvements: \$1.5 million.
- School Safety Grants and Programs at Dunmore, Mid Valley, Scranton, and Valley View School Districts, along with the Scranton Hebrew Day School: \$740,000.
- Addiction and Recovery Initiatives: \$231,000.
- Sidewalk and Streetscape Improvements: \$500,000.
- Immigrant Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support within United Neighborhood Centers: \$360,000.
- Veterans Programs and Service Organization Post Repairs: \$236,000.



NEPA Infrastructure and Passenger Rail

Thanks to President Biden and Democrats in Congress, our communities will be receiving some much-needed funding to fix our roads, repair our bridges, address stormwater issues, and make other advancements like passenger rail service. While Amtrak must ultimately make the decision to invest, I will continue in my tireless advocacy to ensure that this proposal remains competitive and becomes a reality.

My son Conor and I recently had the honor of welcoming President Biden to Scranton. We discussed our shared love of trains and the importance of both freight and passenger rail service to our region.



I was proud to join Scranton Mayor Paige Cagnetti and other officials to applaud the passage of the infrastructure bill in Congress.

Healthcare, Long-Term, Home Health, and Emergency Service Workers

I was so proud to fight for the \$225 million recently sent to hospitals to support our overwhelmed and overworked nurses and direct-care workers. A few weeks later I voted to send \$25 million to ambulance and rescue companies. However, our long-term care and home health workers



Rep. Kosierowski and I recently led a hearing to address the needs of our healthcare workers.

also shared the front lines in keeping us safe while being routinely exposed to COVID; I won't be satisfied until we approve significant funding to support them too.

MAKING OUR COMMUNITY A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND RAISE A FAMILY

Support for Military Families

It's critical that we support our military families – especially the spouses of service members. Whether their service member is deployed overseas or domestically for training, these dedicated spouses become “acting single parents,” often taking on the needs of their families alone. My bill affording them some modest leave time from work during these periods is the least we can do.



It's always an honor to express and reaffirm our collective support for our veterans on Memorial Day and every opportunity I have.

Stopping Predatory Salespeople

In Pennsylvania, we can rely on our default utility provider or shop for a better rate among a host of reputable and reliable companies. Unfortunately, as with any industry, there are also fly-by-night companies which employ salespeople who prey on unsuspecting customers, often the elderly. I've heard from several constituents – including some family members – whose elderly relatives answered a call or a knock on the door and agreed to a costly change of providers. My legislation would require approval by both the account holder AND any third party listed on the account before such a switch could be made. This would give family members and caretakers the ability to defend their loved ones from being exploited.

Assistance for Diaper Expenses

One in every three parents finds it difficult to provide diapers for their children.

Nearly 5.2 million children under the age of three suffer from diaper need. Reliable access to clean, disposable diapers is vital for a child's health, and is often required for infants and toddlers to attend and participate in childcare programs. For parents struggling to make ends meet, buying diapers can be a financial challenge. So, I recently announced legislation that would help qualifying low-income families.



Fairly Funding our Children's Education

The public school districts I'm honored to represent are forced to spend millions below the amount needed for students to meet academic standards. Simply put: the state has underfunded too many school districts for decades and our children and taxpayers are paying the price. The quality of our kids' education shouldn't depend on their ZIP code, and they should be able to focus on their coursework without the threat of asbestos, lead, and school strikes. Harrisburg created this problem long ago and I'm committed to fighting this inequity.

Stop Driving While Distracted

Too many innocent lives are being lost at the hands – literally – of distracted drivers. If you drive through nearly every bordering state, you can be pulled over for holding your phone. But in Pennsylvania, you can only be pulled over if an officer is certain that you were texting. Otherwise, you can hold your phone to talk or even dial a number and a police officer is powerless to stop you without some other cause. I'm committed to making a lifesaving change to our driving laws.

Severe Bullying – New Crime, New Penalties

It is my belief that bullying in today's America has hit a crisis point – driving young people to the unthinkable point of suicide or causing severe harm to themselves or others. Families, lives, and reputations are being ripped apart because of the severe, chronic, and inescapable nature of what bullying has become. News reports of suicide because of social media shaming and harassment have become too commonplace, and yet no level of heartbreak or appeal for civility seems to serve as a deterrent to the perpetrators. Therefore, my legislation will define and penalize the offense of “bullying” in Pennsylvania.

Power Plant Host Fees and Environmental Protections

Pennsylvania law lacks any minimum standards for host agreements between power plants and their surrounding communities, so I've introduced legislation to do just that. The host fees and environmental safeguards I'm proposing would provide much needed predictability for both host communities and power plant developers, thus avoiding an often-contentious process at the local level while, at the same time, adequately compensating and protecting residents.

Officer John Wilding's Law – Evading Arrest on Foot

In July 2015, Scranton Police Officer John Wilding lost his life while pursuing three armed robbery suspects. Had his death occurred in pursuit of suspects fleeing by vehicle, additional charges could have been issued under current Pennsylvania law. My bill would create a new offense of “Evading Arrest or Detention by Foot.” When individuals flee from police officers attempting to lawfully place them under arrest – whether by vehicle or on foot, they create a risk of harm not only to police but to innocent bystanders and themselves. This bill would attempt to address that.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

One of the best parts of serving as your representative is the opportunity to meet and recognize some extraordinary people. From heroic veterans to small business owners who prevailed through the pandemic, I'm constantly inspired by their stories.



I recently had the honor of presenting the ALS Association's Flame of Hope Award to Scranton residents Paul and Eileen Miller for their tireless advocacy for research and care services funding for those with the debilitating disease commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Since my own father was recently diagnosed with ALS, Paul and Eileen have been a source of strength and inspired me to use my voice to advocate for those with this devastating diagnosis or other rare diseases.



In partnership with MediCap Pharmacy and Home Health Care Professionals and Hospice, my office participated in flu and COVID vaccine clinics to help keep area residents safe and healthy.



My wife, Lauren, and I stopped by to congratulate Lauren and Micah Woodard at the grand opening of Lavish Salon and Spa in their new location.



WWII Army Veteran Atillo Vergari recently celebrated his 94th birthday, and it was an honor to present to him a House Citation honoring his service. His proud loved ones from the Margotta and Forgiore families came along.



I was so proud to congratulate (and share some ice cream with) the incredible athletes of the Mid Valley Softball Team upon their District 3A Championship win.

ASSIGNED TO KEY HOUSE COMMITTEES

I'm honored to have recently been appointed to four key House Committees, because much of what we do for our communities back home involves the committee work we do in Harrisburg.

Appropriations Committee: This appointment grants me a front row seat to the state budget process and a greater ability to bring state funds – your tax dollars – back to our region.

Transportation Committee: Understanding that our roads and bridges are in desperate need of repair and that passenger rail service between Scranton and New York City would be an economic game-changer for the region, we must take advantage of the historic funding opportunities at our doorstep, and I'm proud to lead in that area.

Consumer Affairs Committee: From broadband internet access to alternative energy policy, to matters of consumer protection, this committee allows me to work on a wide range of policies that are designed to improve our quality of life, modernize our communities, and protect consumers and businesses.

Professional Licensure: Any legislation that would affect a profession requiring licensure by the state is first considered by this committee. From real estate agents, to chiropractors, to nurses and beyond – we routinely rely on licensed professionals to provide important services. Therefore, the work of this committee is extremely important in keeping their requirements and licensure procedures up to date.

Veterans Services Program

We owe so much to our veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices, and one of the ways we try to serve them in return is through our Veteran's Outreach Program. I'm excited to announce that we have resumed this program that was postponed due to COVID. To set up an appointment in our office with an American Legion service officer, please give us a call at 570-383-9795.



In warmer weather, downtown Olyphant businesses host "Third Thursday" events each month, when my team and I set up a mobile office to connect with constituents and provide services.





State Representative **KYLE J. MULLINS**

520 Burke Bypass, Unit 1
Olyphant, PA 18447

Please bookmark my
legislative website:

www.RepKyleMullins.com.

It has links to information on
state services, legislation that
I introduce or co-sponsor and
includes a form that allows
you to contact my office by
email. And, be sure to follow
me on social media for more
important updates.

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My Office Can Help You With:

- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions.
- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications.
- Information on financial assistance for higher education.
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds.
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications.
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation.
- Birth and death certificates.
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance).
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems.
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones.
- 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.
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions.
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups.
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies.
- Unclaimed property.

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please feel free to contact my office at 570-383-9795 for assistance.

CAPITOL OFFICE:

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DISTRICT OFFICE:

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