



## Hello Neighbors,

It's a great honor to represent the people of the 36th Legislative District. As someone who understands the current challenges we're facing in our communities, I'm eager to get to work on creating legislation that's rooted in viable and responsible solutions for our families, bringing opportunity for everyone.

My legislative priorities include:

- ✓ Fixing the unemployment system.
- ✓ Healthcare affordability.
- ✓ Fighting for the rights of workers/raising the minimum wage.
- ✓ Protecting the environment.
- ✓ Investing in infrastructure.
- ✓ Fair education funding so the burden isn't on local property owners.

The importance of balancing our representation in Harrisburg with the challenges faced by those living in our communities is a great responsibility. The gilded halls of the Capitol feel uncomfortable to me, because they don't reflect the reality of those I'm entrusted to represent. This discomfort fuels my fight for those who are facing a continuing struggle in Allegheny County and communities across the commonwealth.

My district office is located at 1810 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, and I encourage you to please feel free to reach out to me directly by email or by phone at 412-881-4208.

In addition to the occasional mailings like this, information regarding state-related programs, services and legislation can also be found on my social media pages, via Facebook at [facebook.com/RepBenham](https://facebook.com/RepBenham) and Twitter at [twitter.com/RepBenham](https://twitter.com/RepBenham).

## Working for You

One of the most important roles I have is to ensure that everyone is treated equally and that issues of importance to the hardworking residents of the 36th are represented in Harrisburg.

Since beginning my term, I've introduced nine pieces of legislation on topics such as education, civil rights, fair wages and healthcare. I've also signed on as a co-sponsor to numerous bills that would bring relief to businesses and families struggling from the impact of COVID-19. Together with my colleagues, we passed a bipartisan bill to allocate \$145 million to our restaurants and half a billion dollars to rental assistance. It's my goal to prioritize my legislative agenda so that it always puts the needs of our communities here at home first.

Know that as your elected representative, I look forward to hearing directly from you with regard to the issues you'd like to see addressed – both here at home and in Harrisburg. Together we can make a difference!

### COMMITTEE and CAUCUS ASSIGNMENTS

- Aging & Older Adult Services
- Health
- Human Services
- Allegheny County Delegation
- Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Caucus
- Blue-Green Caucus
- Climate Caucus
- LGBTQ Equality Caucus
- Mental Health Caucus
- Women's Caucus
- Women's Health Caucus



Bill Introduction  
**Creation of PA Department of Accessibility and Inclusion**

#### Sponsored By



Rep. Dan Miller & Rep. Jessica Benham

#### Objective

Create department committed to making government services, opportunities accessible to all Pennsylvanians.

#### How do we get there?

The bill would consolidate existing programs under the new department.

#### Who benefits?

Pennsylvanians with a disability.

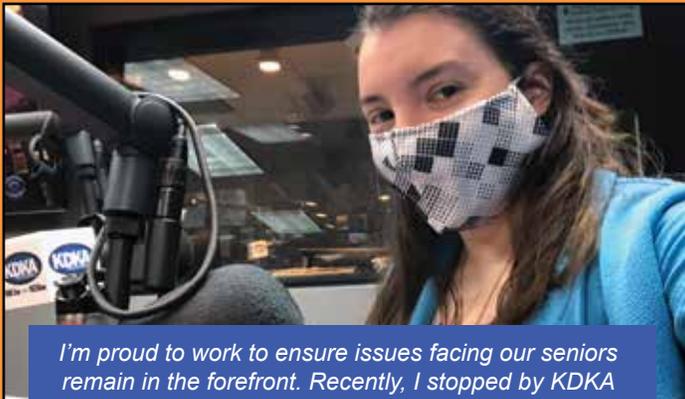
Support This Bill ✓

## SNAPSHOTS

from the 2019



Recently, I was able to check out Carnegie Library in Mt. Washington, newly remodeled thanks to an investment from the state.



I'm proud to work to ensure issues facing our seniors remain in the forefront. Recently, I stopped by KDKA radio to talk about issues impacting these important members of our community.



I stopped by the Baldwin High School senior class toy drive.



We're not out of the woods yet, but there will come a time when the COVID-19 vaccine is distributed effectively to every Pennsylvanian who wants to receive one. I recently stopped by a vaccine clinic run by Hilltop Pharmacy.

# Make Your Voice Count, VOTE!

The May 2021 primary is just around the corner and I wanted to remind you that EVEN IF you were a voter who signed up last year to vote by mail every year, you're more than likely receiving notices that you need to re-apply to vote by mail this year.

Sadly, this is not a mistake and you do need to apply again. If you are on the annual vote-by-mail list, your county should have sent you a new application in February.

We are working to fix this issue with legislation, but for now, please complete the form once again if you want to vote by mail this year. If you haven't gotten a form, or may have discarded it in error, please review the graphics below for more information, and visit the Department of State online at <https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Annual-Mail-in-Voter-List.aspx> to complete a new form.



## REGISTER TO VOTE

**VotesPA.com**

- To vote in Pennsylvania, you must first register to vote at least 15 days before the election.
- The voter registration deadline for the 2021 municipal primary is May 3, 2021.



## APPLY ONLINE FOR A MAIL BALLOT

AND REQUEST TO BE ADDED TO THE ANNUAL MAIL-IN VOTER LIST

**VotesPA.com**



**What if I don't fill out and return the annual mail ballot voter application? Can I vote a regular ballot at my polling place on election day?**

**Yes.** If you don't return the application you receive from your county, you'll be able to vote in-person, on election day, using a regular ballot.

**VotesPA.com**

## Resources for Individuals and Families

Last year, we successfully slowed the spread of the coronavirus in our communities. Sadly, the side effects of the pandemic continue to negatively impact our communities and reach beyond our healthcare systems. Many people lost jobs, businesses were forced to temporarily close, community resources were shut down and many limitations remain in effect today.

As we continue to move toward a recovery, I wanted to share information about resources and programs available to qualifying Pennsylvania residents via [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). Please see the image below for a sampling of available assistance and services.

**COMPASS**  
CLICK. APPLY. BENEFIT.

**COMPASS PROVIDES YOU ACCESS TO MANY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BENEFITS ONLINE AND ALLOWS YOU TO:**

- ✓ Learn about benefits and see if you qualify
- ✓ Apply for benefits and renew existing benefits
- ✓ Manage your benefits
- ✓ Connect to other benefits that aren't available on COMPASS

**Early Intervention - no cost to families**

**LIHEAP - grants range from \$200 to \$1,000**

**Child Care Works Program - helps low-income families pay their child care fees**

**SNAP - up to \$1,408 available**

**Long Term Living Services - Nursing Home and Related Facilities**

**CHIP - Immunizations, Routine check-ups, Prescriptions, Dental, Vision, Mental Health**

**SNAP** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
Putting Healthy Food Within Reach

**chp** Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program  
We Cover All Kids.

## COVID-19 Vaccines and Testing

The past year has been one of great loss, challenge and frustration, but there is a promise of a brighter future now that testing is more readily available and vaccination is underway. However, the vaccine roll-out process has been inefficient, frustrating and confusing. I'm working hard with my colleagues to push for a statewide vaccine waitlist so that you have a one-stop shop to reserve your place in line for a vaccine.

I also am urging our federal government to increase the supply of vaccines to Pennsylvania.

As COVID guidance, testing and vaccine information is fluid, I'd encourage you to consider visiting the Allegheny County Department of Health website often, at <https://alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx>, in addition to

signing up for county alerts via the 2-1-1 system at <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611110/login>.

In addition, COVID-19-related information is shared on my social media and in weekly emails. If you'd like to sign up to start receiving email updates from me, or to discuss any state-related service or issue, please visit [pahouse.com/benham/Contact](http://pahouse.com/benham/Contact).



## Representative Jessica Benham

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**Resources for Families,  
Individuals**  
See inside on  
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# My Office Can Help With

- PACE (pharmaceutical assistance for qualified senior citizens)
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms (for qualified seniors)
- Information regarding PHEAA (PA Higher Education Assistance Agency)
- Information on PA's 529 College Savings Plans
- Requests for state informational materials
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- Obtaining birth or death certificates
- PennDOT problems or questions — including disability license plates and placards
- Questions or problems with any state agency
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Citations from the PA House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and important family milestones

**The office is open. If you need help with any state or government-related services,  
please call 412-881-4208, or stop by.**

**This pandemic has disrupted our lives. Since taking office, I've worked with my staff to help our neighbors access state programs, fix unemployment problems and get the help they need. I remain committed to being your voice in Harrisburg!**