



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Gerald Mullery

Fall 2017

119th Legislative District

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Committees: Education • Game & Fisheries • Health • Judiciary

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Opposition grows to White Haven Center proposal

In July, legislation was introduced in Harrisburg to close, by 2023, the White Haven Center and others like it across the state for those living with intellectual disabilities.

I have opposed this measure from Day 1 and I will continue to work with my colleagues to protect the residents of White Haven Center and their families. Earlier this year, when the governor and Department of Corrections proposed closing our local state prisons, Sen. John Yudichak and I led the charge against the plan and prevented it from happening. We will work closely to oppose this misguided idea as well.

The residents and families of the White Haven Center rely on

the facility for special services that otherwise would not be available to them. I met with them and center officials in July to discuss the legislation.

The center also provides hundreds of jobs for the local community and has a tremendous economic impact in the region.

The legislation has been referred to the House Health Committee. I encourage you to contact Chairman Rep. Matthew Baker to express your opposition to H.B. 1650. His phone number is 717-772-5371.

'One.19' initiative launched by Mullery

In July, I began a new constituent and community outreach service dubbed "One.19." The initiative involves scheduling meetings and constituent service hours in each of the 19 communities I represent.

My district office staff and I have offered off-site constituent service since I was first elected. Now, we want to do something more substantial with the hope of creating more community and constituent involvement. By visiting every community, I am able to hear firsthand stories, concerns, complaints and priorities of my constituents in every corner of the district.

One District.
One.19
19 Communities.

Access remains one of my top priorities and this initiative gives those throughout the district the opportunity to take advantage of our resources in their own hometown.

My first two stops were in White Haven and Wright Township.

If you would like to participate in my "One.19" initiative when I visit your town, please contact my office and tell us a little more about your business, club, organization or community effort. Photos and updates of each visit are on my website www.pahouse.com/Mullery and social media www.facebook.com/RepMullery and www.twitter.com/RepJerryMullery.

White House conference held for Pa. officials

In October, I was fortunate to be invited to take part in an invitation-only, bipartisan Pennsylvania House of Representatives White House Conference.

Many of you contact me with issues pertaining to federal programs and impediments encountered with our federal government. As such, I felt it necessary to take advantage of this opportunity to foster cooperation at the federal level. During the White House visit, I was able to meet with many of the officials with whom I contact to solve your problems.

The conference was coordinated by the White House Intergovernmental Affairs team and included discussions among senior-level federal agency officials, including Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, and members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Medical marijuana facility coming to 119th

Congratulations to Standard Farms, LLC for being one of the first 12 recipients of a medical marijuana grower/processor permit issued by the PA Department of Health.

I recently toured the building site, met with members of the management team and observed the renovation effort. I look forward to its grand opening. We have a wealth of great labor available to help the company succeed in assisting patients who need this important product.

Heating aid via LIHEAP opens Nov. 1

The 2017-18 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP – will begin accepting applications for heating assistance grants Nov. 1.



LIHEAP offers cash grants of \$200 to \$1,000 that are sent directly to the utility company to defray heating costs for eligible households, and crisis benefits of \$25 to \$500 for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

Once the program opens, please consider visiting my offices if you need help filing a LIHEAP application.

Besides my offices, LIHEAP information is available by:

- Contacting the Luzerne County Assistance Office at 570-826-2041 or in person;
- Calling the LIHEAP Client Helpline at 1-866-857-7095; or
- Applying online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

The state Department of Human Services, which administers the federally funded LIHEAP program, will mail applications or information to people who received LIHEAP grants last season.

Because of uncertain federal funding, DHS has decided not to issue supplemental payments to vulnerable households during the season. If additional funds remain after the season has concluded, DHS may issue supplements at that time.

This season's income guidelines for both LIHEAP cash and crisis grants are \$18,090 for an individual, \$24,360 for couples and increases for each additional person in the household.

Bill would help ease burden on club licensees

Club licensees that fall under the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act would have easier reporting and fundraising duties, under legislation that I introduced in the House of Representatives.

Currently, state law requires clubs with proceeds exceeding \$20,000 in a year to submit annual reports. These reports provide information on proceeds from each game of chance and the amount of prizes awarded, itemized weekly.

My legislation would change that requirement from weekly to quarterly.

My bill does not change the information provided to the state – it simply eases the reporting timeline. Filling out this necessary paperwork would not be as burdensome for our veteran and fraternal organizations and other nonprofit clubs.

House Bill 1334 also would increase the fundraising limit from \$40,000 annually to \$60,000 annually, allowing clubs to satisfy their charitable mission.

The legislation awaits action in the House Gaming Oversight Committee.



It was my pleasure to present Gary Williams with a House Citation recognizing his induction into the Luzerne County – John Louis Popple Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame. Williams led four Nanticoke Area golfers to the State Championships during his tenure as head golf coach and finished his head softball coaching career with 330 wins, 6 league titles, 6 district titles and 2 PIAA State Championships. All that said, he was a far better teacher than he was a coach!!! He made learning fun!!! Congratulations Mr. Williams.



My staff and I welcomed hundreds of residents this year for our two shredding events at Crestwood High School in Mountain Top and Greater Nanticoke Area High School. They are a great opportunity to protect yourself from identity theft by properly disposing of documents that contain personal information. Be on the lookout for another shredding event in the spring!



I helped to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the White Haven Library & Welcome Center. There was a great turnout including three of the founding members. This library is an absolute gem and offers plenty of programs for the community.

Nanticoke Police receive drug collection grant

Congratulations to the Nanticoke Police Department on receipt of a drug collection unit grant.

The unit is located in the lobby of the Nanticoke municipal building and provides residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances. The drop-off site is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked.

I was proud to work with Chief Tom Wall, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and the National Guard Counterdrug Joint Task Force at Fort Indiantown Gap to bring this service to Nanticoke. This will greatly help get unneeded drugs out of medicine cabinets and homes throughout the city and region.

The grant was awarded as part of CVS Health's Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program.



State Rep. **Gerald J. Mullery** presents...
**2nd Amendment
Gun Rights Seminar**



You're invited to join state Representative Gerald Mullery, Luzerne County District Attorney Stefanie J. Salavantis and the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office for a 2nd Amendment Rights Gun Seminar for the Greater Hazleton Area.

Thursday, November 2
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Hazle Township Municipal Authority
79 Harleigh Blvd., Hazle Township 18202

Due to seating limitations, the first 150 RSVPs to Rep. Mullery's Nanticoke office at (570) 740-7031 will have a seat at the event.



Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program deadline extended

Your hard-earned money goes toward a lot of property tax and rent. Why not get some of that back? You now have more time to apply for this refund.

The deadline for filing with the 2016 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended to Dec. 31.

This program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates can boost your return to \$975.

Get Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and related info online at www.revenue.pa.gov, by calling toll free 1-888-222-9190 or from my office. We are ready to help you understand the program, complete the application, and get some money back.

Please don't assume you are not eligible. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 a year for renters. Half of Social Security income is excluded. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day at the residence and meet all other eligibility criteria.

What do you think?

Proposals would merge PFBC/PGC, increase dog license fee



An idea is floating in Harrisburg to merge the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Both groups oppose the idea. As a member of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, I would like to know your thoughts about this proposal.

Another suggestion being made is to increase the state dog license fee, which has not changed since 1996. What do you think of this idea?

Please visit my website www.pahouse.com/Mullery and submit your comments about these ideas.



What a wonderful evening of community events for National Night out in White Haven, Newport Township and Mountain Top.



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It was my pleasure to welcome a young entrepreneur, Dr. Lauren Sanzi & Sanzi Chiropractic to Hazle Township.



It was an honor to be part of the amazing tribute and wonderful celebration for one of the most influential physicians in the world, Nanticoke's Dr. Stanley J. Dudrick. He is known as the "father of IV feeding."



It was great to help open the newest Head Start facility on the campus of Luzerne County Community College.

It was a wonderful night celebrating Sugar Notch Borough's Sesquicentennial – 150 years strong!



My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, welfare)
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies

Any problem with your state government!