



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Leanne Krueger-Braneky

161ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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SUMMER 2018

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Dear Neighbor,

This year, I joined with a majority of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to vote for a state budget that addresses many of the concerns of everyday Pennsylvanians: we boosted funding for education across the board, invested in job training programs, and did not raise any taxes or fees. And, for the first time since I've been in office, the budget is done on time.

My number one priority as a state representative from Delaware County has been not just restoring the cuts to public education made by the previous administration, but to adequately fund programs that make our schools world-class while addressing the real needs of our communities. This budget takes many steps to do just that: our school districts, Penn-Delco, Ridley and Wallingford-Swarthmore, will see a total increase of \$464,566 for Basic Education Funding and Special Education Funding.

To ensure that everyone in our workforce, whether they go to college or not, is prepared for family-sustaining jobs in our 21st century economy, this budget invests heavily in STEM, technical education and computer sciences, apprenticeship training programs, and industry partnerships.

Unfortunately, this budget bill does not include a severance tax on shale gas, although the overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanians support one. Nor does it restore all the positions that have been cut from the Department of Environmental Protection, whose work is more important than ever as we continue to monitor pipeline safety issues. I will continue to fight for both of these issues until we make progress.

Sincerely,

Leanne J. Krueger-Braneky



House opts to study sexual harassment instead of taking action

Instead of moving any one of the 25 bills introduced this year to help repair the broken culture of sexual harassment and misconduct in workplaces across the state – and in the Capitol – the only action the State House has taken so far is to authorize taxpayer funded studies to study the problem for a year.

I have called again and again for us to take action instead of commissioning studies: We don't need a study to show us there's a problem or that there must be a fair and impartial process to investigate claims and protect victims and whistleblowers.

Any woman in any workplace knows full well that there is a problem with sexual harassment, and stories about legislators harassing women at the Capitol have been on the front page of almost every newspaper in Pennsylvania.

In late June, we took a small step forward when I got the Majority Chairman of the House Labor and Industry Committee to agree to hold a public hearing on the nine bills sitting in his committee. A hearing doesn't guarantee a vote, but I will not allow this issue to be buried in another study.

One bill that will be included in the hearing is my House Bill 1965 – the #MeToo Act, which is modeled after a federal bill that passed Congress in February with overwhelming bipartisan support. It would clearly define sexual harassment in state law, install a nonpartisan Office of Compliance to investigate claims made within the General Assembly, and require elected officials to reimburse taxpayer settlements for sexual harassment.

I'm committed to changing the culture in Harrisburg and changing how we deal with harassment is a key step.

Fighting for public safety in pipeline work

As we are reminded by recurring headlines about spills during pipeline work in our community, I cannot stress enough the pressing need for proper oversight on construction and operations on the Mariner East pipelines.

As we stand, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ruled in June that construction on Sunoco's Mariner East 2 would remain shut down at a key location in Chester County and that work on Mariner East 1 could resume, following a shutdown of its own.

As of this writing, the PUC is examining evidence involving safety

issues before deciding to allow construction to resume on ME2.

Just prior to those rulings, a contractor working on a water project in Delaware County struck the ME2 during its excavation after Sunoco Logistics incorrectly reported how deep the pipe was buried. I spoke with the DEP, PUC and the governor's office about this issue and an investigation is still underway.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I've regularly fought for increasing the budget allocation to provide for enough oversight of the oil and gas industry and to properly staff

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection. This year's budget will allow the DEP to hire back 32 of the staff members who have been cut over the last decade.

It's one small step forward, but we still have a lot of work to do to make sure our air and water are protected.



New grant program to help schools fund safety improvements



School safety issues have been in the news a lot, and I have had many conversations over the past few months with parents, administrators, school board members and teachers about what we need to do to keep our kids safe. This is an issue that has received bipartisan support in the Legislature. As part of the 2018-19 state budget package, the state Legislature authorized a \$60

million block grant program to allow schools to apply for grants to be used for a variety of safety and security enhancements.

The program is designed so that schools have maximum flexibility to use the funding to meet their own specific needs.

Those needs could include hiring school police officers, school resource officers, counselors and/or mental health counselors; alternative education and diversion programs; violence prevention initiatives; school safety and emergency preparedness plans; or physical upgrades to school buildings and equipment to improve safety.

Loyalty Day

It was a special privilege and honor to help ring in Loyalty Day on May 1 at celebrations in Springfield Township and in Folsom at VFW Post 928 – thanks to all the first responders who were recognized and for the VFW members who help us remember all who fought to keep our democracy safe!



Fighting to protect seniors, women and children

In April, I voted against an offensive attack on seniors, kids and people with special needs. Despite my stand against it, the bill passed by a majority of Republicans to the Senate, where I hope it will be defeated or left to expire.

House Bill 2138 would place new proof-of-work requirements on struggling seniors, people receiving opioid treatment, people with disabilities and other vulnerable sections of our population. We already have stringent regulations in place to make sure that the only people getting Medicaid benefits are those who are legally eligible. This bill would create a new government bureaucracy and would cost up to \$200M in taxpayer funds to set it up.

The bill follows a repeated playbook to attack Medicaid recipients, who depend on the lifeline program for health care. Proponents of these mean-spirited attacks on health care are simply attacking the wrong program if they want to cure overspending.

For every dollar spent on Medicaid, 51 cents goes to people with disabilities, 27 cents goes to seniors, and 13 cents goes to kids. Only 9 cents goes elsewhere, including for administrative expenses that cover things such as fraud detection and improvements to the program.

House Bill 2138 also would only further burden human services programs across the state and would almost definitely cost more money than it sets out to “save.”



SEPTA Key replaces transit payment methods

SEPTA plans to fully transition to the new electronic fare-payment SEPTA Key card on its transit lines (buses, trolleys, and subways) by the end of the summer, replacing most other forms of senior identification and commuter payment.

Token sales stopped at SEPTA locations on April 30 and will phase out at non-SEPTA retail locations this summer. Magnetic stripe Trans/TrailPass and paper transfer sales will also end as of Aug. 1.

SEPTA Key cards include a reloadable Travel Wallet, which allows customers to pay-as-you-ride and can also be loaded with SEPTA Passes. SEPTA Key cards may be purchased for \$4.95, but as a special promotion, SEPTA will credit that fee to a customer's Card Travel Wallet if the card is registered within 30 days at <http://SEPTAKey.org/> or by calling 1-855-567-3782.

Seniors will no longer be able to use paper Pennsylvania Senior Citizen Transit ID Cards for SEPTA travel starting

on Sept. 1, and SEPTA no longer accepts Pennsylvania driver's licenses issued after July 2017 or Medicare cards.

Those 65 and older can apply for a free SEPTA Senior Key Card at either one of my district offices, eliminating the need to travel to SEPTA headquarters. The SEPTA Photo ID card will then be mailed to you by SEPTA.

Pennsylvania Disability Transit ID cards will no longer be accepted starting on Oct. 1, replaced by the SEPTA Key Reduced Fare Card. The application must be completed by a physician and applied for in-person at SEPTA Headquarters or at the Accessible Travel Center at Suburban Station.

SEPTA is currently testing the rollout of SEPTA Key on Regional Rail, which is expected to occur later this year. For more information about SEPTA Key and sale locations, please visit <http://www.septa.org/key/>.

Helping you save for college

Pennsylvania Treasurer Joe Torsella visited our district at Northley Middle School in Aston in May for a joint town hall on saving for college and other programs that the state Treasury Department oversees. Thank you to everyone who came out to learn more. If you missed it and would like more information about the Keystone Scholars program, which can help Delaware County families save for college; the 529 program, which also helps you save for college; or the ABLE savings program for families with special needs children, please either reach out to my office or visit www.patreasury.gov.

From left are Penn-Delco School District Director of Teaching and Learning Eric Kuminka, Pennsylvania Treasurer Joe Torsella, my son, Wendell, and me.



Honoring sacrifice on Memorial Day

Over Memorial Day weekend, I had the privilege to help honor the men and women who put on our nation's uniform and made the sacrifices that allow us to stand here today. I was humbled to participate in ceremonies in Brookhaven, Rutledge and Aston.



Bringing service where it's needed

Too many veterans have returned home, only to have trouble accessing the assistance that they deserve and have earned through their sacrifices. When we held a recent Senior Breakfast at the Village Green Senior Community in Aston, I also was joined by the Pennsylvania Mobile Veterans Van to help veterans and their

family members by connecting them with benefits, such as disability, health care, pension, education, career assistance and more. I look forward to hosting this event again in the near future.



I love meeting with seniors from all over the district, and the feedback I hear on the issues that matter in our community influences how I vote on the House floor. Thank you to all the seniors who shared a breakfast with me so far this year!

Celebrating Eagle Scouts

In May, we celebrated four new Eagle Scouts who live in our community. I attended the Eagle Court of Honor for Scouts George Hollyer, Andrew Manwaring and Andrew Spangler from Troop 272 in Rose Valley. At the same time, my chief of staff was at the Eagle Court of Honor for Scouts Matthew Gane and Stephen Brodecki of Troop 225 in Aston.



Scouting is an outstanding tradition that engages youth and helps create active, socially conscious adults ready for whatever challenges are ahead. It was a pleasure to meet these young, bright members of our community and to thank them for making a difference. If you'd like to learn more about scouting, visit www.scouting.org.



Save the dates!

Tuesday, July 24

SEPTA Senior Key Photo Day

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

My Folsom Office

Thursday, July 26

SEPTA Senior Key Photo Day

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

My Brookhaven Office

Tuesday, Aug. 14

Unclaimed Property Treasure Hunt

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

My Folsom Office

Wednesday, Aug. 15

Unclaimed Property Treasure Hunt

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

My Brookhaven Office

Tuesday, Aug. 21

National Senior Citizen Day Breakfast

9 a.m.

Rutledge Borough Hall

212 Unity Terrace, Rutledge, PA

Please RSVP by calling 610-534-6880.

Thursday, Sept. 20

Senior Expo

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Brookhaven Municipal Building

2 Cambridge Road, Brookhaven, PA 19015

Save the date for my annual Senior Expo. Vendors and senior service providers interested in participating can email adobbins@pahouse.net or call 610-534-6880.

Saturday, Oct. 20

Fall Shred Event

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Northley Middle School parking lot

Are you concerned about privacy when disposing of confidential papers? Bring your unwanted paper to be safely shredded and recycled. No electronics will be accepted at this event. Paper will be shredded on site!

Thursday, Oct. 25

Veterans' Lunch

11 a.m.

If you are a veteran, I'd like to share a lunch with you and talk about programs and services beneficial to you. Questions? Email adobbins@pahouse.net or call 610-534-6880.



State Representative

Leanne T. Krueger-Braneky

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Fly, Eagles, Fly!

There's nothing like the Philadelphia Eagles to get people to cross the aisle in Harrisburg. Last month, the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl Trophy made a visit to the Capitol, and we celebrated on the House floor.



Stay in touch!

Stay up to date with all the latest news from Harrisburg and the 161st Legislative District by following me on social media. You can also sign up for email updates about breaking news and legislative updates by visiting www.pahouse.com/KruegerBraneky/EmailSignup.

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