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State Representative | 175th Legislative District

MARY ISAACSON



Dear friends,

With the height of the holiday season here, I want to wish you and your family joyful celebrations, good fortune and great health in the new year. I also want to keep you informed about what's happening with your state government and my work on your behalf.

It's been an absolute pleasure seeing many of the people I represent at public meetings, community cleanups, neighborhood and civic association celebrations, and in my district office during my first year as your state representative.

If we haven't yet met in person, I hope we do so soon.

I also hope you find this newsletter informative. As always, if you have a question about what's being considered in Harrisburg, or if you need help with any state program or service, please contact me. My staff and I are here for you.

Yours in service,

Mary

Getting the lead out of our communities

Test children for lead exposure

Lead poisoning is a serious problem. In Philadelphia, exposure to lead-based paint is the primary source of lead poisoning and is found in most homes and school buildings across our city. It's also been found in the soil in our playgrounds – some 100 sites across the city.

Too many children and adults are suffering the debilitating and, at times, fatal effects of lead poisoning – effects that are completely preventable through proactive approaches.

It's why I wrote H.B. 79, which would require all children to be tested for lead at the age of 1 and 2. I am proud to announce my bill was approved by the House Children and Youth Committee last month and is poised for a vote in the full House.

I am thrilled by the bipartisan support my bill has received. By testing our children as my bill prescribes, we can act quickly if an elevated blood lead level is found early on and also address where the lead exposure is coming from – be it at home, at school, at a local playground or at grandma's house.

REP. ISAACSON'S HB79

voted out of Children and Youth Committee, heads to House floor.



HB79 provides for universal, mandatory blood lead testing of children.

Address the lead level in our playgrounds

I also introduced H.B. 2026, which would lower the acceptable level of lead found in our soil.

The CDC recently lowered the acceptable limit of lead in children's bloodstreams to prevent lead exposure problems from manifesting. However, the limit for lead in soil has not been lowered to reflect the lower levels recommended by the CDC.

At the federal level, the limit is set at 400 parts per million (ppm) of lead in the soil. I want to lower the limit of lead in playground soil in the commonwealth to 200 ppm.

I introduced both bills to help our kids live long and healthy lives. I will keep you updated on their progress.

Scan this code on your smartphone to learn more about my work to help families keep their children safe and healthy.



Combating the Opioid Crisis

Our nation is in an opioid epidemic, and PA is fighting this public health crisis. So am I.

The CDC says 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose.

Greedy opioid manufacturers and distributors were the primary cause of this crisis through heavy marketing to doctors and over-prescription, ultimately putting profits over the lives of millions of people.

As many continue to grapple with substance abuse disorder and turn to cheaper, more dangerous opiates like heroin and fentanyl, the pharmaceutical industry has yet to be held accountable.

My bill, (H.B. 2027) would hold them accountable.

On the positive end, my advocacy for more state resources for our district to fight this crisis is paying off. This month more than \$250,000 was awarded to local organizations that are dedicated to fighting the opioid epidemic. The grant money will be used to educate students and families and improve coordination and information sharing in the criminal justice system so that those who need treatment get it.



Protecting Reproductive Access and Choice

Extremists are at it again, pushing legislation to get between a woman and her doctor and her right to the governance of her own body.

Last month, I stood in strong opposition to legislation (H.B. 1890) that would mandate the ritual burial of fetal remains following a miscarriage or abortion and would require the health provider to file a death certificate. The bill is so extreme it would force the burial and death certificate at the earliest stages of pregnancy, including fertilized eggs that don't implant.

Physicians across the state said the bill is harmful to women, creating additional burdens and trauma at an already painful time in her life.

It's also yet another attempt to infringe upon a woman's right to choose and shame individuals seeking safe and legal abortions.

State Rep. Mary Isaacson (D) told the news agency that the bill presents a "mandate, not a choice" and labelled it as "yet another attempt to harass abortion providers."

The Hill 12/1/19

I will always vote to protect women and the right to govern their own bodies and decisions. Scan this code with your smartphone to watch me debate it in the House chamber.



INTRODUCED LEGISLATION



REP. MARY ISAACSON'S HB 2028
Pet Deposits in Residential Rentals

Would prevent landlords from extracting additional, improper fees from renters, like non-refundable pet deposits.

REAL ID Reminder

We're less than a year away from needing a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card to board a domestic flight or enter secure federal facilities. If you don't have a U.S. Passport or active Military ID, you'll need a REAL ID for this purpose by Oct. 1, 2020.



To obtain one, take all of the following to a Driver's License Center:

- Original birth certificate with a raised seal or a valid U.S. Passport
- Social Security Card
- Proof of all legal name changes (marriage license or court order)
- Two proofs of current items that show physical address.

More information for REAL ID can be found at dmv.pa.gov/REALID.

Tackling Student Debt

Student loan debt is crippling young Americans just starting out – 44 million borrowers collectively owe \$1.5 trillion.

PA is among the states hit hardest and bears the second highest average debt at \$35,759 per student. A whopping \$53.7 billion collectively looms over our state's borrowers.

To help ease the economic and emotional stress of student debt, I introduced H.B. 678 to provide

up to \$2,500 in tax credits on interest paid each year for the life of the loan. Single people making up to \$75,000 and couples making up to \$155,000 would be eligible.

I also held a **Managing Your Student Loan Debt** seminar on Oct. 2 at the Fishtown Recreation Center to help people who are struggling with student debt or who expect to take it on in coming years.

We must decrease the cost of higher education and provide some relief.



It's Been a Great First Year!

As a public servant, it is my honor to help secure state funding for economic development, preservation, transportation and civic association projects that are important to our community. It's also my privilege to invest in you!

2019

By the numbers

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARY ISAACSON
175TH DISTRICT



20 Bills
Authored



251 Bills
Co-Sponsored

2 Bills Passed Out
of Committee

503



Community Meetings Attended



13

District Office Events
Hosted



Perfect Voting Record*

1,116

Votes Cast

As of Dec. 10th, 2019*

More than

\$8 Million



Brought Back to the District

   @RepMaryIsaacson

Fun Times and Events in the 175th



Decorating the tree at Palmer Cemetery.



Trunk or Treat at Adaire!



Having fun with Hazel in Queen Village.

Do you need help navigating services for yourself or a loved one?

State Rep. Mary Isaacson &
State Sen. Larry Farnese will be hosting a free

LGBTQIA+ Housing & Legal Resource Fair & Discussion

Thursday, January 16 | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Orinoka Civic House

2771-2777 Ruth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19134

The fair will offer information about programs, services, resources and local organizations available to help the LGBTQIA+ community while a panel of community leaders will discuss housing issues and legal resources.

All are welcome to attend.



STATE REP. MARY ISAACSON

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Would require employers with 15 or more workers to disclose pay range on job postings to ensure equitable salaries and promote equal pay.



Would make it a crime to "cyber-flash" or disseminate sexually explicit and obscene images to someone without their consent.



STATE REP. MARY ISAACSON

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Inside

- Getting the lead out
- Protecting women's rights
- Tackling student debt
- LGBTQ+ resource fair Jan. 16

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My Office Can Help You With:

- 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 Health and 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
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- 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
- *Any problem with state government!*



Would enable the Attorney General's office to assist and provide resources as needed in animal cruelty investigations across PA.