

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN GALLOWAY

 @RepGalloway

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\$518,000 FOR TWO BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Two Bucks County organizations were awarded \$518,000 in state grant funding from the Neighborhood Assistance Program, an innovative program that promotes private-public collaborations to help renovate distressed areas or help low-income populations.

Bucks County Opportunity Council in Bristol Township received \$18,000 to support its Economic Self-Sufficiency Program, which helps people achieve economic stability through education and employment.

LTL Color Compounders in Falls Township received \$500,000. The company is a supplier of engineering thermoplastic compounds. The money will be used to add 60,000 square feet of production and warehouse space, enabling LTL to grow and add 23 new jobs.

The county funding will help a great program give a second chance to even more Bucks County residents. Meanwhile, the money awarded to LTL Color Compounders will enable the company to fund 23 well-paying jobs with benefits and will help strengthen Bucks County's economy. This is just what Falls Township needs to continue to grow and thrive.

\$50,000 FOR FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Keystone Communities Program awarded \$50,000 for a façade improvement program in Bristol Borough. The money will benefit at least 10 storefronts on Mill Street, all of Market Street, and portions of Bath, Cedar, Otter, Pond, Radcliffe, and Wood streets.

NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

To begin 2020, I've introduced two bills to increase mental health services for kids in Pennsylvania. About one in six children between the ages of 6 and 17 in the U.S. has a treatable mental health disorder such as depression and anxiety.

Unfortunately, only half of these children receive counseling. Those left with untreated mental health disorders often: struggle with behavioral and academic issues in school such as delinquency and dropping out; have trouble with the criminal justice system; abuse drugs as a means to cope with their illness; become dependent on social services; and, in extreme cases, die by suicide.

Research has shown that two-thirds of children receive their counseling in schools, and we want to expand mental health resources to serve all children in need. No child should be left behind to suffer.

House Bill 2194 would provide grants to support school-linked mental health services. These grants could be used to identify and diagnose mental health conditions among students and fund transportation for children receiving school-linked mental health services.

House Bill 2187 would establish a statewide children's mental health ombudsman to help expand access to mental health resources for children and to identify systemic issues in access to treatment.

I also co-sponsored other bills and resolutions addressing mental health issues.

HR 608: Resolution designating November 22, 2019, as "Veterans Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

HR 417: Resolution recognizing the month of September 2019 as "National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" and September 10, 2019, as "World Suicide Prevention Day" in Pennsylvania.



HB 590: This bill would amend the Public School Code, providing for mental health education. (Now in the House Education Committee)

HB 836: This bill would amend Title 40 (Insurance) and strengthen the ability of the Department of Insurance to enforce the Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Act of 2008.

HB 1307: This legislation would provide for a loan-forgiveness program for qualified college graduates entering the mental health, intellectual-disability and drug-and-alcohol treatment professions.



FUNDING OUR PRIORITIES

I am proud to share that I helped bring your tax money back home for the infusion into the following local projects and initiatives.

A \$25,000 school safety grant awarded to Bucks County Technical High School grant was awarded to the school to prevent and reduce violent incidents, purchase safety and security-related equipment, and to provide training and compensation for school resource and police officers.

These funds will ensure that the students at Bucks County Technical High School

GALLOWAY WITH ALBERT & SHARON LALLI AT 2019 VETERANS' DINNER



GALLOWAY WITH FERDIE TELLADO AT HIS VETERANS' DINNER



LEVITTOWN TRAIN STATION REOPENING



GALLOWAY AT 'STUFF THE BUS'



LORI SULLIVAN (L) AND GALLOWAY WITH GINA, AN ORGANIZER OF THE TOY DRIVE.

can thrive in the safest setting possible. I'm confident that this will aid in creating not only a safer, but more productive learning environment.

A \$249,000 grant to rehabilitate 700 feet of railroad track. Blue Ridge Wood Products LLC has received \$249,420 to rehabilitate 700 feet of existing track to improve the efficiency of its inbound railcar unloading operations.

These funds will increase mobility options, as well as improve freight travel efficiency. A strong rail system means increased economic development in Bucks County.





A SUCCESSFUL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

You helped my district office collect 318 pounds of food for a county-wide Thanksgiving donation food drive. I'm proud that my staff and I can participate in this program and, as always, I was in awe of the generosity of our community. Thank you!

AROUND *the district*

SPREADING HOLIDAY JOY

My Levittown office served as a drop-off location for this year's local Toy Drive. The outreach center distributed gifts and food to local families, children and disabled adults in need.

It was another successful drive, and 782 children and 332 families enjoyed a happy Christmas thanks to you!



GALLOWAY, REP. WENDY ULLMAN AND WILLIAM GRETZULA AT 'STUFF THE BUS'



PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS IN PA

I am proud that two pieces of my legislation supporting workers' rights in Pennsylvania passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support. One has been signed into law.

To prevent the construction industry from knowingly using off-the-book labor, legislation I co-wrote and have long championed was signed into Pennsylvania law as Act 75.

Law now requires employers in the construction industry to use the E-Verify program and ensure that their employees are properly vetted to work in the United States.

For far too long, bad acting employers have cut costs by misclassifying employees and using off-the-book labor. These employers are hurting the construction industry by driving down wages, creating an unlevel playing field for other employers and depriving the commonwealth of revenue that is used to fund programs such as Unemployment Compensation.

This law, which I co-sponsored with Ryan McKenzie, R-Berks/Lehigh, also requires employers to keep a record of the verification while the employee

worked for them or for three years, whichever is longer.

If the Department of Labor and Industry receives a complaint that an employer is using unfair labor, the employer has time to correct the situation and verify that they have done so with the department. If the employer fails to verify the correction, Labor and Industry would then refer the case to the

Unethical employers often misclassify employees as independent contractors to bolster profits. Meanwhile, the scheme robs those workers of pay and benefits, costs other law-abiding businesses in PA, and shortchanges public revenues.

attorney general to bring action against the employer in the county in which the work was performed.

Penalties for the offending employer include a three-year probationary period for each business location where illegal work was used. In addition, these employers would have to submit quarterly reports about each new employee hired. Agencies would suspend each license that an employer holds if the employer does not submit verification that they have terminated the employment within three days.

GOING A STEP FURTHER

Pennsylvania also needs a task force to prevent the misclassification of employees as independent contractors. Unethical employers often misclassify employees as independent contractors to bolster profits. Meanwhile, the scheme robs those workers of pay and benefits, costs other law-abiding businesses in PA, and shortchanges public revenues.

Potential revenue loss due to misclassifying employees is significant. According to the Keystone Research Center, a misclassified worker loses an estimated \$6,000 annually due to lost overtime pay. The center also estimates that Pennsylvania might be losing \$10 million in unemployment taxes, at least \$15 million in income tax revenue, as much as \$83 million in workers' compensation premiums, and \$200 million in federal income taxes. Those losses mean that other businesses pick up the tab in higher tax payments.

HB 716 would empower a task force to eliminate the misclassification of workers. The Joint Task Force on the Misclassification of Employees would include Pennsylvania's attorney general, the secretary of Revenue, and the secretary of Labor and Industry, who would serve as chair.

The task force would examine the state's current classification and enforcement system and make recommendations to strengthen enforcement, as well as educate employers and the public about employee classification under the law.

The bill passed the House and is with the Senate for concurrence.



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PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE FORUMS

Falls Township Senior Center

Trenton & Oxford Valley Roads
Fairless Hills

Friday, March 6th · 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bristol Borough Area Active Adult Center

301 Wood St., Bristol

Friday, March 20th · 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.



Pennsylvanians 65 and older
Widows and Widowers age 50 and older
Those with disabilities age 18 and older



Homeowners \$35,000 or less
Renters \$15,000 or less



Please bring with you:
Your 2019 income statements and 2019 paid property tax receipts or 2019 proof of rent.