

PROUD TO BE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

I am incredibly humbled and grateful to be your new state representative for the 20th Legislative District.

The new year is a time of change and hope for new beginnings. After 2020, I think we all are looking for both!

This year began with a continuation of many of the challenges we faced in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic is still raging, and so many of us have been directly affected. While vaccines are on the horizon, distribution and accessibility remain in question. Our friends, neighbors, relatives and local businesses are struggling to stay afloat. Federal aid is being stymied by partisanship, while our state and local resources are running low.

This pandemic brings into stark contrast the cracks and breaks in our system and clearly demonstrates how imperative it is to increase investments in our social safety net. It has shown how desperately we need accessible, affordable health care that is not tied to employment, paid sick leave, and a living wage that helps all workers save for a rainy day – or year.

We have serious problems to solve in our community, and everyone must be heard to work together to fight for change.

I was elected to be your voice in Harrisburg – I will listen to your needs, and I will take them directly to the state Capitol. I promise to push for real change on many issues, including criminal justice, economic development, health care and more. One big issue includes raising our state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour, which is long overdue. But I won't stop there – I will demand systemic changes to ensure that hard-working residents have the money and support they need to take care of themselves and their families.

True leadership means rolling up one's sleeves and doing the hard work to get us where we need to be, and that takes vision and an unwavering commitment to be the champion for everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us.

While many of you are frustrated or disheartened with the performance of government on your behalf, please know that I will do everything in my power to protect and serve working families, strengthen and invest in our communities, and create a working government that is by and for the people – one that we can believe in again.

If you have a concern or question, please reach out to me by email at RepKinkead@pahouse.net or call me at 412-321-5523. My staff and I are happy to help you.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**EMILY
KINKEAD**

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HABARI GANI MARAFIKI ZANGU?

Jina langu Emily Kinkead na mimi ni mwakilishi wa jimbo la Pennsylvania wenu. Ninafurahi kukujua na kukutumikia katika jukumu hili. Bado najifunza Kiswahili na ninaandika vizuri zaidi kuliko vile ninazungumza. Lakini ikiwa unahitaji chochote, tafadhali piga simu kwa ofisi yangu, 412-321-5523, au nitumie barua pepe, RepKinkead@pahouse.net. Asante sana!

GETTING RIGHT TO WORK

It's certainly been a busy start to the new year and the new legislative session. I was pleased to have been selected to serve on the House Agriculture, Appropriations, Human Services and Judiciary committees.

So what does that mean for District 20? Well, the Agriculture Committee handles all things food-related; since we have seen record numbers of our neighbors become food insecure during this pandemic, having a strong advocate on this committee matters now more than ever. As a member of this committee, I will have a seat at the table to review bills that directly affect one of the state's top industries. The committee has legislative oversight of the state Department of Agriculture, the Farm Show Bureau, the Milk Marketing Board, the State Conservation Committee, and the Agricultural Land Preservation Board. And the term "agriculture" encompasses not just large-acre farms in rural areas, but also urban farming initiatives, farmers' markets, self-stabilization for produce, and providing future generations with a clear understanding and appreciation of our sources of our food. This industry, like many across the state, has faced numerous challenges during the pandemic, and I will do all I can to ensure it has a strong, vibrant future.

With budget season now underway, there is a lot of activity in the House Appropriations Committee. This committee plays a pivotal role in the annual state budget process: it governs our spending priorities, reviews all legislation to evaluate how much each bill will cost and determine how that cost will be covered, and conducts hearings to assess the strengths, weaknesses, and workability of the governor's executive budget proposal. In addition to holding jurisdiction over the state budget process, this committee also oversees the offices of state Treasurer, Auditor General, and the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

The House Human Services Committee governs the social safety net programs on which many of our friends and neighbors



I'm joined by some of my first-term colleagues at the state Capitol (I'm the third one from the left). We are ready to work for you!

have come to rely to make it through these tough times – food and nutritional support, welfare, medical assistance, cash assistance, housing and utility assistance, mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, and many others. Human Services also governs the programs we provide to support people with disabilities. On this committee, I will ensure these programs are provided the support they need and deserve to help every Pennsylvanian.

Finally, as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I am tasked with reviewing measures related to the oversight of our law enforcement agencies and our corrections system, as well as evaluating prison staffing, inmate populations, and housing conditions. Additionally, the committee reviews all matters that relate to the operation of our judicial system, including drafting and reviewing new criminal laws. I have already been working hard to defend our judiciary against a proposed constitutional measure, H.B. 38, which seeks to gerrymander our state appellate courts and allow voters to select only three of the state's 31 appellate judges in the name of so-called "geographic diversity." Unfortunately, this proposal completely ignores the criteria that most determine what makes an effective judge: their judicial philosophy, which is based on their lived experience and years that they've spent analyzing the law. Judicial philosophy develops holistically, not just by where a judge lives when they run for office. This amendment would, in effect, both limit our ability to elect the most qualified candidates and it would also strip the judicial branch of its independence, making it beholden to the whims of the legislative branch. And, as a result, it would deprive you of your rights as a voter.

I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on these committees because we certainly have a great deal of work ahead of us. I am committed to making a real, meaningful difference in the lives of our residents here in District 20 and statewide.



UNEMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

It's been a year since the full force of the pandemic arrived in our state, and with that, many people have lost their jobs or had their hours curtailed. There have been significant delays in people getting the unemployment compensation they need and deserve.

I know there have been several issues with the current unemployment compensation system and many residents are understandably frustrated and angry. My team and I will work with you to help you. That also includes providing you with information to help our small businesses. We can provide you with a variety of resources to assist you, including information on programs to help keep your doors open.

Please reach out to my office by calling 412-321-5523 or by email at RepKinkead@pahouse.net. In addition, there are several resources also listed on my website and via my social media channels (@RepKinkead on Facebook and Twitter).

HERE FOR YOU

The coronavirus crisis has caused significant disruptions to all our lives. My office can help you access state programs, answer questions you may have about state-related services and get you the help you need.

Although we remain closed to walk-in visitors, my office is available by email or by phone, and appointments are available for critical issues that cannot be handled over the phone or via email.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATES

I continue to work closely with our area's health systems, small pharmacies, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to coordinate increased vaccine supply.



I take part in regular meetings with state health officials and my colleagues to stay up to date and do all I can to get these much-needed vaccines to our county.

Please know that I share your frustration in this process, and I am doing all I can to improve our current situation. I will also pass along updated information as I receive it on my social media accounts.

In late February, I joined several of my colleagues, urging the Health Department to include teachers, school personnel and corrections officers.

On March 3, state health officials announced that teachers and other school personnel will be vaccinated. Sites will be established and the Pennsylvania National Guard will help administer the vaccine.

In addition, I do want to pass along the following information:

- UPMC is now vaccinating residents in Phase 1a – which includes people over 65 and people with medical conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 complications. Please visit <https://vaccine.upmc.com/> for details and to register.

You can also call 844-UPMCVAC (844-876-2822) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., seven days a week if you have limited access to online services or technology – like a computer or smartphone – or if you need assistance in registering.

- In addition, the Allegheny Health Network is scheduling appointments for Phase 1a as well, and – like UPMC – the network is working working diligently to secure additional vaccines. You can visit <https://www.ahn.org/coronavirus/vaccine/#whatyoucandonow> for more information. You can also contact AHN by phone at 412-DOCTORS (412-362-8677).

You can sign up for Allegheny County COVID-19 vaccine alerts through Allegheny Alerts – you can receive these alerts on your mobile phone, home phone or via email. Sign up at www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts.



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PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE

Older and disabled Pennsylvanians can now apply for the 2020 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program. This year, the state Department of Revenue is encouraging those who are eligible to use an online filing option via my.path.pa.gov to electronically submit their application.

Submitting your application online is easy and does not require you to sign up for an account. You'll be asked to provide specific information on your income and rent/property taxes. Please check the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program instruction booklet, found at this web page (https://www.revenue.pa.gov/FormsandPublications/FormsforIndividuals/PTRR/Documents/2020_pa-1000_inst.pdf) to learn which information you'll need.



APPLY NOW:

**PROPERTY TAX/RENT
REBATE PROGRAM**

*Older + disabled Pennsylvanians
can now apply for a rebate on
property tax or rent paid in 2020.*



If you still wish to file a paper application, it's available by calling 1-888-222-9190. If you need additional assistance with completing or submitting your form, please contact my office by calling 412-321-5523 or by email at RepKinkead@pahouse.net.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Unemployment or the PUA system
- Property tax/rent rebates for seniors
- Voter registration and vote by mail
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Birth and death certificates
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Consumer complaints

If you need help with any state or government-related services, please contact my office by email at RepKinkead@pahouse.net or by calling 412-321-5523.