

HELP PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDES

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System work every day with at-risk veterans to prevent suicides while also recognizing the importance of public awareness.

Did you know that 14 of the 20 veterans who die of suicide each day are not in VA care? In order to reach veterans who may not be aware they are eligible for care, or don't know how to ask for help, you can help by doing the following:

- Remind veterans, their families and friends they can call the toll-free Veterans Crisis Line anytime at 1-800-273-8255, press 1; text 838255; or chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net for confidential support and guidance.
- Direct veterans to visit www.va.gov to check their eligibility for VA health care or to call 412-360-6515 to check enrollment status.
- Contact the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare suicide prevention team at 412-360-6515, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to arrange outreach events.

One veteran suicide is too many, but working together, we can make a difference.



Deasy attended Memorial Day events at the McKees Rocks V.F.W., Post 418 and presented a large flag which was flown over the State Capitol. The flag is now flown over Rangers Field in McKees Rocks.

DEASY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO HELP PA NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS



The Military Family Education Program, which was signed into law, will enable Pennsylvania National Guard Members to earn educational benefits for their spouse and/or children by committing to a second obligation of six years with the Pennsylvania National Guard. I'm pleased that this important law is now going to help retain current National Guard members and attract transitioning military service members to Pennsylvania.

VETERANS OUTREACH CLINIC CONTINUE IN MY OFFICE

A representative from Congressman Mike Doyle's office and from the Western Pennsylvania Veterans Leadership Program is available in my office to provide information on programs and services available to veterans and their families. The outreach program is the third Friday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in my district office. The next clinic is Friday, Sept. 20.

AMERICAN FLAG COLLECTION

My office continues to collect American flags ready for proper retirement by a local service organization. Please bring any flags you might have to my office at any time of the year. If you have any questions, please call my office at 412-928-9514.



STATE REP. DAN DEASY
P.O. Box 202027
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2027

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE Dan Deasy

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN, LIQUOR CONTROL COMMITTEE

27TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT • WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/DEASY • @REPDEASY

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

BEECHVIEW
Beechview Healthy Active Living Center
1555 Broadway Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Fridays
or by appt. by calling 412-928-9514

WEST END
436 S. Main St., Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
412-928-9514
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL
304 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202027
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2027
717-772-8187

11TH ANNUAL SENIOR HEALTH EXPO

Friday, Sept. 27 • 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bring unused/unwanted medications for safe disposal

I will host my 11th Annual Senior Health Expo at St. Pamphilus Church from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27. The church is located at 1000 Tropical Ave., Beechview. The event will feature more than 30 exhibitors offering information about programs and services available to older Pennsylvanians.

Stop by and talk with vendors, and get a flu or pneumonia shot with a valid Medicare or insurance card. You'll enjoy light refreshments, entertainment, door prizes and more.

In addition, I am partnering with the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office to again bring its Project D.U.M.P. (Disposal of Unused Medications Properly) deputy to collect unused or expired medications for proper disposal. Please do not bring needles or syringes.

The opioid epidemic has plagued our region and country, and these narcotics are claiming the lives of young and old alike. By properly disposing of unused and expired narcotic prescription medications,



you can keep potentially dangerous substances away from individuals susceptible to drug abuse.

I look forward to seeing you at the event. In the meantime, if you have questions or need assistance with any state-related matter, please don't hesitate to call my office at 412-928-9514.

SAVE THE DATES

SHREDDING EVENT

As part of my continued efforts to promote awareness on the dangers of identity theft, I am partnering with state Sen. Wayne Fontana and state Rep. Anita Kulik to host a free on-site paper shredding event in my legislative district.

SATURDAY, OCT. 5
McKees Rocks Shopping Center
114 Chartiers Ave., McKees Rocks, 15136

Our event will be held from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., or until the shred trucks are full.

This is a great opportunity to protect your personal information and defend yourself against identity thieves.

For more information on this or any other outreach event, contact my office at 412-928-9514 or visit my website at www.pahouse.com/deasy and click "Calendar of Events."

DOCUMENTS WILL BE SHREDDED ON SITE
ALL SHREDDED PAPER IS RECYCLED
PAPERS MUST BE LOOSE – NO BINDERS/CLIPS

Deasy Partners with Apprise to Provide Medicare Counseling During Open Enrollment.

Members of Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans can make changes each year. If you don't think your plan will meet your needs next year you can switch during the Annual Enrollment Period: October 15th – December 7th. APPRISE can help you compare plans.

One-hour counseling sessions • BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please contact the Allegheny County APPRISE office to schedule an appointment:

Phone: 412-661-1438 • APPRISE@wfspa.org

Tuesday, Oct. 15
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Crafton Library, 140 Bradford Ave.
Crafton, 15204

Saturday, Nov. 2
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rep. Deasy's District Office
436 S. Main St., West End, 15220

Tuesday, Dec. 3
1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Green Tree Library, 10 W. Manila Ave.
Green Tree 15220

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOOKS AT CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



Left: Deasy attended a public hearing of the House Policy Committee to discuss criminal justice reform.



Right: Deasy toured the State Correctional Institution – Somerset with some of his colleagues from Allegheny County.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DEASY SUPPORTS INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

The Pennsylvania minimum wage was last changed in 2008, when it was raised \$0.10 from \$7.15 to \$7.25 per hour. Pennsylvania has the lowest minimum wage in the United States, along with the 20 other states that have their wages set at the federal minimum.

I am a co-sponsor of legislation that would increase the state's minimum wage, in gradual increments through 2024. In addition, the legislation would boost the minimum wage each year after that based on the annual cost-of-living adjustment. It is important that we make every effort to ensure that Pennsylvania workers don't go another decade without an increase in their wage while the cost-of-living continues to go up.

States and cities across the United States continue to increase minimum wages for workers, including every state that borders

Pennsylvania. New Jersey passed legislation that took effect this year, which raised its minimum wage to \$8.50 and mandates incremental increases thru 2024 when its wage will hit \$15 an hour.

Every worker should be able to expect a fair day's pay for a hard day's work. No full-time worker should live in poverty. No working family should be forced to depend on public assistance to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

There are several good pieces of legislation like this that would help working families trying to make ends meet. The majority leadership in the PA House and Senate should hear the voices of over 70% of PA residents who support a minimum wage increase.

DEASY PUSHES KEY LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF ALL RESIDENTS

I am co-sponsoring many key pieces of legislation that will not only protect all residents with a pre-existing condition in need of health care, but also ensure the health and welfare of women and children. Some of these bills include, but are not limited to:

H.B. 1013 – This bill would prohibit health insurers from denying or excluding coverage based on a pre-existing condition. There is a current lawsuit against the federal Affordable Care Act, which currently prohibits health insurers for discriminating against those with a pre-existing condition. If, however, the lawsuit is successful and the ACA is ruled invalid, health insurers will again refuse to cover those with a pre-existing condition. This legislation would ensure that all Pennsylvania residents are protected and not discriminated against because they have a pre-existing health condition.

H.B. 419 – This legislation would increase access to breast and cervical cancer screenings by expanding the age eligibility

for low-income uninsured and underinsured women under the Pennsylvania Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Screening Program. Over 230,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and over 12,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer. By expanding the age eligibility for qualified women, we can ensure access to these crucial services and provide a better chance of beating cancer for many more women.

H.B. 1417 – This bill would require employers in the Commonwealth to provide reasonable workplace accommodations for pregnant employees. This legislation would make it unlawful for an employer to refuse an employee's request for a reasonable accommodation, unless doing so would represent an undue hardship to the employer. These accommodations include providing periodic rest or a chair for an employee who stands for a long period of time, assistance with heavy lifting, access to drinking water, uncompensated break time and temporary job restructuring.

VOTER RIGHTS AND ELECTION REFORM

I have always advocated for voter rights and support election reform legislation. To that end, there are several bills I am co-sponsoring this session that would move us forward in Pennsylvania. Some of these bills include:

H.B. 1556 – This bill would provide for an automatic voter registration program to register all individuals when they interact with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, access Pennsylvania's Health and Human Services benefit programs, or any other state service. All individuals would have the right to opt out of this registration program. Linking voter registration with ordinary activities of life, such as renewing a driver's license or applying for workers' compensation, would empower more people to exercise their right to vote.

H.B. 1493 – This bill would allow all registered voters to request an absentee ballot. Currently, absentee ballot requests are restricted for only a few reasons, such as illness, inability to physically get to the polls or being out of the area and unable to get to the voting polls.

H.B. 23 – I support this bill that would stipulate an Independent Redistricting Commission. This bill would create an 11-member Commission to redraw congressional district lines. The new Commission would replace the current process by which legislative leaders propose a congressional redistricting plan that is then presented to the General Assembly for approval. I support all similar legislation that would direct this 11-member Independent Commission to redraw all state House and Senate district lines, as well.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DEASY CONTINUES TO FIGHT TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

President Theodore Roosevelt said, "Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

It is all of our responsibility to preserve and protect our environment for our children, their grandchildren, and for many generations to come. To that end, I am proud of my voting record on legislation that addresses deep environmental concerns. Some of the current pieces of legislation I am co-sponsoring are summarized below:

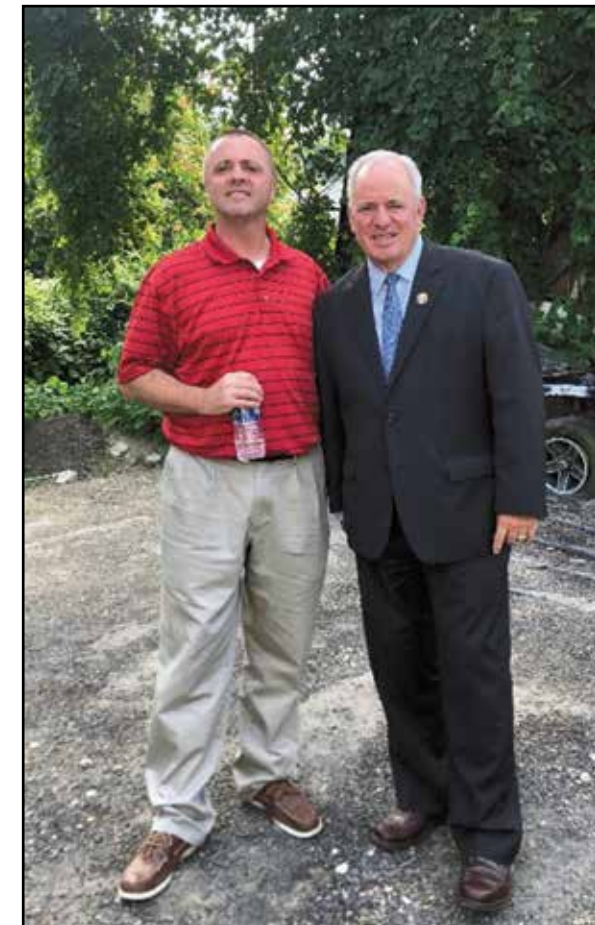
H.B. 139 – This bill represents a Growing Greener III proposal that would provide \$315 million in annual investments for environmental conservation, recreation, and preservation projects across the Commonwealth. The proposed legislation represents the needs identified through an analysis compiled by the Growing Greener Coalition and its member organizations. Since its inception in 1999, Pennsylvania's nationally recognized Growing Greener program has funded hundreds of local parks and trail projects; conserved more than 50,000 acres of threatened open space; protected more than 33,500 acres of family farmland; repaired more than 1,600 acres of abandoned mine land; and restored hundreds of miles of streams and waterways. Even with this comprehensive history of success, there is still much more work that needs to be done.

This legislation would go a long way to help us protect Pennsylvania's water, land and other natural resources while maintaining our commitment to future generations.

H.B. 468 – Slope movement and landslides have caused a great amount of damage to homes and roadways in Southwestern Pennsylvania. This reoccurring problem has caused an estimated \$4 million in damage a year. There are currently insurance programs for landslides caused by mining practices and mudslides, but other types of landslides are most often not covered by insurance. Residents in the landslide-prone areas are in desperate need of protection from the devastating effects of landslides. This bill would establish a much-needed Pennsylvania Landslide Insurance and Assistance Program within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The Landslide Assistance Fund would receive an initial appropriation of \$2.5 million and the Landslide Insurance Fund would also receive an initial appropriation of \$2.5 million.

H.B. 1611 – This bill would create a Plastic Pollution Task Force within the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to study a variety of issues, such as reducing the amount of plastic entering the waste stream, reducing and removing existing plastic pollution, and restoring ecosystems that have been damaged by plastic pollution. While this legislation may not eliminate plastic-related pollution, it would be a big step forward in addressing this environmental problem.

Deasy hosted a meeting in the West End to discuss flooding issues with Congressman Mike Doyle, the Army Corps of Engineers, PWSA, City of Pittsburgh officials and Councilwoman Smith. Additionally, PennDOT and the PA Department of Environmental Protection have been working with Deasy for more than a year to address resident concerns and to study environmental impact issues.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DEASY REPORTS ON LIQUOR CONTROL COMMITTEE

After a very busy spring session during which the committee considered nearly a dozen bills, we continued to work through the summer, holding a public hearing on H.B. 1617, which is a license conversion proposal, and are preparing for a hearing on H.B. 1644, which would drastically change the way our current retail licensees operate.

I anticipate that this fall the Liquor Control Committee will consider other several bills, as well as hold informational hearings to better inform the committee members of the issues facing the industry. Specifically, our first information hearing is scheduled for Sept. 10 in Harrisburg to learn about the impact flexible pricing provisions have had on the market. House Bill 1512 directly deals with the removal of these provisions and will be discussed in detail at this hearing.

Additionally, the committee likely will consider H.B. 1617 at our first meeting this fall. As aforementioned, the committee held a hearing on this bill in Philadelphia this summer, which allowed the committee members to hear about the impact converting hotel licenses to restaurant licenses would have on the industry. The committee heard from groups such as the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Licensing Association, The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, and the Pennsylvania Licensed Beverage Tavern Association. I look forward to a busy and productive fall legislative session.



DEASY HOSTS SENIOR INFO SERIES

Each month, I host a Senior Info Series presentation at all the senior centers in my district.

In September, my staff will be on-hand to take photos and help seniors apply for the Port Authority's new Senior Connect Card.

Senior citizens, 65 or older, will need one of the following forms of identification to apply for the new Connect Card:

- Photo driver's license
- Birth certificate
- Armed Forces discharge or separation papers
- Baptismal certificate
- PACE ID card
- Passport or Naturalization papers
- Pennsylvania ID Card
- A statement of age from the U.S. Social Security Administration

All events will begin at 10 a.m. To sign up for a new Senior Connect Card, **you must call the senior center you will be visiting and register to attend.** Note that photos will be taken according to the registration list at each center.

See below for the dates and locations.

Monday, Sept. 16

West End Senior Center
80 Wasbash St., Pittsburgh, 15220
Call to sign up: 412-937-3068

Thursday, Sept. 19

Mt. Washington Senior Center
122 Virginia Ave., Pittsburgh, 15211
Call to sign up: 412-488-8405

Wednesday, Sept. 25

Rep. Deasy's District Office • 436 S. Main St., Pittsburgh (West End)
Call to sign up: 412-928-9514

Friday, Sept. 20

Sheraden Senior Center
720 Sherwood Ave., Pittsburgh, 15204
Call to sign up: 412-777-5012

Tuesday, Sept. 24

Beechview Senior Center
1555 Broadway Ave., Pittsburgh, 15216
Call to sign up: 412-567-7290

If you cannot get to one of the senior centers on the above dates or to my district office during my normal business hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., we will have extended hours until 6:30 p.m. to assist you on the following date:

Rep. Deasy's office has processed over 1,200 Senior Connect Card applications.