

# State Representative Pamela A. DeLissio

Minority Chair / Children and Youth Committee



**Dear Colleagues,**

As minority chair of the House Children & Youth Committee, I want to keep you in the loop regarding the work of the committee. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff if we can be of assistance.

FYI - I am pleased to welcome two new additions to the Children & Youth committee staff, Kyle Wagon seller and Jessica Sander. Kyle will serve as the Executive Director for the committee and Jessica will serve as research analyst.

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## COMMITTEE NEWS RECAP



### Bills in Review

As the Minority Chair of the House Children & Youth Committee and throughout my tenure in office, I have committed myself to working across the aisle. Chair Delozier and I often work together to pass bills from the committee with overwhelming bi-partisan support.

To date, The House Children & Youth Committee has passed 12 bills out of committee that have received final passage in the House and await action in the Senate.

- [HB 159 Child Abuse Reporting and Military Personnel](#)
- [HB 253 Establishing a task Force on Opioid Abuse Epidemic's Impact on Infants and Children](#)
- [HB 764 Provisional Hiring Parity Legislation](#)
- [HB 954 Allows law enforcement agencies to share child abuse information with certain entities](#)
- [HB 1155 Exempts public preschool recreation programs from the requirement to be certified by the Dept. of Human Services as child care facilities by specifically excluding such programs from the definition of child day care center](#)
- [HB 1650 Title 67 Reorganization](#)
- [HB 1657 Closing Loophole in Child Protective Services Law](#)
- [HB 1731 Establishing the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee on Greater Father Involvement](#)
- [HB 1737 Drug Screening](#)
- [HB 1866 Helping Older Foster Youth Find Permanency](#)
- [HB 2214 Making Indemnification Language Unenforceable in Governmental Contracts with Private Children and Youth Social Service Agencies and Children Residential Services](#)
- [HB 2426 Resource \(Foster\) Family Legislation](#)

Of those 12 bills, 3 have been signed into law by Governor Wolf (H.B. 253, H.B. 764, & H.B. 954). 2 bills are currently awaiting a vote by the Senate Aging and Youth Committee (H.B. 1155 & H.B.1657). 1 is awaiting a vote by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee (H.B. 159). Lastly, 6 bills have been reported as committed from the Senate Aging and Youth Committee and are awaiting a final vote of the Senate (H.B. 1650, H.B. 1731, H.B. 1737, H.B. 1866, H.B. 2214 & H.B. 2426). All 12 bills are prime sponsored by Republican members.

All 12 bills were voted out of committee unanimously by the Democratic members. We work diligently in committee to amend legislation to reflect our concerns and needs. The result of this work is substantive, positive policy for the betterment of the youngest citizens of our Commonwealth.

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### World Youth Skills Day– July 15<sup>th</sup>



In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared July 15<sup>th</sup> as World Youth Skills Day. World Youth Skills Day is an opportunity for young people, technical and vocational education and training institutions and public and private sector stakeholders to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

World Youth Skills Day encourages youth to acquire certain skills that will help them achieve personal success and fulfillment. The day also raises awareness about the lack of skills that prevent young people from working.

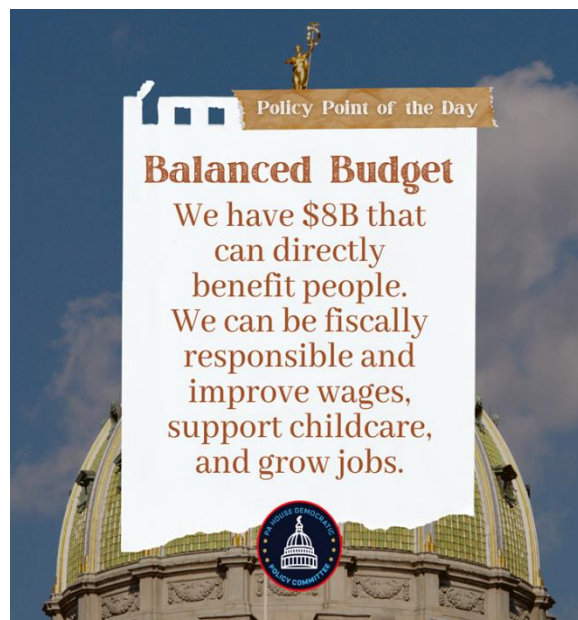
There is a growing concern that youth throughout the world are not able to find employment. There is also concern that youth are not able to receive the proper education or training for their future careers. To help combat these fears, the UN is placing emphasis on technical and vocational education and training.

The first World Youth Skills Day was held on July 15, 2015. Past themes for the day include:

- 2021: Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic
- 2020: Skills for a Resilient Youth
- 2019: Youth Skills for Sustainability and Innovation
- 2018: Innovation and Sustainability
- 2017: Skills for the Future of Work
- 2016: Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment
- 2015: Youth Skills for Life in the Post-2015 Agenda

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## POLICY POINT



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**BILLS & RESOLUTIONS CURRENTLY IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
COMMITTEE**

**[H.B. 193: COVID-19 Childcare Assistance](#)** – Rep. Liz Hanbidge

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**[H.B. 369: COVID-19: Support for Frontline Workers](#)** – Rep. Austin Davis

**[H.B. 628: Student Loan Forgiveness for Child Welfare Workers](#)** – Rep. Tarah Toohil

**[H.B. 631: Keys to Independence for Foster Youth Age 16-21](#)** – Rep. Tarah Toohil

**[H.B. 1259 Elijah's Law- Anaphylaxis Recognition and Emergency Response Procedures in Day Cares](#)** – Rep. Ryan Warner

**[H.B. 1687: Autism Screening for Children Aged 18 Months to 4 Years](#)** – Rep. Brian Smith

**[H.B. 1769: Adding Nurses to County Children & Youth Agency Staff](#)** – Rep. Karen Boback

**[HB 1843: Protecting Children in Foster Care/Adoption - Grace Packer](#)** – Rep. Christopher B. Quinn

**[HB 1844: Protecting Children in Foster Care/Adoption - Grace Packer](#)** – Rep. Craig T. Staats

**[HB 1845: Protecting Children in Foster Care/Adoption - Grace Packer](#)** – Rep. Craig T. Staats

**[HB 1863: Updating Definition in Child Protective Services Law](#)** - Rep. Sheryl M. Delozier

**[HB 2174: Revisiting Entry into ARD as Basis for Founded Child Abuse Report](#)**- Rep. Abby Major

**[HB 2213 Limitation of Liability for Social Services Providers](#)** - Rep. Kate A. Klunk

**[HB 2381 Family Finding and Kinship Care Practices](#)** – Rep. Mailou Mackenzie

**[HB 2383 Multidisciplinary Medical Team for Child Abuse Investigations](#)** – Rep. Ryan Warner

**[HB 2400 Keystone STARS](#)** – Rep. Thomas L. Mehaffie III

[H.B. 2472 Video Surveillance in Child Care Centers](#) – Rep. Angel Cruz

[H.R. 126: Recognizing the Impact of Childhood Emotional Abuse](#) – Rep. Brian Kirkland

[H.R. 133: Recognizing the Harmful Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) – Rep. Stephen Kinsey

[S.B. 522 Universal Lead Testing for Children](#) – Senator Lisa Baker

[S.B. 967 Establishing the Women, Infants, and Children State Advisory Board \(WICSAB\)](#) – Senator Judith L. Schwank

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Each month, I spotlight members of the Children & Youth Committee so you can get to know them better. This month we chatted with Representative Ann Flood, R- Northampton County.

Ann brings her experience working with health professionals and patients as well as with business owners and job creators to the difficult task of helping Pennsylvania to safely and strongly recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

She is dedicated to promoting policies that will create an environment that protects workers while enabling employers to sustain and grow their operations. Ann is focused on funding Pennsylvania's schools, colleges, universities, trades programs and other educational institutions in an effort to ensure every student has the best opportunity to learn and succeed. She is devoted to enacting measures aimed at controlling the cost of health care to make it more affordable while also expanding access to mental health services.

Prior to joining the Legislature, Ann built from the ground up a foundation to enhance the quality of life for brain-injured children and offer support for their families. Ann started Lauren's Hope Foundation in 2008 in memory of her daughter, Lauren, who was only four years old when she passed away in 2007 as the result of a brain injury sustained at birth.

Ann's work with the foundation helped fund hypothermia therapy equipment to support a cutting-edge treatment program at the Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; helped families pay for treatments that weren't covered by insurance; and provided specialized equipment that enabled children to remain at home with their families rather than forcing them to live in a residential nursing facility.

Ann has always had a love of working to help children in our Commonwealth and, as State Representative, she is able to help a broader group of individuals.

Ann has been appointed to serve on four House committees during the 2021-22 Legislative Session. She serves on the Human Services, Game and Fisheries, Aging and Older Adult Services, and Children & Youth committees. The Speaker appointed Ann to serve on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund (CTF). The CTF provides funding for community-based programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect.

Ann is the prime sponsor of [H.B. 1737](#). The House Children & Youth Committee unanimously passed this bill. The bill allows a county agency, during the course of an investigation, to seek a court order to compel appropriate drug/alcohol testing of an individual when there is evidence that substance use may be a contributing cause of child abuse or neglect. Ann feels passionately that this bill, if it ultimately passes the Senate, would have a tremendous impact on preventing child abuse.

Ann graduated from Pen Argyl Area High School before earning a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a concentration in chemistry and psychology from Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Ann is a Wind Gap native who currently lives in Bath with her husband, Daniel. The couple are the proud parents of their son, Jake, and their daughters, Ella and Lauren (deceased).

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### HAVE A QUESTION?

If you have questions or would like to share ideas for the Children & Youth Committee, call my office at 717-783-4945.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.