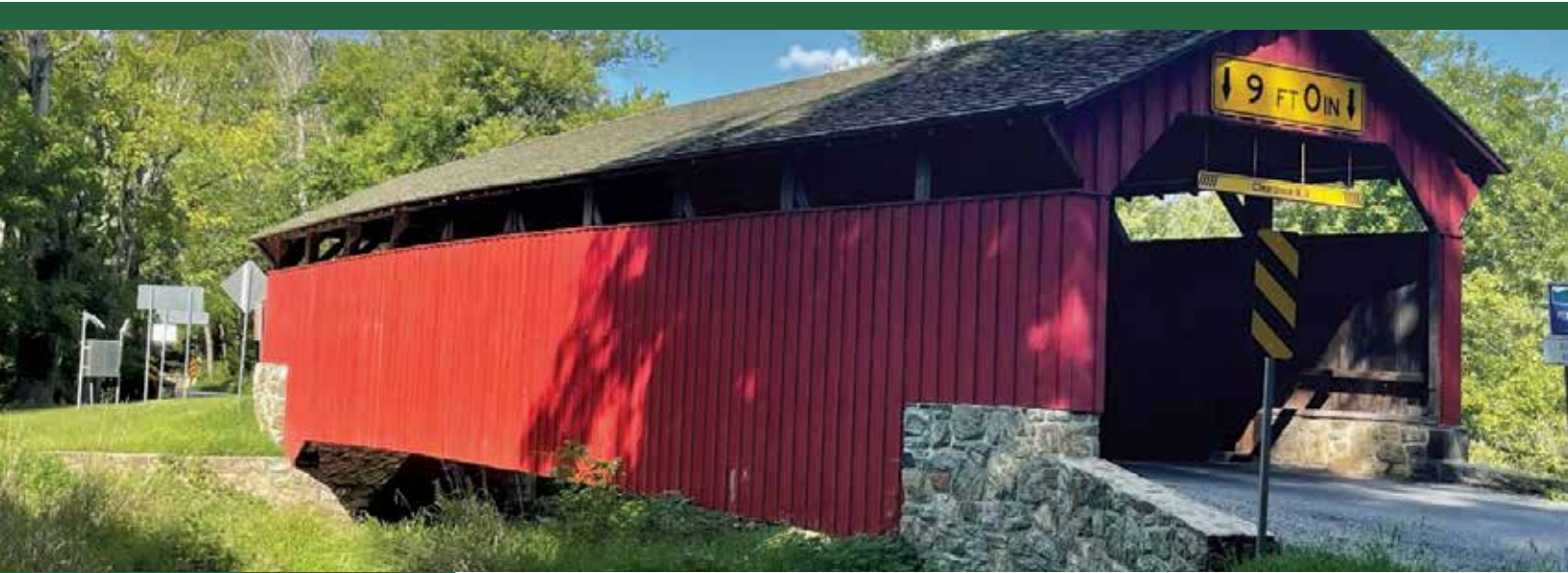


News From State Representative

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

158th Legislative District | Chester County | Summer 2023



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CHRISTINA SAPPEY

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HAPPY SUMMER, NEIGHBOR!

As the school year has come to an end and our schedules get a little lighter, it's a good time to think about the "bounty of less" that summer offers. Less hurrying, less on the calendar, less pressure.... I often ponder all we have here to take advantage of and its simplicity. We live in an extraordinary area, rich in natural resources, preserved open space, history, tourism events, cultural and learning opportunities. It's tempting, for sure, to want to do it all, but perhaps the best thing for our hearts and minds would be slowing down and intentionally focusing on family and friends this summer. I recently learned there is a term for this. Hygge-Danish in origin, it means gathering with no agenda, focusing on just being together with an emphasis on comfort.

I hear from residents daily about mental health related issues in our schools and communities. I hear about negative behavior that indicates how stressed and anxious we are. Let's slow down. This summer, let's block time on the calendar for hygge. Let's focus on the restorative power of civility toward each other. Let our hearts fully appreciate each other's humanity by slowing down on our roads, too. I believe when we slow down our daily routine and slow down on our roads, we are acknowledging that we each have value and our community is the richer for it.

This summer, be well and be safe.

CELEBRATING EARTH MONTH

In April, which is recognized as Earth Month, I developed an educational video series with local experts to highlight environmental efforts. Topics included riparian buffers, composting, regenerative farming, and pollinators. The conversations provided a summary of what is happening locally and how residents can get involved. You can view the series at repsappey.com/earthmonth.

I also partnered again with Stroud Water Research Center on Earth Day for a family fun Stream Health Walk. Attendees were led by Stroud experts through a series of learning stations along the White Clay Creek.

At one station, researchers collected species of fish from the stream to explain how the presence of larger fish means there is a bustling ecosystem of microorganisms, plant life, and insects to support them.

Further along the trail, participants were able to identify and separate a variety of critters from the stream as researchers explained how insects are a key indicator for the waterway's ecosystem. Certain species of insects are more tolerant to environmental conditions than others. The presence of less tolerant species indicates better health for the stream.

Lastly, researchers showed residents how landscape architectural designs such as rain gardens, permeable surface sidewalks or parking lots, and riparian buffers can protect our waterways. These features reduce stream erosion caused by excess storm water, filter pollutants, and keep water temperatures low, which creates a healthier ecosystem for the related wildlife.



HEMP: PENNSYLVANIA'S CROP OF THE FUTURE



Industrial hemp farming has the potential to reap huge rewards for Pennsylvania by opening new markets and creating business opportunities for growers, processors, manufacturers, distributors, and investors. Agriculture is PA's top industry and the source of one out of ten jobs in the Commonwealth. As a member of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, I want to strengthen the relationship between agribusiness and PA's economy, and I believe that Chester County should be at the forefront of this effort. That is why I am working closely with hemp growers to open pathways to revenue generation and farmland preservation that industrial hemp would provide.

Thousands of assorted products, including textiles, grains, personal care items, construction materials, cooking oils, and biofuels, can be manufactured from industrial hemp. This versatility is just one reason cultivating hemp should be an appealing option for a new generation of farmers. Other attributes of industrial hemp crops include its sustainability, natural resistance to moisture, pests and diseases, and drought tolerance.

These features are also advantageous to established farmers who may be looking to diversify crops or expand to new, lucrative opportunities. The more profitable our farmers are, the more likely they are to keep farming, encouraging farmland preservation. Currently, a handful of farms in the 158th and around Chester County are taking advantage of our ideal climate and access to major markets by growing hemp for use in sustainable garden products, animal and livestock bedding, food, fiber, and alternative medicines.

I believe that we can increase demand for industrial hemp products by expanding public and private funding to support product development, supply chains, and distribution. We can also expand the consumer market for hemp products through education and communication. These efforts support both new farmers as well as those transitioning to industrial hemp. I want to help position Pennsylvania at the forefront of the hemp farming industry, creating economic benefits throughout the Commonwealth and here close to home.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Making the Office of Child Advocate Permanent

As a longtime advocate for our children and youth mental health, I have introduced HB 813 which would make the Office of Child Advocate (OCA) permanent in Pennsylvania. Currently the OCA is operating under an executive order, leaving it vulnerable to being dissolved by a future governor's administration.

The OCA provides a direct line to assistance for our most vulnerable children across the state, frequently those in foster care. This legislation specifies the office's role in child abuse prevention and investigation, implementing trauma informed policies and best practices, investigating health and safety complaints from juveniles, and reporting regularly to the General Assembly on policy changes needed for the well-being of children.

Empowering Water and Wastewater Ratepayers

After listening to the concerns of many constituents, I have reintroduced HB 1205, the Water and Wastewater Ratepayer Bill of Rights. This bill would require a vote among ratepayers to approve the sale of their local authority. It would also ensure consumers are informed of rate histories, information on their water sources, and require notices when a rate increase is

requested by a water utility and, when necessary, approved by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC).

Current state laws regarding water and wastewater rate regulations and authority sales are not in the consumer's best interest. It is imperative that reform is considered in Harrisburg to prevent future prioritization of corporate profits over residents' access to a basic necessity such as water.

While the PUC regulates rates, the current rate increase approval process leaves consumers in the dark and regularly results in approved higher rates despite ratepayer opposition.

Fortunately, legislators from across the state are recognizing the need for reform on this issue. This had led to more investigation on the topic, including a recent House Majority Policy Committee hearing on protecting public water authorities at Chester Water Authority.

Pets and Domestic Violence

This session, I have reintroduced HB 1210 to expand protection from abuse (PFA) orders to include pets. Research has shown in domestic violence situations that when an abuser can no longer inflict harm to an individual due to a PFA, they will look for other ways to inflict physical and emotional harm. After a victim of abuse receives protection, it is often a beloved family pet that becomes most vulnerable to continued abuse.

Help For Working Families

Too many of our working families are struggling to get ahead. The United Way of Pennsylvania (UWP) identifies these individuals and families, living paycheck to paycheck but above the federal poverty limit, as Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE). This often includes individuals in low-income fields, single parents, recent college graduates or young professionals that are one financial emergency, such as a car repair, from falling behind.

These individuals and families have invested in themselves and their communities. It is crucial to our economy that we keep them on the path of growth and advancement, encouraging workers to stay in our local workforce, move toward or maintain home ownership and pursue further education for their kids. Supporting the ALICE population strengthens PA communities by building the middle class.

To help ALICE households, I introduced HB 1272 which would create a state-level income tax credit (EITC) program in Pennsylvania. Under this proposal, based off the federal EITC program, qualifying individuals and families could receive a tax credit between \$197 and \$594. By design, the credits are refundable, and grow with each additional dollar of earnings until they reach their maximum value. UWP studies have shown that for every \$1 spent on EITC, the Commonwealth will likely receive \$4 back in economic growth and \$3 in human services savings. Thirty-three other states have implemented EITC programs, and I'm hopeful that Pennsylvania will join them in making this critical investment in our workforce.



AED Access and Training in Schools

The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that approximately 2,000 people under the age of 25 die from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in the U.S. each year, tragically making it the leading cause of death in young athletes. Unlike a heart attack, which is caused by a blockage cutting off blood flow to the heart, SCA occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating due to ventricular fibrillation (VF), an abnormality in the heart's electrical system which maintains the heartbeat, making all age groups susceptible.

During SCA the individual will collapse, become nonresponsive and stop breathing. Survival is dependent on nearby observers calling 911, immediately starting CPR and, if available, using an automated external defibrillator (AED). AEDs help those experiencing SCA by providing an electrical shock to reestablish a heart rhythm.

Recently, I introduced House Bills 1203 and 1204 to increase access to AEDs in schools and require CPR/AED training for coaches and advisors of after-school activities. The legislative language specifies that these trainings will be eligible for continuing education credits (Act 48) when completed by an educator.

The incident with Damar Hamlin on Monday Night Football earlier this year showed all of us the importance of being prepared for these moments. It is vital that these bills move forward to protect our kids.

Justice for Child Sex Abuse Victims

House Bills 1 and 2 passed the House of Representatives in April to provide long overdue justice to victims of childhood sexual abuse. Our current laws limit the opportunity for victims to charge an abuser because of the statute of limitations, a time limit placed on when childhood sexual abuse lawsuits can be filed. It often takes a long time for victims of these horrendous acts to come forward due to coping measures developed in response to the traumatic event or societal pressures. The House passed these bills with bipartisan support, without amending or compromising the legislation's original intent.

Gun Violence Prevention Legislation Advances

In late May, the House of Representatives took a significant step forward on gun violence prevention by passing two bills. I have cosponsored and voted for these commonsense measures.

HB 714 would expand background checks to include rifles. This legislation ensures that a background check is included with a rifle purchase, whether it is made through a licensed retail seller, privately or at a gun show.

HB 1018 would implement extreme risk protections orders (ERPO) in Pennsylvania. ERPO allows a family member or law enforcement to ask a judge to hold a hearing to temporarily disarm someone in crisis. The legislation includes a due process for the individual to ensure their rights are not impeded.

✂ PLEASE CLIP, STAMP AND MAIL.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Your feedback is critical to my work as your representative. To share your thoughts on state issues, please fill out the survey below and return it to my office, 698 Unionville Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

1. What are your top 5 priorities?

- Affordable Housing
- Agriculture
- Animal Protection
- Broadband Internet Access
- Crime
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Drug Use and Addiction
- Economy
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- EMS/Fire Coverage
- Environment and Climate Change
- Government Reform
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Health Care
- Higher Education
- K-12 Education
- Law Enforcement Coverage

- Mental Health Services
- Open Space
- Public Transportation
- Roadways
- Solar Energy
- Small Business Initiatives
- Speeding
- Taxes
- Trails/Recreation
- Veterans Services

2. Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana?

- Support
 - Oppose
- Comment _____

3. Do you support liquor privatization?

- Support
 - Oppose
- Comment _____

4. How do you receive updates from Rep. Sappey?

- Mailings
- Social Media (Follow on Facebook @RepSappey)
- Website
- Enews (Weekly opt-in email updates)
- Events

Please contact me to discuss the following issue(s): _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

SCAN HERE
TO TAKE THIS
SURVEY ONLINE!



FREE DRIVE-THRU SHRED EVENT

HOSTED WITH SENATOR JOHN KANE
SATURDAY, JUNE 24
9 AM TO 11 AM

Unionville High School
750 Unionville Road, Kennett Square, PA

Protect yourself from identity theft by attending our free Shred Event. Only paper, paper clips and staples are accepted with a maximum limit of four (4) boxes or bags. You will be required to take your boxes/bags back with you. All materials will be shredded on site. The event will run until 11AM or until the trucks are full. Registration for the Shred Event is not required.

Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) will also be onsite to collect non-perishable food items. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (484) 200-8264.



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

State Representative
CHRISTINA SAPPEY
698 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348



CHRISTINA SAPPEY

698 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348



*Spanish version of this
newsletter available here.*

lpo.jc.0623

HERE TO SERVE YOU

As your state representative, I try to provide a variety of avenues for us to connect so you have an opportunity to ask questions, gather information, share ideas, get help, etc. Interacting with constituents keeps me informed of issues that are important to you and helps guide my votes in Harrisburg.

My district office staff and I are available to help with issues involving state government. Some examples of the services available include:

- **SEPTA Senior Key Cards:** District office staff can submit new applications AND renewals for existing cards.
- **Unemployment Compensation:** Legislative inquiries can be made for constituents experiencing problems with the unemployment process.
- **PennDOT Driver Services:** Staff can assist in expediting PennDOT applications such as disability parking placards/plates.
- **Property Tax/Rent Rebate Forms:** Applications are available in my office. The application deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.
- **Special Recognition:** Letters, certificates of achievement and citations for milestone events such as birthdays, anniversaries and retirements are available through my office.
- **Referral Information:** Staff can help you find services and information pertaining to local, county and state government. Assistance is provided to help connect you with local non-profit organizations specializing in a specific area of need.
- **Tax Forms:** State and Federal income tax forms provided.

The district office is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5PM. We are located in the Willowdale Town Center at 698 Unionville Road in East Marlborough Township and can be reached by calling 484-200-8264 or emailing repsappey@pahouse.net.