



State Representative | 157th Legislative District

# MELISSA L. SHUSTERMAN



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Summer  
2024

RepShusterman.com | @RepShusterman

## Dear Neighbors,

I hope you have been enjoying your summer! My colleagues and I have spent most of our time out of the sun and in the chamber of the House passing numerous pieces of legislation and a state budget that works for YOU!

We've passed many bills that support all sorts of Pennsylvanians. Whether it's helping to keep seniors in their homes, improving the quality of our children's education both in and out of the classroom, or protecting your medical rights, we have made great strides in making the lives of just about everyone in the Commonwealth just that much easier.

Now I am looking forward to spending some time with the great people of the 157th Legislative District. We've had some great events in the past few months, and we still have more on the way! Read on to learn about my legislation, how this budget impacts you, and all the great things happening around Paoli and Chester County!

Sincerely,

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

After working around the clock, the House agreed upon a fiscally responsible, bipartisan 2024-25 state budget that doesn't raise taxes, creates new job opportunities through economic and workforce development, and makes historic investments in education. We're moving Pennsylvania forward!

### 2024-2025 PA BUDGET

#### Moving Pennsylvania Forward

- ✓ No new taxes
- ✓ Historic **\$11B funding** for Pre-K-12 education
- ✓ **\$100M increase** for special needs education
- ✓ **NEW** Grow Pennsylvania **Scholarship Program**
- ✓ **Over \$550M** for economic development programs
- ✓ **\$161M** investment in transportation & multimodal projects
- ✓ **\$14.7M increase** for veteran support programs
- ✓ **\$75M** increase for skilled nursing facilities
- ✓ **Over \$25M** for state parks, forests, & preservation

### MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU!

- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation.
  - Pennsylvania state income tax questions or problems.
  - PACE cards for senior citizens.
  - Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms and application assistance.
  - Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups.
- Any state-government service or issue!**

# LEGISLATION

**Delivering for All PA Students**

**2024/25 Increases**

- ✓ \$728 million for chronically underfunded schools
- ✓ \$530 million in cyber charter savings
- ✓ \$200 million so every school district receives an increase
- ✓ \$136 million in property tax relief

**7-Year Totals**

- ✓ \$5.1 billion for chronically underfunded schools
- ✓ \$3.7 billion in cyber charter savings
- ✓ \$1.4 billion through the fair funding formula for all public schools
- ✓ \$955 million in property tax relief

PA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

## EDUCATION FUNDING

As your representative, I want to ensure EVERY kid in PA has access to a quality public education and has the same chance to succeed. This budget delivers on that promise.

- ✓ I fought for \$5 billion in new funding to close the gap between our richest and poorest school districts.
- ✓ I fought for \$1 billion in property tax relief for homeowners who've been paying too much for too long.
- ✓ I fought to put nearly a half-billion dollars back into your pocket by finally treating cyber charter schools like the taxpayer-funded schools they've always been.

I'm proud to have voted for a 2024-25 PA Budget that includes a historic \$1.3 billion investment in education, benefiting every child in every school. This includes an increase in funding of over \$2 million for the 157th Legislative District!

## NURSING HOME COMMUNICATIONS ACT

It's been a big year for advancing legislation. On July 17, Governor Shapiro signed Act 75 of 2024 into law. This is legislation I introduced, which will enhance the quality of care provided in nursing homes across the Commonwealth by fostering better communication and collaboration between the Pennsylvania Department of Health and nursing home staff. It will improve the Health Care Facilities Act to require annual meetings so that the Department of Health and nursing home staff can discuss survey results, trends, and best practices. The new law is a step toward greater transparency and improving the well-being of over 60,000 seniors.

## POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION LEGISLATION

One in seven women will struggle with postpartum depression, which can interfere with their ability to care for their baby, themselves, and other family members. That's why early detection is crucial for new mothers. The House UNANIMOUSLY voted for H.B. 2127, which I co-sponsored. This bill would ensure that every mother receives proper screening and the support she needs during this vulnerable period.

**2024-2025 EDUCATION FUNDING**

**MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOLS**

**\$768,729**  
Great Valley School District

**\$756,604**  
Tredyffrin-Easttown School District

**\$721,062**  
Phoenixville Area School District

REPRESENTATIVE SHUSTERMAN



# WORKING FOR YOU!

In our first session with control of the House in more than a decade, Democrats have passed nearly 400 bills that translate into real change for you, your bank account, and working families across PA.

## SIGNED INTO LAW:

- Fair Funding for Schools
- Expanded Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- Expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program
- Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act
- Patient Safety Act
- Kayden's Law
- Free Menstruation Products in Schools
- Student Teacher Stipends
- Worker Protections and Ending Wage Theft
- Closed Corporate Tax Loopholes
- Improved Rail Safety
- Free Credit Monitoring for Victims of Data Breaches

## PASSED THE HOUSE:

- Equal Pay Act (H.B. 98)
- Marriage Equality Act (H.B. 2269)
- Abortion Shield Bill (H.B. 1786)
- Anti-Hate Crime Package (H.B. 1024)
- Stopping Foreign Influence in Elections (H.B. 2433)
- Reimbursement Methods for Doctors (H.B. 1867)
- Maternal and Newborn Supply Kit Program (H.B. 2137)



## ABORTION IS SAFE AND LEGAL IN PA

Roe v. Wade may have been overturned, but abortion is still safe and still legal in PA, and the PA House intends to keep it that way.

Last fall, Rep. Mary Jo Daley and I authored legislation, which passed the House (H.B. 1786) to shield individuals and medical providers from out-of-state prosecution for seeking and providing abortion services. Since then, I

have introduced eight other bills to safeguard abortion access, including legislation that would add abortion coverage to state employee insurance policies (H.B.s 2056 and 2057), provide funding for family planning service providers (H.B.s 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195), remove unnecessary admitting barriers for abortion providers (H.B. 2517), and codify abortion as necessary emergency care (H.B. 2465).



# HARRISBURG UPDATE

## MEET OUR INTERNS!

Clare Martnishn is a rising Junior at Syracuse University, working toward Bachelor of Arts degrees in Policy Studies and Law, Society, and Policy. In her free time, Clare enjoys spending time outdoors with friends and is becoming increasingly involved with her community.

Colin Costin is a senior at the University of Delaware pursuing a major in International Relations with double minors in Legal Studies and Journalism. Colin enjoys playing sports with friends and delving into history.

Heather Cirino is a rising senior at the University of Maryland, where she is studying Criminology and Criminal Justice with a minor in Rhetoric. Aside from academics, Heather enjoys traveling, being active, and giving back to her community.

Clare, Colin, and Heather have been tremendous assets to our office by helping with constituent outreach, event planning, social media, and legislative research!



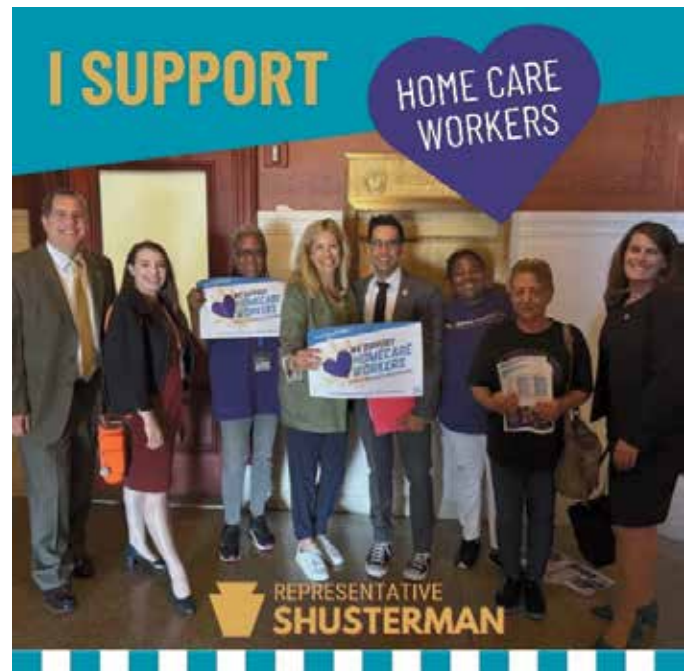
## RESCUE DOG DAY

The Animal Protection Caucus recently celebrated Rescue Dog Day at the state Capitol! Members brought their furry companions to promote shelter dog adoption and voted for H.R. 402 declaring May 20, 2024 as Rescue Dog Day in PA! Thank you to Kristen Tullo, PA Director of The Humane Society of the United States, for organizing!



## HOME CARE WORKERS

Currently, home care workers in PA earn poverty-level wages, lack essential health insurance and retirement plans, and are at high risk of burnout without adequate time off. We need to invest in these vital workers who provide quality care for our seniors and people with disabilities by increasing reimbursement rates for their services. The only way PA can recruit and retain home care workers is by lifting them out of poverty by providing a living wage. It's time to do better.





# IN THE DISTRICT

## VETERANS BBQ



*Thank you to everyone who made my annual Veterans BBQ a huge success! We had a fantastic turnout, and the rain held off long enough for everyone to enjoy a delicious meal! See you in the fall for our Veterans Breakfast on October 24th!*

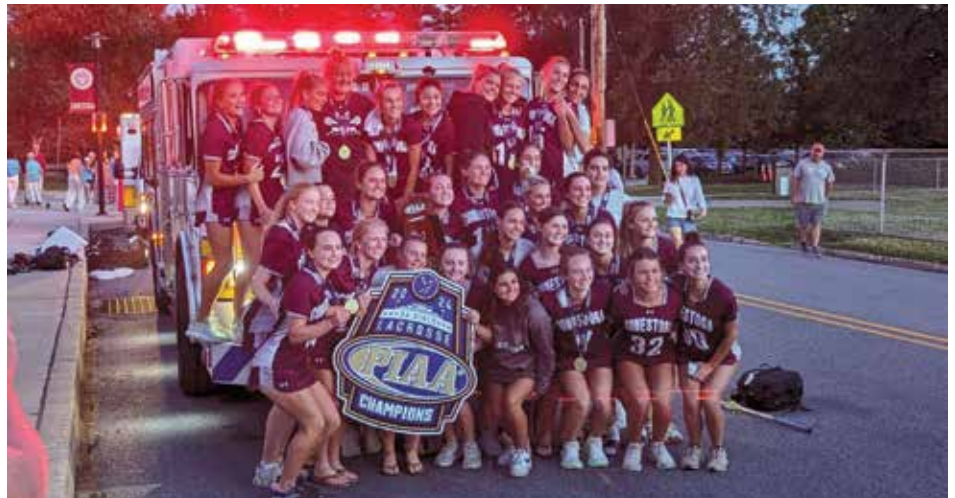


## PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS

*Secretary Russell Redding of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture came to Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens to discuss the crucial role of pollinators, on which our agriculture and food industries depend.*

*State Sen. Carolyn Comitta introduced the Plant and Pollinator Protection Act (S.B. 1193), which would update existing laws to enhance the protection of pollinators from harmful pests, pathogens, and other threats. Executive Director Tom Smarr was also on hand to share Jenkins Arboretum's efforts to cultivate habitats that attract pollinators, and George Datto, President of the Chester County Beekeepers Association (CCBA), shared his community's passion for giving back to honeybees that are essential to our ecosystem.*

*Protecting pollinators is about more than just making sure we have beautiful flowers, butterflies, and honey – it's also about making sure we can produce food in the future. We must help the pollinators that keep our families and economy healthy!*



## CONESTOGA GIRLS LACROSSE

*Congratulations to the Conestoga Girls Lacrosse team for taking home the Class 3A State Championship!*





State Representative  
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## Keeping Up with Shusterman!

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lpo.km.0824

*Grants Awarded*  
.... **157th District** ....  
**Nearly \$2M YTD**

- \$500,000** - Easttown Township
- \$343,000** - Valley Forge & Whitehorse Road Redevelopment
- \$296,170** - Willistown Conservation Trust
- \$250,000** - Healthcare Connect
- \$250,000** - AgConnect
- \$100,000** - CCRES
- \$45,000** - Easttown Library
- \$15,587** - Surrey Services for Seniors
- \$3,000** - Paoli Blues Festival

## SAVE THE DATE! *You're Invited!*



SEPTEMBER  
**21**

**PET RESOURCES FAIR**  
Penn State Great Valley,  
9:00 - 11:00 AM



SEPTEMBER  
**24**

**SAFETY TOWNHALL**  
Tredyffrin Library, 7:00 - 8:00 PM



OCTOBER  
**3**

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION**  
Phoenixville YMCA,  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



OCTOBER  
**5**

**SHREDDING & CANNED FOOD DRIVE**  
Penn State Great Valley,  
9:00 - 11:30 AM



OCTOBER  
**24**

**VETERANS BREAKFAST**  
Freedoms Foundation,  
9:00 - 11:30 AM