

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DARISHA K. PARKER

Proudly serving the 198TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor,

Throughout May, I gathered with my colleagues to advocate for women and girls throughout Pennsylvania during Menstrual Hygiene Awareness month. We wanted to put pressure on the Senate Health & Human Services Committee to vote on my legislation, HB 850 and HB 851, which would remove barriers for women to access expensive period products.

- HB 850 would allow for women who use the SNAP and/or WIC programs to buy period products and diapers using funds from these programs.
- HB 851 would establish a grant program for schools to purchase period products and distribute them to students.

In February, I was so happy to hear Gov. Josh Shapiro call for \$3 million in the state budget to help schools provide period products for students.

Can you imagine my excitement to learn that my advocacy and conversations with my colleagues

paid off? Thanks to the state budget, we are allotting \$3 million for schools to purchase period products and distribute them to students who wouldn't be able to access them otherwise!

I am filled with appreciation and gratitude for my constituents, colleagues and advocates who helped make this a reality. We're out here doing the work and making great things happen – I could not be prouder to be your State Representative.

We have more work to do for sure – but this is a giant leap forward to equity for women and girls in Pennsylvania.



Scan the QR code to sign up for my weekly email updates.



MY BILLS THAT ARE NOW LAW

SB 506

If a court finds that an adult cannot make financial, medical or personal decisions for themselves, a direct service professional or family member (a guardian) would be appointed to make those important decisions on his or her behalf.



Unfortunately, there have been cases where these guardians have exploited the folks they are supposed to protect.

I'm happy to say that Senate Bill 506, which will help protect people from abuse and exploitation, was signed into law by Gov. Shapiro. This is a companion bill for legislation that I wrote and I was proud to help my Senate colleagues get this bill passed.

HB 1540

As a member of the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, I know how important agriculture is in Pennsylvania. It's a driving factor of our state's economy so I want to ensure the next generation of agriculture students are fully prepared to work in the industry.

The Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence was formed in 2017 to develop state standards and report annually on the status of agricultural education in the commonwealth.



Right now, the annual deadline for that report is May 1. Advocates have expressed the need for an extension on this due date to ensure proper data collection regarding agricultural education in the commonwealth. I'm proud that I was able to extend the deadline until Dec. 1 so the commission has plenty of time to collect data that will lead our next generation of agriculture leaders to success.



MY BILLS AWAITING FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1962

An estimated 259,000 children in Pennsylvania live in a household where grandparents or other relatives are the main caretakers, and roughly 235,515 grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren.

With 20% of these grandparents living below the poverty line, they deserve access to TANF benefits to help raise their grandchildren without having to jump through hoops and red tape. My legislation would allow them to receive TANF benefits without requiring them to file for support against the birth parent.



HB 1425

My biggest priority as a state lawmaker is the health and wellbeing of new and expanding Pennsylvania families. This bill would direct the state Department of Human Services to develop a five-year plan comprised of evidence-based steps that are proven to reduce negative health outcomes, prevent abuse and neglect, reduce crime and provide parenting classes. PA is eligible for federal funding to establish maternal home visits.

Young families have enough burdens trying to navigate the new and unknown journey of parenthood; it's our responsibility to support these families by providing resources that studies show help them thrive.

HB 1977

With prices rising, people have to budget their money more than ever – they cannot afford to be taken by surprise at the cash register with extra fees just because they want to use a debit or credit card. This bill would require any business that charges extra fees for credit/debit card purchases to display that information before purchase.



MY BILLS AWAITING FINAL PASSAGE (CONTINUED)

HB 941

According to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, up to 90% of guns used by minors in suicides, unintentional shootings, and school shootings are found in the child’s home or the home of a relative.

This legislation would hold parents and guardians of minors civilly responsible for willful misconduct or negligence when a firearm crime is committed by the minor. It would only apply if the guardians know that the minor has a criminal history. It is being considered in the PA House and needs to pass there before it can be sent to the Senate for a vote.

HB 731

All firearm purchases should come with a storage or locking mechanism to ensure they don’t fall into the wrong hands. This is just one of a few commonsense gun measures that House Democrats are working on – it just needs final passage in the House chamber before it can be sent to the Senate.



PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS – NEW OFFICERS

I’m proud to announce that I was named Vice-Chair of the PLBC in October. I am committed to amplifying the voices of our communities, advocating for equity, and championing policies that uplift the diverse needs of people of color, fostering a future where every individual can thrive.

The PLBC was formed in 1973 to empower Black legislators and to serve as an information and advocacy vehicle to advance the interests of Black, Latino and other Pennsylvanians of color.

Stay Connected With My Office

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Members of the PA Senate and House Philly Delegations stand in solidarity with Unite Here Local 634.



I can't believe my role as a state Rep. led me to meet Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau! It was such an honor to meet the leader of our neighbors up north!



I was lucky enough to visit with First Up: Champions for Early Education & DeeGrace Childcare Center to spend time with early education students & staff. They do such great and important work for brand new learners. Thank you for having me!



A GUIDE TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Pennsylvania state government is made up of three branches:

The Executive Branch

Led by the Governor

The Legislative Branch

The General Assembly (The PA House of Representatives and the PA Senate)

The Judicial Branch

Made up of 5 levels: Minor Courts, Court of Common Pleas, Superior Court, Commonwealth Court and the Supreme Court

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW:

Legislators introduce bills that address issues of importance for them and their constituents.

The bill is assigned to a committee in the House or Senate and its contents made available to the public.

While in the designated committee, the bill will be

changed through research, discussion and testimony from experts.

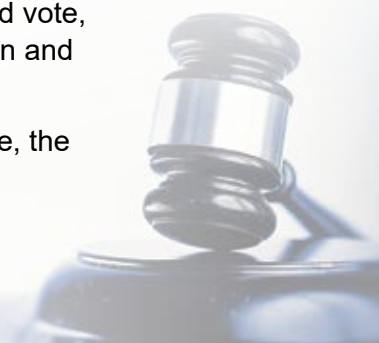
The final version of the bill will be voted on in the committee, if it is approved by the committee, it must receive three days of consideration and passed in the House or Senate chamber to be sent to the other chamber.

☑ If the bill is created in the House (House Bill) it will be sent to the Senate.

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The other chamber will repeat the process of a committee assignment and vote, and three days of consideration and final passage.

Once these steps are complete, the bill will move to the Governor for signature to be enacted into law or vetoed.





State Representative

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S T A T E R E P R E S E N T A T I V E

DARISHA K. PARKER

Proudly serving the 1 9 8 T H L E G I S L A T I V E D I S T R I C T

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My Office Can Help You With:

- Unemployment
- 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
- Obtaining and completing state forms
- Birth and death certificates
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- PACE prescription drug cards for senior citizens
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Consumer complaints