

Dear Friends,

As we enter the final quarter of my first year as your State Representative, I want to thank you all for the amazing support you have shown my staff and me as we gained our footing and learned how best to connect with you, our amazing constituents.

Since Jan. 3, my team and I have completed 6,077 cases assisting constituents in need of guidance and help with state services. Our office is categorized as 'ultra-high performing' by the caucus, and we will strive to continue our outreach within the community to see those numbers continue to grow – so that more of our neighbors receive the help they need.

We have attended hundreds of meetings with our township and borough officials, local police and fire chiefs, superintendents, constituents, advocacy groups, and non-profit organizations; hosted our first in-district policy hearing, which brought dozens of legislators to our district to discuss possible solutions to homelessness, food insecurity, and the need for affordable housing in our area; and my first prime sponsored bill, H.B. 1218, which would allow spouses to be paid caregivers in Pennsylvania, passed the House.

We have also strived to provide and attend 34 events so far this year to better serve our community and have an array of future events planned that we hope you will attend.

The best way to keep up to date on all our upcoming events "as well as what is happening in Harrisburg" is to join our email list. You can sign up at www.pahouse.com/Cerrato/emailsSignup.

Melissa Cerrato



THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER INTERNS!



I want to highlight the amazing work done by two fabulous women who joined our team as summer interns. During their time with us they called more than 2,000 constituents to wish them a happy birthday and invite them to come to our office to receive help processing their SEPTA Key Cards and receive other state-related assistance. They also connected with over 2,400 residents in the community through our legislative door knocking program, dropping off

notifications on unclaimed funds as well as leaving information on all the services we can assist with in the office.

Here is what they had to say about their experiences as interns:

Maddie – “Before working in Representative Cerrato’s office, I did not know how much help a district office can offer. I

found listening to everyone in the office helping constituents with needs ranging from SEPTA senior passes to unclaimed property to be very interesting and makes me appreciate how there are people there to help out with many state-related questions and concerns. My favorite experience from the summer was the chance to go to Harrisburg and see the work Missy puts in firsthand. Being able to watch the state legislature at work in person and vote on bills that affect many of us is something I will never forget.”

Sandra – “I had the wonderful opportunity to serve as a summer intern for Melissa Cerrato for a 10-week period during the summer of 2023. The staff treated me respectfully and were available to help with any questions I had. I learned a lot about local government and had the opportunity to converse with constituents on the telephone during birthday calls, as well as in person doing drop-offs of pamphlets and letters with information of unclaimed funds due to them. As I am a constituent in Representative Cerrato’s district, I enjoyed conversing with her on topics I could relate to, as well as spending a day in Harrisburg seeing the House in session. In addition, as a senior citizen, I felt that I could relate to many of the constituents who are also concerned about our future in Montgomery Township. I am very thankful for this opportunity.”

I cannot say enough about how valuable they were to us, and they will be greatly missed as they move on to new adventures.

MY FIRST PRIME BILL PASSED THE HOUSE

I'm excited to share that my first prime-sponsored bill, H.B. 1218, passed the House in July!

This bill focused on the importance of helping families financially for the home care services they provide to loved ones. With a widespread shortage of home care aides, often times this makes it very difficult to maintain the freedom and ability to remain comfortably at home for those who live with severe physical or intellectual disabilities.

While I will continue to strongly advocate for a raise in reimbursement rates for these professionals, we need to address the more than 4,000 people across our commonwealth who have Physical and Intellectual Disability Waivers and are unable to receive the services that they need until that time.

Quite often, family members are forced to quit their own jobs in order to stay home and care for their loved one. This creates not only an extreme burden on families, who now struggle to financially support themselves but also creates an economic impact on the state – as many need to turn to public assistance programs to survive.

In April, a constituent contacted my office for help with mobile notary services. On arrival to her home, my team realized they were there to notarize divorce documents. How does this connect to the shortage of DSPs or our waiver recipients, you might ask? Well, this was far from a typical divorce situation

and one that truly broke my heart to be a part of. You see, this amazingly loving couple was forced to turn to divorce simply because the waiver program does not currently allow spouses to be reimbursed as caretakers under the program. No one should ever feel they need to resort to divorcing someone they love simply to be able to afford to properly care for them. For this reason, I sought to find a resolution to this gut-wrenching situation and created H.B. 1218.



As a member of the Meet Me in the Middle Caucus, I'm happy to work in a productive, bipartisan way to get legislation passed.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

1. State Rep. Brian Munroe and I appreciated the opportunity to serve our communities and to get to meet so many of our constituents during our May shredding event at the Ukrainian Sports Club of Horsham.

2. We know that everyone poops, but do you know what happens after you flush? I was able to learn more about this important process when visiting the Montgomery Township Municipal Sewer Authority.

3. Our dog licensing event with the Montgomery County Treasurer's office was a barking success!

4. My team and I are proud to have reached Ultra High Performing constituent service status within the caucus, averaging over 400 constituents served each month!

5. As a reminder, my district office is an ongoing donation drop off location for various charities in our community, and we are grateful to be able to share your generosity with those in need.

6. I was proud to join Prothonotary Noah Marlier in collecting food and toiletries in support of Laurel House and the families they support impacted by domestic violence.

7. Organ and tissue donors provide second chances at life for those who need it most, and they can never be thanked enough for their selflessness.

8. Celebrating the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Ceremony of the Family Health Center of VNA-Community Services Inc. in North Hills in Upper Dublin Township.

9. State Rep. Liz Hanbidge and I were proud to join this incredible panel of experts to bring important resources on navigating the IEP process to our constituents.

10. As a member of the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee, I appreciated hearing more about the vital importance tourism has on Pennsylvania's economy during our first committee tour to the Poconos.

11. I joined dozens of other State Representatives, Senators and Law Enforcement Officers with the Governor to discuss how the PA House passed two historic pieces of legislation that would expand background checks and implement Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

12. I loved getting to present a citation to this great family for their advocacy of food allergy awareness.

13. State Rep. Ben Sanchez & I brought the policy committee to our districts to learn more about local efforts to combat food insecurity and provide safe housing.

14. My sincere thanks to Julie McCabe and her amazing team, who gave Secretary of Agriculture Russel Redding and I a tour and helped us to learn all about what the Pennypack Farm & Education Center has to offer.

15. It was my pleasure to take part in the ground-breaking ceremony for Phase II of the Blair Mill Road Safety Improvements & Widening Project in Horsham Township.

16. State Reps. Ben Sanchez, Nancy Guent and I were excited to connect hundreds of constituents to the resources they need at our spring senior expo.





OUR NEXT STEP FOR TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

Many seniors struggle on fixed incomes and worry about how to pay their bills. Currently, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, using lottery and gaming funds, gives rebates of up to \$650 to about 400,000 seniors statewide, freeing up funds to pay for things like food, medications, or other needs.

The program has changed countless lives and helped address the ever-growing retirement crisis that the commonwealth is facing. Over the years, however, inflation and cost-of-living increases have diluted the reach of the program, causing

a need for an adjustment. For this reason, I happily supported H.B. 1100 in passing the House and this summer, Governor Shapiro officially signed the bill into law.

This legislation increased the income thresholds to qualify, and increased the maximum rebate to \$1,000. Raising the income requirements to \$45,000 (only half of Social Security income counts) will allow nearly 200,000 more Pennsylvanians to take advantage of this program. The bill also provides for an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

Once you have qualified for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, I highly recommend you also apply for the local school district's PTRR programs as well for additional savings.

It is far too often we hear from seniors in our district who are on a fixed income and experience trouble staying in their homes, due to the large burden of paying their property taxes. I am hopeful that this legislation will help ease the burden, and I will continue to look for other ways to assist in creating better financial certainty for our communities' seniors.

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Did you know that you may have unclaimed funds with the Pennsylvania Treasury's Bureau of Unclaimed Funds? The PA Treasury receives hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property every year. These items and funds go missing, often for reasons as simple as a misspelled name or an out-of-date address.

Unclaimed property may include:

- Closed bank accounts.
- Uncashed checks, including paychecks.
- Lost stocks and bonds.
- Contents of safe deposit boxes.
- Proceeds from the demutualization of insurance companies.
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates.

My office will continue contacting constituents to inform them of funds we have found in their name. To find out if you have unclaimed property, contact my office or search your name in the Unclaimed Property database at: www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed/Search.html.

There is NO CHARGE to claim your unclaimed property.

SEPTA KEY CARD FOR SENIORS

Our office is proud to continue our partnership with SEPTA to help our constituents gain access to SEPTA Key Cards in the most convenient way! This card is provided to residents aged 65 or older and offers free rides on all SEPTA transit routes including buses, trolleys, subway, and regional rail. Additionally, seniors who wish to take SEPTA to Delaware or New Jersey will receive a 50% discount on fare when they tap their Senior Key Card.

We can assist in your application for an initial SEPTA Senior Key Card as well as renewals. You are required to bring a government issued ID that lists your birthdate, like a driver's license or photo ID. At this time, the current time for SEPTA to process your application and send your Key Card is six weeks. If you would prefer not to wait, you may have your pass renewed at SEPTA Headquarters, located at 1234 Market St. Philadelphia, PA, 19107. You may schedule an appointment with SEPTA at (215) 580-7145.

Unfortunately, the site will not allow us to create a duplicate Key Card. In order to receive a replacement for a lost/stolen card, you can send a \$5 check or money order made payable to SEPTA to: SEPTA P.O. Box 824833 Philadelphia, PA 19182.

MY OFFICES ARE HERE TO HELP!

Harrisburg Office

28A East Wing | P.O. Box 202151 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2151
(717) 772-1999

Horsham Office

Monday – Friday | 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
605 Horsham Road
Horsham, PA 19044-1207
(267) 282-6695 | 1(833) 321-6391

Montgomery Township Mobile Office

Every Wednesday | 10 a.m. – Noon
1030 Horsham Road
Montgomery Township, PA 18936

Ambler Mobile Office

Every Tuesday | 10 a.m. – Noon
131 Rosemary Ave.
Ambler, PA 19002-4737

Upper Dublin Mobile Office

Every Thursday | 9:30 a.m. – Noon.
520 Virginia Drive
Fort Washington, PA 19034-2707



RepCerrato@PAHouse.net



STAY UP TO DATE JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Our office has hosted four events in our first three months, including our first shredding and e-waste recycling days, and we are adding more events to the calendar each day. The best way to keep up to date on all our upcoming events, as well as what is happening in Harrisburg, is to join our e-mail list.

YOU CAN SIGN UP AT
WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/CERRATO





State Representative
MELISSA CERRATO

605 Horsham Rd.
Horsham, PA 19044

lpo.ts.0923

UPCOMING *Events*

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| <p>9
SEPT.</p> | <p>E-WASTE EVENT
10 A.M. - NOON
Upper Dublin Public Library</p> | <p>15
OCT.</p> | <p>FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR & TRUNK OR TREAT
2 P.M. - 4 P.M.
Upper Dublin Township Library</p> |
| <p>22
SEPT.</p> | <p>LANDLORD & TENANT RIGHTS WORKSHOP
11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Horsham Township Library</p> | <p>12
NOV.</p> | <p>SENIOR SEPTA KEY CARD EVENT
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Horsham District Office</p> |
| <p>13
OCT.</p> | <p>SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR
11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Horsham Township Community Center</p> | <p>13
DEC.</p> | <p>TOWN HALL
6 P.M. - 7 P.M.
Ambler Borough Hall</p> |
| <p>14
OCT.</p> | <p>MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP FALL FESTIVAL
NOON - 5 P.M.
William F. Maule Park at Windlestrae</p> | <p>14
DEC.</p> | <p>HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
5 P.M. - 7 P.M.
Horsham District Office</p> |

AREAS MY TEAM CAN ASSIST:

- Finding and Recovering Unclaimed Funds
- Notary Services (Non-political)
- Unemployment Compensation Assistance
- SEPTA Senior Key Card Processing
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications
- Acquisition of State Tax Forms
- Questions Regarding Medicaid, Food Stamps, LIHEAP, etc.
- Birth and Death Certificate Applications
- Disability Plate and Placard Applications
- Any Other State-Related issue you may have.