



State Representative | 192nd Legislative District

# MORGAN CEPHAS



Summer  
2024

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**CEPHAS-AUTHORED CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT INCLUDED IN PA BUDGET**



**CEPHAS BILL PROVIDES STUDENT DEBT RELIEF**

**CEPHAS WORKING TO END 'GHOST GUNS'**

**HOUSE ADVANCES CEPHAS BILL TO STRENGTHEN DOULA SERVICES**

**CEPHAS ANNOUNCES NEW WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH CCP AND GOOGLE**

**CEPHAS BILL WOULD ADDRESS IMPLICIT BIAS IN PA HEALTH CARE**

**CEPHAS CUTS RIBBON FOR NEW CASSIDY ELEMENTARY**

**CEPHAS BREAKS GROUND ON SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT**

## DEAR NEIGHBOR

I hope your summer is going well! 2024 has seen our legislative majority make meaningful progress for our communities in the 192nd District and across Pennsylvania. Nowhere is that more evident than in the 2024-25 state budget that I was proud to support. This newsletter will outline some of the highlights of that plan, including historic funding for public education in our city. Keep reading to learn more about events in the 192nd District that brought our community

together in the spring and summer, and how I'm working to improve the quality of life for all our neighbors. I appreciate you taking the time to learn more about the work I'm doing in Harrisburg and here at home for our communities.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOOSTED FOR CCP STUDENTS

In May, I was excited to join in announcing the partnership between Google and the Community College of Philadelphia on a new workforce development program that will enable students to learn skills that will help them qualify for high-paying jobs.

The new Google Career Certificates program is equipping people with skills for entry-level jobs in the fields of cybersecurity, data analytics, digital marketing and e-commerce, IT support, project management, and UX design.

The program is working with more than 150 companies that have an interest in hiring people who are trained in these certificate fields, no other experience required.

This initiative represents a landmark moment for education and employment in Philadelphia. The partnership also represents progress in our efforts to prepare Philadelphia residents for the future work in technology and beyond.



I am beyond excited to see the results of this partnership and new opportunity for Philadelphia students.

# 2024-25 STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## HISTORIC EDUCATION FUNDING

As your representative in Harrisburg, I worked hard to deliver a state budget that continues the promise of getting resources where we need them without raising taxes.

The fight for fairness in education is about the future of our young people. Every child deserves the same chance to navigate a successful future, regardless of their ZIP code.

In the 2024-25 state budget, the School District of Philadelphia will see \$232 million more in new classroom education dollars as a part of a total of \$1.93 billion in state funding. There's also more money to fill the "adequacy" gap that has persisted for underfunded schools like Philadelphia and money for school safety improvements. That's a big jump over last year.

NEW FUNDING	NEW ADEQUACY SUBSIDY \$\$	NEW SCHOOL SAFETY \$\$
\$231.9 million	\$136.7 million	\$3.6 million

Beyond education, the new budget increases funding for programs that will strengthen housing and social services programs, strengthen workforce development, encourage industry innovation, expand 'shovel-ready' sites to attract new and expanding businesses, and bolster projects to continue

revitalizing our downtown centers. That means a better-trained workforce, more jobs, and more commercial activity to stimulate our local economy.

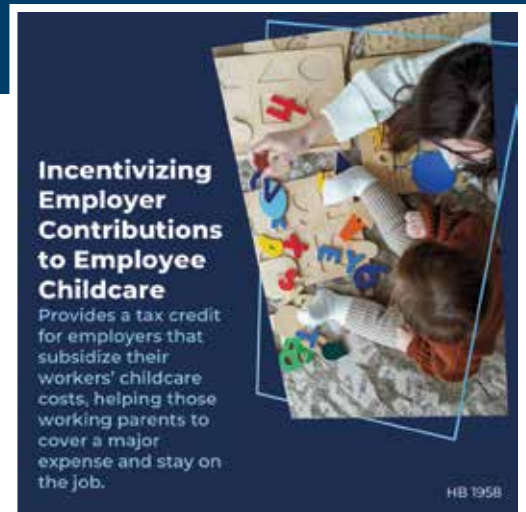
Most important, the new budget includes no new taxes, keeping more money in your pocket.

# LEGISLATIVE WINS

## CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT

Access to affordable child care is imperative for working parents, but often impossible to find. That's why I co-authored legislation to create a tax credit for employers who contribute to their employees' child care expenses. The average annual cost of child care for infants is \$12,308; for toddlers it's \$11,402; and for four-year-olds it's \$10,158. Those costs are out of reach for many families.

I'm pleased to report this measure was incorporated into the 2024-25 state budget. This tax incentive will go a long way toward encouraging more employers to include financial assistance for child care in their strategic business plans, creating a more stable workforce in Pennsylvania while continuing to help families re-enter the job market.



**Incentivizing Employer Contributions to Employee Childcare**  
Provides a tax credit for employers that subsidize their workers' childcare costs, helping those working parents to cover a major expense and stay on the job.

HB 1958

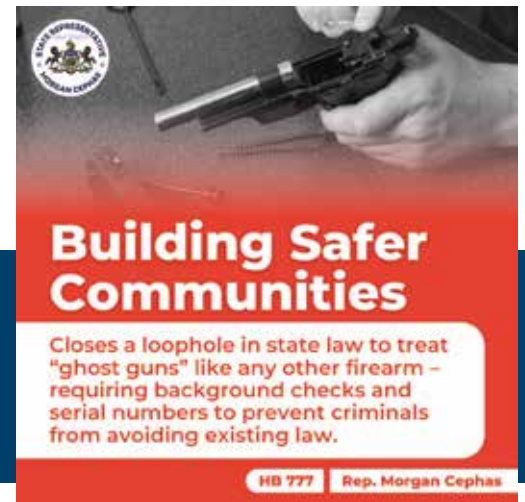
## STUDENT DEBT RELIEF LEGISLATION

I remember as a student the dread of tuition bills showing up in the mailbox, and even more so as the loan repayment bills began. Students today struggle even more with loans and finding a way to achieve that higher education – especially in Pennsylvania. I've introduced legislation (H.B. 2476) that would help ease that burden by exempting tuition reimbursement from the personal income tax and ensuring that student loan forgiveness is not counted as taxable income.

Repaying those loans is hard enough, so when you're given some level of forgiveness, you shouldn't be penalized for it come tax time. My bill would help our workforce, help our economy and make students getting started on their careers a priority.

## GHOST GUNS STALLED IN SENATE

My legislation that would make selling or purchasing a firearm or firearm parts without serial numbers a felony has been stuck in the state Senate since the House passed it in March. Ghost guns are a main driver of crime and are far too easily obtainable in Philadelphia, leading to daily gun violence in our communities that has no end.



**Building Safer Communities**  
Closes a loophole in state law to treat "ghost guns" like any other firearm – requiring background checks and serial numbers to prevent criminals from avoiding existing law.

HB 777 | Rep. Morgan Cephas



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH A VIDEO OF ME EXPLAINING THE PROBLEM OF GHOST GUNS WHEN MY BILL WAS UP FOR A VOTE IN THE PA HOUSE.



Rep. Cephas | HB 1608

ADDRESSING THE BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS

**Expanding Doula Services**

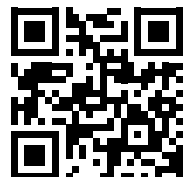
Rep. Cephas' legislation would extend Medicaid coverage to doula services, establish the Doula Advisory Board.

#PAMOMNIBUS

## MEDICAID FOR DOULA COVERAGE

The PA House approved my legislation that would extend Medicaid coverage to doula services. Doulas provide continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to families before, during, and shortly after childbirth. Doula care has not only been linked to lower Medicaid costs, but it has also been shown to improve the birthing experience and birth-related outcomes in underserved communities.

This bill is part of the PA MOMNIBUS legislative package advanced by the PA Black Maternal Health Caucus. As a co-chair of the caucus, I encourage you to keep up to date with our legislative efforts by visiting our website at [www.pahouse.com/BMH](http://www.pahouse.com/BMH) or scan the QR code.



# DAYS IN THE DISTRICT

## OVERBROOK NIGHT MARKET

This year's Overbrook Night Market did not disappoint! Thank you to the nearly 10,000 people who filled Lancaster Avenue to get connected with information and resources through our office and other agencies, and of course for the amazing food and entertainment.

Shout out to the 35+ food and drink vendors, including some local faves like Gigis & Big Rs and Curbside Creamery; first-timers like 3 Roosters, Victoria's Kitchen and Pink's Cold Treats; and regulars like Burrito Feliz, Chank's Grab-N-Go and Taqueria Feliz.

I am proud to be a part of organizing this festival every year – it is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our community and come together to support our local businesses, organizations and artists.



### Event Highlights

- Nearly 10,000 attendees
- 30+ Food/Drink Vendors
- 42% Black-Owned Vendors
- 79% Black-Owned Contractors
- 40+ Community Volunteers



## RISING FROM THE ASHES

In August 2016, we lost the Christ Liberation Fellowship Church at 65th Street and Lansdowne Avenue to a devastating fire for our West Philadelphia community. Since then, we've been working to rebuild something meaningful for our community on that land, and in August 2024 we finally broke ground on the Good Shepherd Senior Residences. Lack of affordable housing is a crisis in our city, particularly for our seniors, so this will serve a great need in our community once construction is completed in the fall of 2025.

## NEW CASSIDY ELEMENTARY

Following the demolition of our historic Cassidy Elementary School building in 2021, our community has been anxiously awaiting a new facility. In August 2024, we cut the ribbon officially opening the New Lewis C. Cassidy Academics Plus School – a new state-of-the-art learning facility for students in Pre-K through 8th grade. This is the first new elementary school building built for the School District of Philadelphia in decades, so this is not only the pride of Overbrook, it's now the crown jewel of school facilities across the city.



# COMMUNITY IN THE CAPITOL

As a member of the Divine 9 and the Links Incorporated, I am honored to host members of these illustrious organizations in the state Capitol in recognition of their achievements and accomplishments in our communities.



**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA DAY AT THE CAPITOL**



**LINKS DAY AT THE CAPITOL**



**DELTA SIGMA THETA AT THE CAPITOL**



## MONEY BACK TO THE DISTRICT

Connecting our local organizations to state and local grant opportunities is a major part of the work of my office. These are a few of the major awards that we were able to secure.

Rep. Cephias announces

**\$50,000**  
TO THE OVERBROOK CDC

for the Overbrook Park Beautification Project which will replace amenities and fixtures and help to boost economic activity and reduce crime.

**\$874,042**  
to Episcopal Community Services  
from the PCCD's School Safety & Security Committee

to launch a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization project focused on violence prevention through residential block cleaning and workforce development in West Philadelphia.

Overbrook School for the Blind was awarded a competitive schools safety & security grant.

**\$366,355**

Rep. Cephias announces

**\$20,000**  
TO ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

from the PA Department of Education for experiential learning to grow the Special Education Workforce.



State Representative  
**MORGAN CEPHAS**

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## STAY UP TO DATE BY JOINING MY EMAIL LIST

I write regular emails, and signing up is the best way to know about upcoming events, programs and services available to you and your family, and legislation that is moving through the state House. Stay informed and sign up at [www.RepCephas.com/EmailSignUp](http://www.RepCephas.com/EmailSignUp).



lpo.km.0824


**REP. MORGAN CEPHAS**  
United Legislature District Philadelphia County


**CURTIS JONES, JR.**  
4TH DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER

*Wynnefield Business Association*  
**FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL**



**54TH STREET**  
 BETWEEN ARLINGTON & MONTGOMERY AVE


**SEPT 28TH | SATURDAY 2024**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MORGAN CEPHAS

**Fall RESOURCE FAIR & GIVEAWAY**

Contact my office for more information and to sign-up. Limited slots available.

For residents 65 and older.

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP WITH SEPTA KEY SENIOR ID CARDS

Every year I help hundreds of seniors obtain or renew their SEPTA Key Senior ID Card. Please call my office or stop in for help.