



State Senator **AMANDA CAPPELLETTI**

Serving the People

Winter 2022



OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

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WHAT YOU CAN FIND ON MY WEBSITE

PASenatorCappelletti.com

- Sign up for my e-newsletter for the latest updates from my office
- See grant opportunities for the district
- Request a citation
- Schedule a meeting with the Senator
- Check the "Videos" section for the latest activity

FOLLOW US ON

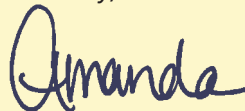
   @SenCappelletti

Dear Neighbor,

It's been a challenging yet rewarding first year as your state Senator. In Harrisburg, I have been fighting for our district's values, whether it be expanding access to affordable healthcare, protecting our environment, or finding solutions to gun and firearm violence. In the district, I have been active at community volunteer events, held a Kids Fair for over 900 community members, and provided resources at a fair for our district's Senior Citizens. Read more on this later in the newsletter!

My staff and I take pride in assisting you with all of your state-related needs, and I am always interested in hearing your legislative concerns and ideas. It is my sincere honor to represent you in Harrisburg, and I'm looking forward to what the new year brings. My door is always open — please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



State Senator, 17th Senatorial District

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| • SEPTA Senior Citizens Card Applications | • PACE/PACENET Applications |
| • Birth/Death Certificate Applications | • State Road conditions concerns |
| • Handicapped Plate and Placard Applications | • PennDOT assistance |
| • Driver's License and Non-driver Identification Applications | • Help with Unemployment |
| • Property tax/Rent Rebate applications | • Notary (state documents only) |
| | • State Agency Assistance |

INSIDE: Legislative Update | District Grants | Satellite Office Hours

■ SEPTA Key Services

Pennsylvania residents of the 17th Senatorial District who are 65 years or older can have their picture taken at my office and processed for the SEPTA Senior Key card. Appointments are required. Senior Citizens, age 65+ ride FREE at all times on all Transit Routes - Bus, Trolley, and Regional Rail for travel to/from stations located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Half Fare (50% of the Weekday Fare) for travel to/from New Jersey and the State of Delaware remains in effect.

Schedule an appointment at either of my office locations!

■ Tax Season Reminder

Pennsylvanians who claimed unemployment benefits in 2021 will need to monitor their mailboxes and unemployment system notifications for the 1099 form they will need to properly file their 2021 taxes. Claimants of all unemployment programs offered during 2021 will receive a 1099 tax form detailing their benefit payments. This form will be available online and viewable in the same system where claimants file their weekly claims. For claimants who want a hard copy, physical 1099 tax forms will be mailed no later than January 31, 2022. All claimants also have the option to view 1099 tax forms from previous years, if applicable. If you suspect or know that someone is using your personal information (your name, Social Security number, date of birth, etc.) without your knowledge or consent to file for UC benefits, report it to L&I by calling the Pennsylvania Fraud Hotline at 1-800-692-7469.

■ Update on 5G Services

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) are urging residents with older cell phones to prepare for the phase out of 3G cellular networks and service in 2022. The nation's three major wireless carriers (AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile) have announced plans to shut down their 3G networks to accommodate more advanced services, including 5G, as early as February 2022. As a result, many older phones will be unable to make or receive calls and text messages or use data services. This may also affect other devices that rely on 3G connectivity, such as medical alert devices, tablets, smart watches, home security systems, and in-vehicle safety, security, and roadside assistance systems.



GRANTS AWARDED to District Seventeen

Since my last newsletter, District 17 has received significant grant funding that will assist in improving our communities. This funding has gone to enhancing public safety, housing assistance, and environmental mitigation efforts. I'm proud to have helped secure this critical funding for our community and help improve the daily lives of District 17.

Here's a look at the grants awarded in our area:

- **Community Action Agency of Delaware County: \$100,000** to assist families and individuals experiencing a housing crisis by locating and securing safe and decent affordable housing; **\$40,000** for Rental Assistance to help assure that homelessness is prevented and/or eliminated.
- **Your Way Home Montgomery County: \$500,000** to continue its homelessness prevention program and expand its coordinated entry services for more cultural inclusivity. These funds will also be used to target those experiencing homelessness as a result of COVID-19.
- **Whitpain Township: \$650,000** through the Multimodal Transportation Grant Program (MTGP). This will improve the safety and well-being of both drivers and pedestrians by replacing the intersection of Walton Road and Stenton Avenue with a roundabout and upgrading signage and ADA accommodations.
- **Delaware County: \$4,561,000** through Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) to improve the county's aging 911 system.



Senator Cappelletti awards the Women's Resource Center in Radnor with a \$50,000 grant to increase their programing that gives low-income women access to a financial education in times of life transitions.

- **Municipality of Norristown: \$2,000,000** for the Norristown Mixed Use Redevelopment at Main and DeKalb Streets.
- **Elmwood Park Zoo: \$700,000** to construct a bridge that will cross a portion of Stony Creek.
- **Women's Resource Center: \$50,000** to fund their Resource Coordination and Financial Coaching programs.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *Legislation I have introduced*

■ 72 hour waiting period

This Thanksgiving, tragedy struck when a member of our Norristown community was enjoying his holiday dinner and a single bullet came through the window and fatally hit him. This is a tragic epidemic that not only our community, but our country faces. Firearm violence kills about 400,000 Americans, including 1,600 Pennsylvanians, every year through mass shootings, suicides, urban firearm violence, family shootings, and police shootings. Firearm violence is a complex public health crisis that will require multiple solutions, interventions, and policies to resolve. That's why I have introduced **Senate Bill 761**, which establishes a 72-hour waiting period for all firearm transfers. Research has shown that waiting period laws reduce both suicides and violent crime. By delaying firearm access, we can prevent impulsive acts of firearm violence.

■ Support Through Loss Act

Unfortunately, over the summer, I experienced two miscarriages. It was a painful and challenging time for my husband and me. I am fortunate to have a job where I can take the time to recover, both physically and emotionally. However, most Pennsylvanians do not have the same luxury. As a solution, I have introduced the Pennsylvania Support Through Loss Act, or **Senate Bill 873**. Under this important bill, a worker would be provided three days of paid leave if they experience a pregnancy loss, such as a miscarriage or stillbirth, unsuccessful fertility treatment, failed adoption or surrogacy arrangement, or medical diagnosis that impacts fertility or a pregnancy.



■ Ensuring Insurance Coverage for Infertility for all

I have introduced **Senate Bill 989**, which would ensure insurance coverage for infertility for all Pennsylvanians. More than six million people in the United States and about one in ten couples experience infertility challenges. Infertility challenges can bring a deep sense of shame, grief, and powerlessness, while also impacting an individual's life or a couple's relationship. Infertility treatments also cause significant economic challenges due to the medications and treatments needed. Senate Bill 989 would require certain employer-sponsored health insurance plans to cover infertility services. By expanding access and reducing costs, more individuals can be covered to obtain the services that they need for family planning.

■ Workplace accommodations for pregnant individuals

I have introduced **Senate Bill 716**, legislation to require employers in the Commonwealth to provide reasonable workplace accommodations for pregnant employees. Three-quarters of women entering the labor force will be pregnant and employed at some point in their lives. Unfortunately, pregnancy discrimination continues to be a problem in Pennsylvania and across the country. Pregnant workers are often forced out of the workplace, or required to work in unsafe



conditions, leading to long-term detrimental impacts on both their health and their family's economic security. Usually, the accommodations pregnant employees need are minor, such as sitting on a stool or having a water bottle nearby. While there are a number of federal, state, and local laws that protect pregnant workers, there are significant gaps in these statutes. This legislation will make it unlawful for an employer to refuse an employee's request for a reasonable accommodation, unless doing so would represent an undue hardship to the employer. I believe this is a commonsense proposal that protects the health of pregnant persons, while at the same time not imposing a significant burden on our state's employers.

Passed this Session

■ Broadband expansion

The House and Senate passed **House Bill 2071** which creates Pennsylvania's first-ever official broadband entity, the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), to address broadband challenges in unserved and underserved communities. The PBDA is the product of several months of bipartisan, bicameral negotiations between the four caucuses and the Governor's office and will address how to best use federal dollars coming into the Commonwealth for broadband expansion.

By covering both unserved and underserved communities, this bill addresses rural areas that need buildout of broadband transmission lines, and urban and suburban communities that don't have the necessary speeds. HB 2071 helps expand broadband to the rural Pennsylvanians who have no access and ensure a family of four in a suburban area has the necessary speeds for telework and virtual learning. Governor Tom Wolf signed this legislation into law at the end of December 2021.

■ C-Pace expansion

After passing out of the Community Economic and Recreational Development Committee, where I serve as the Minority Chair, **Senate Bill 635** passed the full senate. This bill will expand C-PACE, a program that works as a financing mechanism to unlock private capital for efficiency upgrades. By expanding this program, municipalities can voluntarily implement C-PACE to improve local building stock while creating jobs and generating economic investment. This will improve the health, comfort, and economic outcomes for Pennsylvanians.



■ PACENet expansion

Pennsylvania's premier prescription drug assistance programs for seniors, PACE and PACENET, provide life-sustaining medications to approximately 300,000 older Pennsylvanians. This year, House Bill 1260 passed through the House and Senate, which will modernize the maximum income limits to allow more older adults to benefit from this prescription drug assistance program. By passing this bill, we expanded access to affordable health care choices for many older Pennsylvanians. The bill was approved by the Governor on December 22, 2021. It is now known as Act 94.



SATELLITE OFFICE HOURS

WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP BUILDING

960 Wentz Road
Blue Bell, PA 19422
1st Wednesdays
9 AM - 1 PM

HAVERTOWN YMCA

891 North Eagle Road
Havertown, PA 19083
2nd Tuesdays
9 AM - 12 PM

RADNOR TOWNSHIP BUILDING

301 Iven Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087
2nd Tuesdays
1 PM - 4 PM

WEST CONSHOHOCKEN BOROUGH HALL

112 Ford Street
West Conshohocken, PA 19428
2nd Thursdays
9 AM - 12:30 PM

MONTCO SAAC

536 George Street
Norristown, PA 19401
2nd Thursdays
11 AM - 3 PM

NARBERTH TOWNSHIP BUILDING

100 Conway Avenue
Narberth, PA 19072
2nd Thursdays
9 AM - 12 PM



PA Senate Democratic Policy Hearings

Over the last year, it has been my pleasure to host several Senate Democrat Policy Hearings that have covered vast topics. In October, I held a hearing on the Need for Workplace Accommodations for Pregnant Pennsylvanians. We learned from expert testifiers at Maternity Care Coalition, Women's Law Project and the Women's Health Center.

Over the summer I held a policy hearing with Senator Tim Kearney (D- Chester/Delaware) and Lindsey Williams (D- Allegheny) focused on the barriers that our transgender friends and family face as they legally change their name and gender. We learned a lot about the challenges during the process and have introduced a package of bills to make this process easier.

■ Senior Fair

On Wednesday, October 6, I was excited to host my first Senior Fair at the Haverford Community Recreation and Environment Center. With over 30 vendors, five door prizes, and a vaccination clinic run by Eric's Rx Shoppe, my first Senior Fair was a success! It was so great being together and talking to residents of District 17. Thank you to ElderNet for partnering with us, and Penn Medicine and Highmark Wholecare for sponsoring!



Senator Cappelletti talks with constituents at the Senior Fair.



Senator Cappelletti is joined by representatives from Highmark Wholecare, a sponsor of the Senior Fair.



Senator Cappelletti receives her flu shot from Eric's Pharmacy at the Senior Fair.



Have you seen my video series that spotlights small businesses, organizations, and stories that make our district special? Spotlight in the 17th has highlighted small businesses like Crazy Aaron's Thinking Putty and Five Saints Distillery in Norristown and Sweet Mable Art and Craft in Narberth. I've been able to highlight great organizations in the district like Mainline Arts Center as well! Check out the videos on my website at pasenatorcappelletti.com/spotlight.

Do you have an idea for a place that we should feature next? Email or call my office to let us know!



Crazy Aaron's



Five Saints Distillery



Mainline Art Center

 Printed on recycled paper

■ Kids Fair

In August, I hosted over 900 community members at the Elmwood Park Zoo for a free night of fun in the district. Thank you to our sponsors, vendors, performers, attendees, volunteers, and my staff for making this event so great! My team and I had a pleasure getting to know new people and making memories with the community. I'm already looking forward to next year!

