

State Senator **AMANDA CAPPELLETTI**

Serving the People

Winter 2024



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 ME ON

    @SenCappelletti

Dear Neighbor,

It has been another busy year! I'm proud to fight for our District's values in Harrisburg and serve our community as your State Senator. I have made good on my promises to introduce and support legislation to prevent gun violence, make healthcare more accessible and affordable, and address housing issues. While not every problem can be solved with one policy, we do have many policy solutions that will address the problems our Commonwealth is facing.

I'm also fighting for legislation to raise the minimum wage, ensure equitable funding for education, and protect our reproductive rights. As the Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus and a member of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, I'm proud of the work we have done to further healthcare access and affordability this session. Read more about those accomplishments later in this newsletter.

As a reminder, my office is here to serve you! We can help with all sorts of issues and concerns related to state government. We can help you with your SEPTA Senior ID card, Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications, and much more. Please reach out and my office can be of assistance!

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 | • Unclaimed Property Searches |
| | • State Agency Assistance |

INSIDE: Legislative Update | District Grants | Community Connections



GRANTS AWARDED to District Seventeen

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

- **Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) Grants: \$8,318,888** in grant funding to benefit our District was awarded in September to aid children, elders, and other Victim Services in District Seventeen.
 - In June, our District was also awarded **\$997,225** through PCCD grants to strengthen substance abuse prevention and behavioral health programs in Montgomery County.
- **East Norriton Township: \$1,000,000** for the Stony Creek Watershed Stormwater Infrastructure Project. This project is a multi-phase plan to improve the storm sewer within the Stony Creek Watershed.
- **Lower Merion Township: \$985,000** for the Union Fire Association Building Renovations Project to update and renovate the fire station and reduce emergency response times.
- **Norristown Municipal Waste Authority: \$387,258** for the Washington Street Interceptor Upgrade Project replacing sanitary sewer lines along Washington Street located in Norristown, Montgomery County.
- **Literacy Council of Norristown: \$104,000** to support the organization and help provide literacy and English language programs for both children and adults in the Norristown area.
- **Willows Park Preserve: \$89,500** to aid Willows Park Preserve in their mission to restore, maintain, and operate the Willows Mansion, located in Willows Park in Radnor Township.



Senator Cappelletti presents a grant for \$104,000 to the Literacy Council of Norristown.



Senator Cappelletti presents a grant for \$150,000 to the Narberth Ambulance.



Senator Cappelletti announces a grant for \$100,000 awarded to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for research into Celiac Disease and potential treatments.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *What I've Introduced this Session*

■ Senate Bill 926: The Bill to End Book Bans and Protect the Right to Read

The rise of book bans and attempted book bans is disheartening. I've introduced **Senate Bill 926**, which will bar school libraries and classrooms from removing books for any political, racial, or ideological reasons. It will set the standard that in order to receive state money, a public library must adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights that indicates materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval or develop a written statement that prohibits the library from banning books or other materials. The bill will also preempt municipalities from cutting funding to local libraries if they adopt this policy. Libraries are an invaluable community resource which make knowledge more accessible, and provide the public with places to indulge in their curiosities and challenge their perspectives.



■ Paid Leave for Pregnancy Loss

I know firsthand how devastating a pregnancy loss can be. Thankfully, when I went through that experience, I had the flexibility and resources to heal both physically and emotionally. However, many Pennsylvanians don't have that same time and flexibility to grieve and heal from a pregnancy loss. I am re-introducing legislation to make this time easier, and under this important bill, a worker would be provided three workdays of paid leave if they experience a pregnancy loss, such as a miscarriage or stillbirth.



■ Abortion Protections Package

I've worked hard with Senator Judy Schwank to introduce a legislative package that includes six bills to offer protections to Pennsylvanians seeking reproductive care, out of state patients seeking reproductive care in Pennsylvania, and abortion providers. We must get proactive about offering protections to people who are seeking and providing reproductive care here in Pennsylvania. This package will ensure the safety of patients who are getting the care they deserve and of our abortion providers – who we are grateful to have helping patients. I'm hopeful my colleagues will see the vital need for these bills and will move this package forward with urgency.



Passed this Session

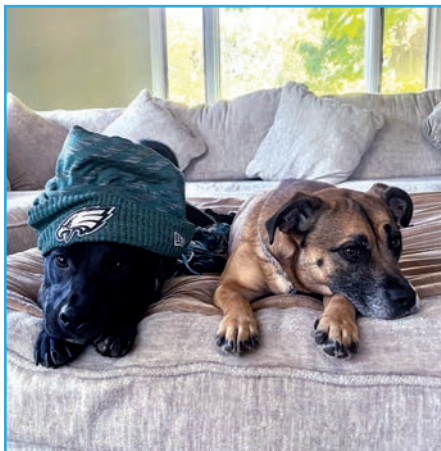
■ Healthcare Progress

I'm thrilled to share some healthcare wins we have passed in the Senate! **Senate Bill 500**, which I co-sponsored, will provide Medicaid coverage for medically prescribed pasteurized donor human milk in inpatient and outpatient settings for medically fragile infants under the age of 12 months. This bill passed and is now law.

We've also made a major stride to ensure informed consent in healthcare settings by passing **House Bill 507**. As a co-sponsor of the Senate's version of this bill, I'm excited that this legislation passed through the Senate with unanimous support. Now known as **Act 31** of 2023, this new law will ensure medical schools, teaching hospitals, and medical institutions receive explicit patient consent for all procedures and exams performed while under anesthesia by medical students or for training purposes, including pelvic, rectal and prostate examinations.

■ Aiding Our Furry Friends

In another bipartisan win, **Senate Bill 746**, which I happily co-sponsored, passed this session. I supported this bill last session, and I'm glad we were able to get it over the finish line this time around. This legislation increases the funding to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for the first time in over 25 years through an increase in the dog licensing fee. This important Pennsylvania Dog Law reform further ensures that all dogs in the Commonwealth are being treated humanely whether they are in a home or kennel.



■ Women's Health Caucus

As the co-chair of the Women's Health Caucus, I've been glad to celebrate two major accomplishments for Women's Health this legislative session.

At the beginning of May, Governor Shapiro signed **Senate Bill 8** into law. This bill, which is now **Act 1** of 2023, is a first-of-its-kind law in the nation that will require insurers to cover preventive breast and ovarian cancer screenings for high-risk women at no cost. As a co-sponsor of this bipartisan bill, I'm proud it is now law. Additionally, there is a new Pennsylvania law, **Act 5**, that ensures improved access to timely data on maternal health and maternal mortality in Pennsylvania, allowing researchers, doctors, and policymakers to make more informed decisions about medical care for moms and families. I am proud to have co-sponsored this legislation that is now law.



■ Committee Chair

As the Minority Chair of the Senate State Government Committee, I'm proud that we have advanced **Senate Bill 838** through our committee. This bill, which I have prime sponsored, ensures campaigns are being transparent to their donors about the contributions they are making to political campaigns. Campaign finance reform is a big priority for Pennsylvanians, and this reform will protect the people who participate in our political process from being taken advantage of when they are giving donations.

During my time serving as the Minority Chair, I have worked to expand access to the ballot, have fought to protect the ability to vote by mail, and stopped disinformation from being spread about our elections. Pennsylvania's voters deserve to have their voice heard and feel confident in our election process. I'll continue to fight to protect and strengthen our democracy!





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

GETTING OUR NEIGHBORS THE RESOURCES THEY DESERVE!

This year, you might have noticed that I've been hosting a lot of resource fairs around the District. In the past few months, I've hosted resource fairs for the Hispanic Community, for Seniors in our District, for Veterans, for Disability Awareness Month, and for those who need mental health resources. This is because during my time in office, I've learned a lot about the many wonderful supports and programs our community can benefit from. I want to share that information with you.

If you have missed one of our recent events but have questions about what resources are available to you and your family, I encourage you to reach out to my office. Our number is 610-768-4200 and we are happy to assist.



Senior Prom: Senator Comitta and I teamed up to host a disco themed Senior Prom at Wayne Senior Center this summer. This fun event provided seniors in both of our districts with the opportunity to socialize, have some fun, and get to know more about how our offices can serve Senior Citizens in the region.



Hispanic Heritage Month Resource Festival:

I partnered with ACLAMO in Norristown to host a Hispanic Heritage Month Resource Festival! Geared towards the Hispanic and Spanish speaking members of our community, we were able to connect folks to the resources that will best serve them.

Kids' Fair:

My annual Kids Fair at Elmwood Park Zoo was a hit! We hosted over 700 community members for a free night of family fun with community resources, live dances, snacks, and more!



Senior Fair: I was excited to host another successful Senior Fair at the Haverford YMCA. My office teamed up with Eric's RX Shoppe to host a vaccine clinic at the event, which helped community members receive over 300 doses of the vaccines they need to stay safe and healthy this year.



Disability Awareness

Month Fair: For Disability Awareness Month, I hosted an event with The Pathway School that included many vendors providing resources to our community members with disabilities.

Community Connections – Veteran's Resources:

This November, my office made sure the Veterans in our District have the support they need. We worked with Montgomery County's Office of Veterans Affairs to connect Veterans in our District to the resources available to them at an event in Upper Merion.

Community Connections – Mental Health Resource Fair:

My office worked with Child Guidance Resource Centers in Havertown to share resources that can help our community members when they are in times of crisis or just need a little extra support. I encourage you to be proactive about learning what is out there – you never know when you or a loved one might need to know where to reach out.



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Senator Cappelletti co-hosts a Senate Democratic Policy Hearing at Radnor Township Building on the legality of so-called "skill games" and the impacts of gaming expansion in Pennsylvania.

Senator Cappelletti joins Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence for a Memorial Vigil during Domestic Violence Awareness Month on the steps of the Capitol.



Follow me on     @SenCappelletti



Senator Cappelletti and her staff join ElderNet of Lower Merion and Narberth for a morning of volunteering to assist with the Thanksgiving Meal Project, ensuring community members in District Seventeen had a memorable and nourishing Thanksgiving.



Senator Cappelletti joins CeaseFirePA to advocate for two proven measures that will help prevent gun violence and keep our communities safe.