



State Representative ANITA ASTORINO KULIK

45th Legislative District

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STAYING STRONG, WORKING TOGETHER

Friends,

This newsletter brings you the latest news of my legislative activity in Harrisburg and here in the district. Everyone has faced very challenging times so far this year, but I am proud to say we have not let these hard times break down who we are as a community.

I have witnessed so many good things happening in our communities. I have seen people banding together to help their neighbors, I have seen churches finding ways to keep their faithful together, and I have had so many people call to ask how they can help. Businesses have stepped up by producing masks and sanitizer. As we continue in the fall months, we cannot forget that we must protect our most vulnerable, including children, seniors and the infirm.

I want to thank everyone for sticking together and supporting their communities. I especially appreciate everyone who has contacted me over the past several months. Your opinions and concerns let me know how I can best represent you and the communities in the district

I want to reiterate my commitment to those who have kept going and who have made the greatest sacrifices during this pandemic. To the essential workers, business owners and those who are going through the unemployment process, I want you to know that I continue to support the opening of our economy and am fully aware that the business owners in our district have gone above and

beyond to make sure their businesses are safe for workers and consumers.

I am proud of the way our school districts have taken the actions needed to do what each believes is best for their students, faculty and workers. I look forward to getting our children back into the sports and recreation programs that are so necessary to their health and wellbeing.

I appreciate all the hard work that has been performed by law enforcement, first responders and local governments. I wholeheartedly stand with these fine men and women and the work they do to keep our communities safe. The police departments and first responder units in our district remain outstanding, and their commitment to the people they serve has been more than evident in these trying times.

I likewise appreciate the way our residents have come out to peacefully voice their opinions and make their voices heard.

I remain committed to represent all the people in the district, from residents to the business owners and workers, and will continue this commitment as we work through the many issues facing all of us.

I hope you find the information contained in this letter beneficial. My district offices are open to visitors and my staff and I are happy to welcome you. You can also reach out to us at 412-264-4260 so that we can help resolve any state related matters.

Stay safe!

Anita Astorino Kulik
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Representing your interests at the State Capitol

I've had the opportunity over the last year to introduce legislation that I believe - as do many of my colleagues - would have a lasting impact on commonwealth residents. At the beginning of 2020, I was ready to continue that initiative.

However, COVID-19 forced the state legislature to refocus its resources on issues that needed immediate attention. I'm privileged to represent our district during this unfortunate time, to ensure the needs of our district are put first.

As such, I have helped to create a legislative package to help the state's restaurant industry, which has been severely impacted by COVID-19.

This was important to me because so many service workers and those who own these restaurants have kept their doors open during this crisis, risking their health and the safety of their families to provide us a much-needed service.

My legislation would provide relief to license holders with licenses in safekeeping by exempting them from having to pay the license renewal or validation fee for one year. Just a few months ago, many of these businesses were making renovations and improvements that would have put them in a position to remove their license from safekeeping and start operating -- the virus delay shouldn't stop these entrepreneurs from reinvesting in their communities.

This bill, as well as the others in the package, can make a significant impact on the service industry. It's my hope the House considers this legislative package soon.



NOTABLE GRANTS AWARDED IN THE DISTRICT

A combined total of \$215,000 in school safety grants were awarded in February to Carlynton School District, Chartiers Valley School District, Cornell School District, Montour School District, Avonworth School District, and Sto-Rox School District:

- \$35,000 to Carlynton School District for security planning and purchase of security-related technology; institution of student, staff and visitor identification systems; and provisions of specialized staff and student training programs.
- \$40,000 to Chartiers Valley School District for school-wide positive behavior support; security planning and purchasing of security-related equipment; and costs associated with the training and compensation of school resource officers and school police officers.
- \$30,000 to Cornell School District for safety and security assessments; classroom management; and security planning and purchase of security-related technology.
- \$40,000 to Montour School District for the purchase of security-related technology and staff training programs in the use of positive behavior supports, de-escalation techniques and appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention.
- \$35,000 to Avonworth School District for security planning and purchase of security-related technology.
- \$35,000 to Sto-Rox School District for conflict resolution or dispute management and the purchase of security-related technology.

■ LifeSpan Chartiers Senior Center was awarded \$64,346 in funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Aging's 2019-20 Senior Community Center grant program.

This funding helps senior centers fund a variety of projects, such as updating and modernizing facilities, providing new health and entertainment programs, upgrading technology, and enhancing marketing opportunities.



A \$50,000 state grant awarded to Coraopolis police helped with the purchase of this vehicle.

■ The Carnegie Borough Police Department was awarded \$10,420 from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the implementation of the department's body-worn camera program.

This funding and implementation of this program in Carnegie will continue to support the growing community-police relationship in our district and help grow the trust of residents regarding law enforcement.

Around the District and Capitol



BUDGET UPDATE

The COVID-19 health crisis interrupted this year's budget process. For the government to continue operations, the state legislature passed a five-month spending plan that carries the state at 2019-20 fiscal levels through November, at which time we will reevaluate and revise the budget. Education funding was funded for the entire 2020-21 academic year at the same funding allocation as last year.

The current budget consists of state funding, as well as \$2.6 billion in federal funding from the CARES Act. The CARES funding is designated as follows:

- \$980 million for vulnerable populations, including long-term care centers and nursing homes.

- \$870 million for business and local services relief.
- \$347 million for schools, \$300 million of which is being used to make up for declining gaming revenue that annually supports school property tax relief for homeowners.
- \$225 million toward food and shelter resources, such as the mortgage and rental assistance program and additional funding for food banks and pantries.
- \$150 million for worker protections, such as childcare, paid sick, family and/or medical leave and student loan forgiveness.
- \$30 million to health care initiatives, such as community-based health centers and vaccine research.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The current pandemic is a public health emergency that continues to grip our state.

Due to this, I'm providing you with a list of resources and contact information that could be beneficial to you.

Allegheny County Resources:

Resolve Crisis Response Network: 1-888-796-8226 (telephone crisis & mobile crisis services)

Allegheny County Peer Support WarmLine: 1-866-661-9276 (mental health or substance use concerns that are not a crisis level)

Center for Victims 24/7 Hotline: 1-412-392-8582

Homeless or in need of shelter, including domestic violence help: 1-866-730-2368

State, Federal Resources

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

PA Crisis Text Line: Text "PA" to 741-741 (PA Dept. of Human Services)

PA Support & Referral Helpline: 1-855-284-2494 (TTY: 724-631-5600) (PA Dept. of Human Services)

Veteran Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration: 1-800-662-4357 (www.samhsa.gov)

National Transgender Suicide Lifeline: 1-877-565-8860

Health, Financial Resources

Rent, Mortgage and Housing Assistance – The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency has programs available to renters and homeowners financially impacted by COVID-19. There are guidelines and criteria for these programs, and information is available at www.phfa.org.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – This program provides resources to purchase food. You can apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us or call my office for a paper application.

Women Infant & Children Food Program (WIC) – Through WIC, pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of infants and young children learn about good nutrition to keep themselves and their families healthy. Visit www.pawic.com for more information and to learn how to apply.

Medical Assistance Program – Provides health insurance for low-income Pennsylvanians. You can apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) – Health insurance coverage for uninsured kids and teens who are not eligible or enrolled in Medical Assistance. You can apply online at www.chipcoverspakids.com.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program – This program is open from June – November and provides low-income seniors with vouchers to purchase Pennsylvania-grown fruits, vegetables, and fresh cut herbs from approved farm markets and farm stands across PA. For an application, visit www.alleghenycounty.us/human-services/resources.aspx.

Child Care Centers – Childcare centers are reopening in Pennsylvania. They must adhere to certain restrictions and CDC guidelines. Parents and caregivers can visit www.dhs.pa.gov for information. If you are looking for child care, visit www.findchildcare.pa.gov.

Nursing Home Information – Many families have a loved one who lives in a nursing home or skilled nursing facility. COVID-19 has been particularly devastating to loved ones due to restrictions on visits to keep residents safe and healthy. Those missing a family member in these situations want to know what procedures facilities must adhere to, especially when they cannot see that process for themselves. If you are looking for information on current guidelines for such facilities, please refer to the PA Department of Health at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/facilities/nursing%20homes/Pages/Nursing%20Homes.aspx>.

MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES

My office has been hard at work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to make sure residents knew we were here to help, especially when it came to helping with unemployment. For help with this issue, please visit my office so that my highly trained staff can help resolve your issue.

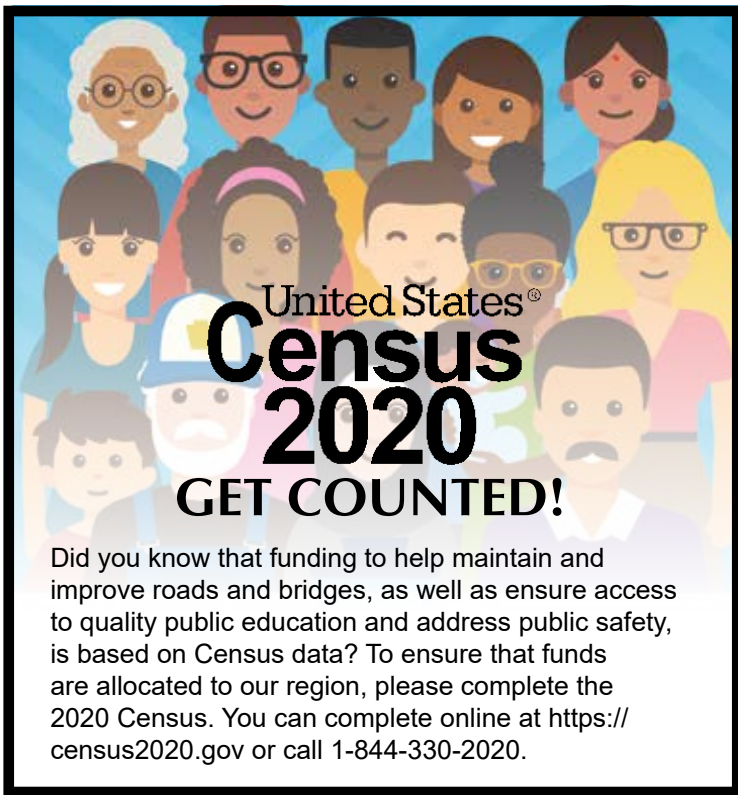




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**United States[®]
 Census
 2020
 GET COUNTED!**

Did you know that funding to help maintain and improve roads and bridges, as well as ensure access to quality public education and address public safety, is based on Census data? To ensure that funds are allocated to our region, please complete the 2020 Census. You can complete online at <https://census2020.gov> or call 1-844-330-2020.



**REP. ANITA KULIK'S
 OFFICE BY THE NUMBERS**

**OVER
 670
 UNEMPLOYMENT
 ISSUES RESOLVED**

REAL-ID EXTENDED

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has postponed the enforcement date for REAL ID by one year to October 1, 2021, in response to COVID-19 and the national emergency declaration.

PennDOT temporarily paused the issuance of REAL IDs due to COVID-19, but pre-verified customers can still apply for REAL ID online. Driver licenses and photo ID cards may also be renewed online at any time.

PennDOT's Driver License Center in Bridgeville is open for those who cannot renew a product online and need to go to the Center for in-person service. This location is open on Tuesday – Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. is designated for customers 60 or older. If you would like to renew your driver license or vehicle registration online but do not have access to a computer, please call my office at 412-928-9514 and my staff will assist you.



My office can help:

As COVID-19 may have affected some of these services' availability through the departments. Please contact my office for more information.

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver license applications
- Obtaining and completing state forms
- Voter registration and mail-in/absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies
- Department of Human Services programs like SNAP, LIHEAP, etc.