



*Frank*  
**Burns**  
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## BURNS GETS STATE TO TAKE HEAVY-SOLED BOOTS AWAY FROM PRISONERS

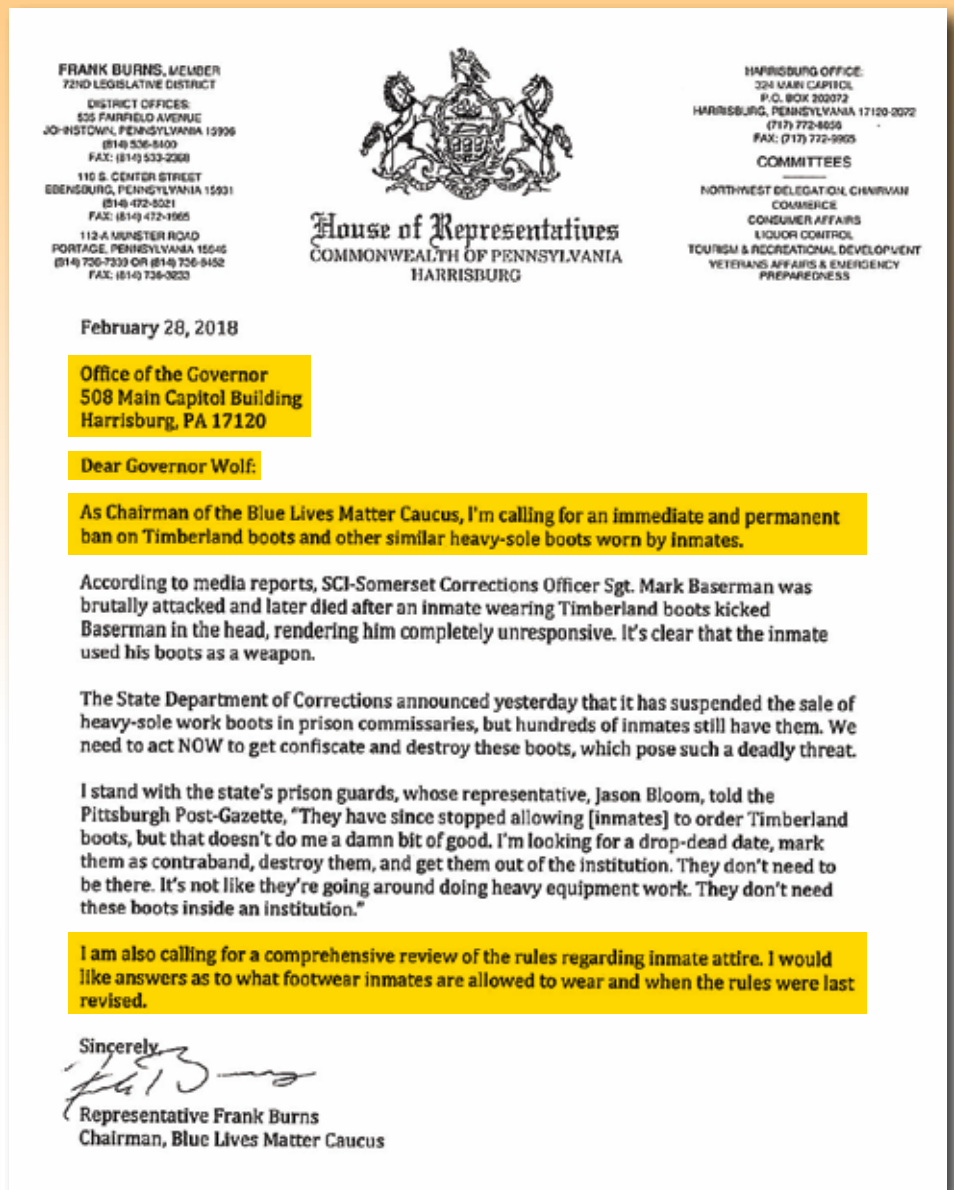
When an inmate's Timberland boots contributed to the beating and kicking death of an SCI Somerset corrections officer in February, Rep. Burns was the first to call for immediate confiscation and a total ban on such footwear.

When the Department of Corrections at first only halted the sale of those boots, Rep. Burns stood with the correctional officers and swung into action, writing letters to the governor and the DOC secretary saying that solution didn't go far enough. Rep. Burns, who attended the funeral service for Sgt. Mark Baserman, demanded that in addition to suspending boot sales in prison commissaries, all boots already in prisoner possession be confiscated.

*"I don't care if the inmates have to wear flip-flops, if it means saving a corrections officer's life."*

- Rep. Burns.

Eventually, the state relented to Rep. Burns' demands.



## Burns supports safety study for prison staff, corrections officers



### Burns supports safety study for Prison staff, correction officers.

Safe working conditions for those who work in our prisons – and who come face-to-face with some of the most dangerous characters in society – is a top priority for Rep. Burns.

Making sure Pennsylvania is doing all that it can to protect these brave workers is why Rep. Burns became an ardent and early sponsor of a resolution that directs the Joint State Government Commission to perform an important new study.

House Resolution 906 calls for a comprehensive study on the safety of staff and corrections officers in state prisons, and for those findings to be included in a report to the General Assembly.

Considering that the state Department of Corrections has a staff of 15,000 overseeing nearly 50,000 inmates, and that 801 inmate assaults on staff occurred in 2015, Rep. Burns believes it's prudent and necessary to put current policies under the microscope to look for improvement.

By closely examining all standards, practices, regulations and procedures, Rep. Burns thinks we can come up with better ways to protect staff and corrections officers.

## Burns: \$341,661 awarded local fire, ambulance companies

Earlier this year, Rep. Burns announced the award of \$341,661 in state funds to 27 fire and ambulance companies in the 72nd Legislative District.

*"This funding is critical to enable our region's firefighters and emergency rescue workers to continue their vital, life-saving work." – Rep. Burns.*

- Ashville Fire Company – \$15,000
- Cambria Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,570
- Carrolltown Fire Company – \$11,911
- Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lilly – \$13,754
- Cresson Area Ambulance Service Inc. – \$7,037
- Cresson Volunteer Fire Company – \$15,000
- Dauntless Fire Company – \$15,000
- East Taylor Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,570
- Ebensburg Area Ambulance Association – \$7,037
- Gallitzin Fire Company No. 1 – \$13,386
- Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$7,037
- Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$15,000
- John Carroll Area Ambulance Service – \$7,037
- Loretto Fire Company – \$12,280
- Lower Yoder Volunteer Fire Company – \$11,543
- Middle Taylor Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$15,000
- Patton Area Ambulance Association Inc. – \$7,037
- Patton Fire Company No. 1 – \$15,000
- Portage Area Ambulance Association – \$7,037
- Portage Volunteer Fire Company – \$38,229
- Reade Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$11,543
- Revloc Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,017
- Summerhill Borough Volunteer Fire Company – \$14,123
- Summerhill Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,201
- Upper Yoder Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,017
- Upper Yoder Volunteer Fire Company – \$2,531
- Westwood Volunteer Fire Company – \$13,754

# BUDGET: Not tax hikes or fee increases

Burns "no" vote prevented a tax increase in 2015 and proved there wasn't a need to raise taxes



contains increases of \$100 million for basic education and \$70 million for school safety, and provides an additional \$30 million for vocational education.

*"I've been saying for years that we can pass a budget without hiking taxes or increasing fees. Finally, that message seems to have gotten through to everyone else." - Rep. Burns.*

An avowed fiscal conservative, Rep. Burns is pleased that Pennsylvania has a 2018-19 budget that was completed without any tax hikes or fee increases. This is something Rep. Burns has advocated for years.

Rep. Burns also pointed out that the new budget was even completed ahead of the June 30 deadline, a first in recent history. He was one of the many bipartisan supporters of the spending plan, which passed the House 188-10,

Rep. Burns noted that it wasn't too long ago that he was being strong-armed in attempt to raise taxes – and effort he resisted even when it meant being punished in Harrisburg for not falling in line. He believes now, as he did then, that by resisting higher taxes he is reflecting the will of the 72nd Legislative District.

**Rep. Frank Burns**  
May 3 · 🌐

So, Pennsylvania is studying and testing ways to reduce prison violence by using lavender scent, soothing music, and coloring? This, while an inmate killed an officer with kicks from his heavy work boots and guards are being cut with razors, but there's no embracing of a suggested study on how to handle boots and razor attacks to keep COs safe?

Instead of tear gas, maybe they could spray lavender in the face of uncontrollable inmates. And instead of sirens during any inmate outburst, perhaps they could pipe rainforest sounds over public address system.

PHILLY.COM  
**Yoga and aromatherapy behind bars? Pa. prisons try wellness initiatives**

## News coverage of Rep. Burns

### State inmates given deadline to get rid of boots

**BY JOCELYN BRUMBAUGH**  
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State prison inmates have until Friday to turn in or mail home any hard-soled work boots, according to a press release from state Rep. Frank Burns, who called for a total ban of the footwear after an inmate wearing Timberland boots allegedly beat and kicked a corrections officer to death earlier this year.

Burns said he attended the funeral service for that officer, Sgt. Mark J. Baserman of SCI-Somerset, and wrote letters to Gov. Tom Wolf and the state's Department of Corrections demanding the confiscation of all boots already in prison, in addition to the new sales through commissaries.

According to Department of Corrections newsletter to inmates were advised that they have to get rid of their boots when they get home, home with a visit them in without it or donating their boots.

"Like many of us, I was shocked to find out we were allowed to purchase them in the first place, in order to read that - "Inmates were arranged to get rid of boots."

"The DOC decided hard-soled boots, although tucked away on page 36 of a 55-page online newsletter, was the right one."

Burns also said he also received many complaints about the threat posed by allowing inmates access to razors, as well as a list of items available for purchase in male prisons that includes makeup, lipstick and women's undergarments.

According to the new DOC policy, inmates being released by Sept. 1 can have their boots held for them at the facility until their release from prison, Burns added.

On April 30, Jamal Washington, an inmate at SCI-Somerset, filed civil action against the DOC seeking to stop the ban on Timber-



Burns

### Burns resolution designates 'National Police Week' in Pennsylvania May 13-19

*'Police Officers Memorial Day' also highlighted*

State Rep. Frank Burns' resolution designating May 13 through 19 as "National Police Week" and May 15 as "Police Officers Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania was unanimously adopted by the state House of Representatives.

Burns, D-Clearfield, said he introduced H.R. 830 to reward all Pennsylvania's of the critical role police officers perform in keeping order in a nation governed by laws.

"The many of us who are shocked to find out we were allowed to purchase them in the first place, in order to read that - "Inmates were arranged to get rid of boots."

"The DOC decided hard-soled boots, although tucked away on page 36 of a 55-page online newsletter, was the right one."

Somerset County District Attorney Lisa Lazzari-Strasser is seeking the death pen-

## Around the 72nd District



Left: Patton Borough celebrated its 125th anniversary, so Rep. Burns commemorate the occasion by presenting this House citation to Mayor Jonathan Welchko.



Right: Rep. Burns' visit to Cambria County Christian School included the planting of an Eastern hemlock seedling on school grounds.

## Revloc Volunteer Fire Co.



Rep. Burns with George Banfield III, who received the "Junior Firefighter of the Year" award.



Rep. Burns with Becca Houghton, who received the "Firefighter of the Year" award.



Rep. Burns honored Judy Sloan with a citation as "First Female President of Revloc Volunteer Fire Company."

## Burns' resolution declares 'Law Day' in Pa.

The House unanimously adopted Rep. Burns' legislation that designated May 1 as "Law Day" in Pennsylvania, an effort with particular focus on the 14th Amendment that addresses U.S. citizenship and the rights of U.S. citizens.

Rep. Burns said that Law Day is observed by focusing on informing children from kindergarten through the college level. Judges and lawyers visit schools, educating students about their legal rights and responsibilities.

It is important to educate students at all levels about the legal system, so they have an understanding of their rights and responsibilities, Rep. Burns said.



Rep. Burns is always aware of the dangers faced by law enforcement officers, including police and prison guards, and is proud to be one of their strongest advocates in Harrisburg.