



Frank Burns

State Representative

72nd Legislative District

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Message from Rep. Burns

I'm calling for civility moving forward. The challenges facing our community are too big for partisan politics. We need to draw on each other's strengths and points of view to do what's best for our region, regardless of party registration. We must resist painting everyone with a broad brush – and instead judge the individual.

Our country is going down a dangerous path with this all-or-nothing approach in government that places party above people when it should be the other way around.

I've prided myself on always putting people before politics:

- When a group of seniors came to me for help after CamTran cut their bus service, I didn't ask if they were Republican or Democrat before **I fought to get their bus service back.**
- When children were telling me about how they were bullied in school, I didn't ask if their parents are Republican or Democrat. Instead, **I wrote anti-bullying legislation that would make a huge impact** in schools.
- When the Ebensburg Center was threatening to close its doors, I didn't care what the residents' families or the employees' party affiliation was – **I just went to work attempting to save the center.**

My promise to you remains the same: I will always work with anyone – Republicans, Democrats, independents and even those who aren't registered to vote – as long as they are willing to get things done for our region. And I'll always stand up to the powers-that-be, because I'm nobody's boy.

Frank Burns
State Representative, 72nd District

Getting things done

Not content to sit at a desk or hide behind a computer screen, Rep. Burns knocked on 5,000 doors in every part of his district, eager to hear taxpayers' thoughts and concerns.

He racked up 374,000 steps and 155 miles because seeing and talking to you in person makes him a better state representative.

Look for Rep. Burns in your neighborhood, because while his walking shoes are well-worn, he's a hands-on representative.



Burns works to keep Cambria on state radar,

"I know it takes more than wishful thinking to bring almost \$27 million back to our district. It takes cultivating the right connections and advocating tirelessly for Cambria County."

—Rep. Burns

As part of his strategy, Rep. Burns brought House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody and powerful Appropriations Chairman Matt Bradford to Cambria County to view firsthand his region's needs.



Rep. Dermody, Rep. Burns, Conemaugh Memorial Medical executives.

“

In Harrisburg, Frank Burns is a tireless advocate for the people back home, and he works hard to bring attention to the area's needs and secure funding to address them.

”

— House Democratic Leader, Frank Dermody

BURNS: Give budget surplus back to the people

It's not every day that an elected official proposes giving money back to taxpayers, but that's what Rep. Burns wanted to do with last year's \$800 million state budget surplus.

Rep. Burns proposed legislation to use most of that money to help you by providing immediate property tax relief, instead of further padding the state's Rainy Day Fund, where the stash can be raided by legislative leaders any time they want.

When your complaints about increasing school property taxes reach Rep. Burns' ears, he listens and tries to do something about it. He believes that if you're asked to pay more during bad times, you should pay less during good ones.

Burns saves taxpayer money by:

- Refusing a state car.
- Refusing a state-paid cell phone.
- Refusing a paycheck during budget impasses.
- Paying out of his own pocket to keep his Patton office open.
- Using an office volunteer to keep staff costs lower.

These efforts have saved more than \$285,000 since 2009.

Burns fights for Cambria's fair share

Rep. Burns' fight to get Cambria its fair share includes securing money from any legal settlement with opioid manufacturers.

As the first to call upon the attorney general and governor to sue "Big Pharma" for its role in the crisis, Rep. Burns is using Cambria's status as Pennsylvania's No. 1 county for pill dumping per capita to lobby for top status when it comes to restitution.

entice job creators

Through his connections and seniority, Rep. Burns led the effort to obtain a Keystone Opportunity Zone designation for Cambria County. This incentive program opens the door to companies like Amazon, ExxonMobil and Sherwin-Williams to locate here, bringing good-paying jobs to our region.

Rep. Burns took the lead by writing the CEOs of those three companies, letting them know the 375-acre KOZ, which he helped create, means Cambria County is open for business. He also connected with an Amazon official at a national legislative conference in Tennessee, parlaying that contact into a higher-level meeting in his Harrisburg office regarding a potential distribution center.

Rep. Burns also invited Exxon-Mobil to consider Cambria County for its billion-dollar investment in a new petrochemical plant and thousands of family-sustaining jobs.

Staying in high gear, Rep. Burns' effort to lure businesses includes outreach to Sherwin-Williams, which is seeking a location for its new global headquarters and research & development facility.



Burns keeps PA jobs in hands of PA workers

Even though Gov. Tom Wolf refused to sign it, a law sponsored by Rep. Burns helps make sure construction industry employers only hire legal U.S. – and thus Pennsylvania – workers.

The law expanded the E-Verify system overseen by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, making it harder for unscrupulous contractors to hire and exploit illegal workers, while at the same time leveling the playing field for employers who do the right thing by hiring legal workers.

Rep. Burns thinks everyone should be legally documented to work in the United States before getting a job here.

Welfare reform includes getting a job, Burns says

A longtime believer that welfare shouldn't be a career, Rep. Burns wholeheartedly supported legislation that would move able-bodied public assistance recipients to full-time jobs in one year.

Rep. Burns believes the “welfare to work” bill, which lets recipients continue collecting benefits while gradually phasing in pay for full-time work, removes an excuse for getting a job. Rep. Burns crossed party lines in throwing his weight behind the bill, because he's committed to voting for good ideas no matter who proposes them.

In addition to thinking that moving welfare recipients into jobs is good public policy, Rep. Burns is one of the legislature's most outspoken proponents of welfare reform. He bristles at the misuse of taxpayer dollars by those who scam or cheat the system – like the 178 people who frauded it for nearly \$900,000 – and consistently calls for better oversight even though it ruffles some feathers.

Burns fights LCB secrecy

Rep. Burns doesn't go looking for a fight, but when the state Liquor Control Board forced him to go to court to obtain public information, he didn't back down. And he won't.

Using his own funds – which means using zero taxpayer dollars – Rep. Burns is squaring off against a battery of taxpayer-funded LCB attorneys who want to keep secret the number of liquor licenses available for auction in each county.

The state Office of Open records has sided with Rep. Burns in his quest, but the LCB's staunch refusal to release this public information has Rep. Burns wondering what they are trying to hide.

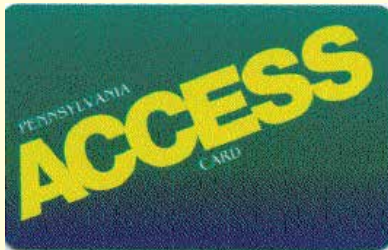
In Rep. Burn's mind, this fight is also your fight, because if the LCB can keep secrets from a state legislator, what are they hiding from you, the taxpayers of Pennsylvania?



**BURNS
FIGHTS FOR
YOU!**

Burns votes to ban tobacco purchases using ACCESS cards

Ensuring that public assistance recipients use taxpayer money properly, Rep. Burns voted to ban the use of ACCESS cards to purchase tobacco or tobacco-related products, adding them to alcohol and gambling as forbidden expenditures.



People who truly need help should get it – but Rep. Burns doesn't think a square meal should include a cigarette, a beer or a scratch-off lottery ticket.

Nothing frosts Rep. Burns more than wasting taxpayer money or using it for frivolous purchases, which is why he favors putting photo IDs on ACCESS cards in order to further crack down on fraud.

Rep. Burns also supports drug testing and citizenship authentication in order to receive welfare benefits.



Burns shoots down gun registration fee

Rep. Burns came out swinging against a Philadelphia lawmaker's bill that would charge gun owners a \$10-per-year registration fee for each gun they own and require universal fingerprinting of gun owners.

As a devoted member of the legislature's Second Amendment Caucus, Rep. Burns staunchly defends the right to bear arms and will strongly repel attacks on firearms ownership that impact law-abiding citizens.



Burns bill to help military families passes House

Students in military families would continue getting in-state tuition rates at public colleges or universities even if their parent is transferred out of state, under Rep. Burns' bill that passed the House.

Rep. Burns didn't think the practice was fair, so he moved to close the loophole that robbed students of in-state tuition just because their parent got a new military assignment.

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Rep. Burns has a front-line role in legislation impacting veterans, a role he embraces with solemn determination.

No group deserves more appreciation than veterans, which is why Rep. Burns hosts an annual luncheon to honor and thank them for their service to this nation.

"We have a solemn responsibility to the next generation. All students – in every family, in every community – deserve an effective, exceptional education."

– Rep. Burns

Burns tackles school bullying

Responding to a damaging but under-reported problem in schools, Rep. Burns is a legislative leader in addressing bullying – including holding parents accountable for the bullying behavior of their children.

In addition to fining parents up to \$750 and/or community service for repeat incidents, Rep. Burns has authored legislation requiring schools to track, investigate and report bullying and cyberbullying incidents.

The Pennsylvania Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights – which spells out the rights of students, parents and schools as it relates to bullying – is contained in another of Rep. Burns' bills, which include an enhanced definition of bullying to clearly differentiate between joking around and true bullying.

As an outgrowth of a House Policy Committee



hearing on bullying Rep. Burns held at the Hiram G. Andrews Center in Upper Yoder Township, he joined Penn Cambria School District officials to launch a one-year pilot program to combat bullying.

The district is using free software from HIBSter, a Cambria County-based company, to track, analyze and report bullying incidents – an idea Rep. Burns hopes will expand to other schools so students don't have to live in fear of harassment, intimidation or bullying.



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Burns brings \$26.8 million to district in current term – and counting!

No one likes paying taxes, but Rep. Burns makes it his mission to bring back as many of those dollars as humanly possible.

Rep. Burns is proud to report that a little more than halfway through the current two-year term, he's procured \$26.8 million in state grants to help the 72nd Legislative District. That total includes \$4.5 million in the first month of 2020 alone!

In every corner of the district, a municipality, school district, fire or ambulance company, job-creating business or public library benefits from efforts Rep. Burns sets in motion.

His foresight includes adding a grant writer to his legislative staff back in 2016, a position designed

to make entities aware of grant opportunities and assist them with letters of support or filing applications.

Kiersten Wills, the third staffer to perform those duties, recently graduated from Penn State with bachelor's degrees in history and political science. The Altoona native has work experience with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America in Washington, D.C., and with another state representative.

Rep. Burns welcomes Kiersten to his well-oiled grant writing apparatus and, as usual, encourages all eligible entities to contact his Portage office for assistance.



Kiersten Wills

Frank Burns

State Representative • 72nd Legislative District

