



103RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WINTER 2022

STATE REP. PATTY KIM



INVESTING in our FUTURE

Working for residents, fighting for reforms

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A need to fully fund education

Pennsylvania has a historic budget surplus, one I hope the General Assembly uses to invest in those people hurting from the pandemic but also uses it to invest in the future of PA.

That starts with finally fully funding public education and helping to fix the issues with our 100 most underfunded schools, which is 32% of our state's student population.

I support the governor's recommendations for education:

- ✓ **\$1.25 billion additional investment in basic education funding.**
- ✓ **\$300 million investment in Level Up funding, which supports the 100 most underfunded schools in Pennsylvania – including Harrisburg School District and Steelton-Highspire School District.**
- ✓ **\$200 million increase in special education funding.**
- ✓ **\$75 million funding increase for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.**
- ✓ **\$200 million investment for the Nellie Bly Tuition Program, which has expanded to include community college students as well as PASSHE students, focuses on in-demand careers in need because of the pandemic, and will use state and federal money.**
- ✓ **\$150 million investment from American Rescue Plan Act to provide PASSHE with \$200 million in one-time funds during the next three years.**

The Nellie Bly Tuition Program is proposed to be state funded by both the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the Race Horse Development Trust Fund, and it would support student tuition and costs with a focus on those pursuing programs with high-workforce needs following the pandemic, such as healthcare, education and public service.

I will continue to review recommendations and ask questions during budget hearings, and I will support the need to invest in education since it involves our children and PA's future workforce. A weak education system only leads to a weak economic landscape. We need to provide our children – including those in higher education – the opportunity to acquire the skills they need to make their lives better.



I hosted my "Come Read with Rep. Kim and Guests" events throughout the summer at my district office, hoping to help children discover the joy of reading.



Priorities in our district

As Democratic Vice-Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, I'm making sure the priorities for residents in the 103rd Legislative District are being met.

- ✓ I am an advocate for a higher minimum wage, with a path toward \$15 an hour.
- ✓ I support investing in the Nellie Bly Scholarship and other programs to strengthen our community's workforce development.
- ✓ I support investing state dollars to improve affordable childcare, because parents who can find affordable childcare can return to work.
- ✓ I support gun safety legislation that would help keep guns off our streets and protect our children and schools.
- ✓ I support mental health awareness for students: For too long, a stigma has been placed on mental health issues.



AN ADVOCATE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

Earlier this year, I joined Rep. Stephen Kinsey (D-Philadelphia) in supporting the need for changes in PA's criminal justice system. Here are just some of the issues that we are trying to change:

Alternatives to Arrest:

An arrest is the first step in economic devastation experienced by far too many incarcerated people and their families. Arrests for low-level offenses often cause more harm than good to both police officers and the person being arrested. By first issuing a warning or citation with a command, we can begin to reverse the current trend.

Probation and Parole:

Earned Compliance Credits: People who are working hard to maintain their reentry to society should be given credit for that work. Under this legislation, for each month a probationer is in compliance, their supervision time would be reduced by 15 days. Once all restitution, fines and fees have been paid, the court or releasing authority would be able to reduce the period of supervision in proportion to the total amount of credits earned.

Medical Parole and Early Release of Aging Inmates:

It costs almost \$70,000 per year to incarcerate an individual above the age of 50. And the number of incarcerated people over 55 is growing rapidly. Equally important, the recidivism rate for them is low. This bill would decrease the growing cost of incarceration by permitting elderly and terminally ill people to petition for medical parole and early release.

Veterans Exiting Incarceration:

An incarcerated veteran is still a veteran who has served their country. This legislation would require that veterans who are incarcerated in a State Correctional Institution be given a "veterans benefits briefing" before they are released from incarceration. Topics to be discussed would include state and federal benefits available to the veteran and their family, as well as how to access and apply for them.

State Correctional Institutions Nutritional Needs:

Under this bill, basic nutritional needs contained in each meal and the number of calories in each meal would be examined. The medical and physical health of incarcerated individuals, as well as the prevalence of illness and disease among incarcerated individuals, also would be examined to ensure better outcomes.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT HELP OUR RESIDENTS

Pennsylvania has a number of programs and services available to help families and people in our region and around the state. Some of these programs serve as lifelines to help people and families struggling, including a new program to help homeowners affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have questions about any of these programs, reach out to my Kline Village office at 717-772-3570 to speak to a staff member.

Pennie: This is the Pennsylvania-run health care marketplace. If you need to shop for insurance for you and your family, www.pennie.com will allow you to shop different plans to address your needs.

PA Homeowners Assistance Fund: Using federal funds, this program started in February 2022 to provide assistance for homeowners negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The maximum amount of assistance for any homeowner under PAHAF is \$30,000 or up to 24 months of assistance.



Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program: This program allows seniors, widows, widowers and people with disabilities to collect a rebate on the property taxes or rent they paid in 2021. You can apply online at <https://my.path.pa.gov>.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program: Also known as LIHEAP, this program helps families in danger of being without heat through the form of a cash grant (up to \$1,500), which does not have to be repaid. Apply online using www.compass.state.pa.us.



Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program: Also known as LIHWAP, this temporary emergency program to help low-income families pay overdue water bills. LIHWAP is a grant that does not need to be repaid. Apply online using www.compass.state.pa.us.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+

What we need from you:

- EVERYONE**
 - All earned income tax forms (1099-SSS, W2s, etc.)
- HOMEOWNERS**
 - Copies of all paid tax bills
- RENTERS**
 - Signed form from the landlord

\$35,000 maximum household income*

* For those on Social Security: half of SSI/SSD income is excluded for eligibility

LIHWAP Income Guidelines

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$19,320
2	\$26,130
3	\$32,940
4	\$39,750
5	\$46,560
6	\$53,370
7	\$60,180
8	\$66,990

Each additional person +\$6,810

More info: dhs.pa.gov/WaterHelp

2021-2022 Income Guidelines

LIHEAP

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State Representative

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SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

I supported these recent investments:

- ✓ **\$225 million:** *I voted to release funds to support health care workers and hospitals.*
- ✓ **\$25 million:** *I voted to release funds to support EMS and ambulance rescue crews.*
- ✓ **\$2.5 million:** *The state awarded this grant to construct Hamilton Health Center in Steelton.*
- ✓ **\$75,000:** *The state approved grants for multiple local fire companies and EMS services.*
- ✓ **\$10,816:** *The state approved this grant for Harrisburg School District for safe school equipment purchases.*