



# REP. KINKEAD'S 2022 SUMMER RECAP

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# EMILY KINKEAD



**CAPITOL OFFICE:**

106B East Wing  
P.O. Box 202020  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020  
(717) 787-5470

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**

433 E. Ohio St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
(412) 321-5523

RepKinkead@pahouse.net

www.RepEmilyKinkead.com

Facebook Twitter Instagram @RepKinkead

Hello neighbors,

I hope you have all enjoyed a spectacular summer – I know my staff and I have! From passing a historic state budget in Harrisburg, to attending community events throughout the 20th Legislative District, my team and I have kept busy working for you over the last several months.

At the Capitol, I've been standing up for the things that matter most to our community – fighting to protect reproductive rights, advocating for policies to reduce gun violence, pushing to invest tax dollars in our schools, and tackling other important issues that impact our daily lives.

One of my proudest legislative accomplishments of this year was successfully amending H.B. 1393, a bill to decriminalize the possession and use of fentanyl test strips. With my amendment, the language “for personal use” was removed from the bill, so that individuals and community/health care organizations working to minimize overdoses can use and distribute test strips without fear of reprisal. To save the most lives, it is vital that we make it as easy as possible for the greatest amount of people to detect fentanyl, and this bill as amended would do exactly that.



Back at home, we held our inaugural Series on Women's Empowerment – which began with three virtual livestream events and culminated in a Women's Resource Fair at the Ross Community Center. The series was a tremendous success, and I'm already looking forward to next year's!

Aside from the resource fair, we had a wonderful time at community days, farmers' markets, and numerous other local events, helping so many of you connect to resources offered by the state, like the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program – one of the many state programs with which my staff and I are ready to assist you.

For more information on all the ways we can help you, stop by our office, email RepKinkead@pahouse.net, or call 412-321-5523.

Stay well,



Each week I send out an e-newsletter with the latest information from our district and Harrisburg, plus helpful state programs and services.

It's a great way to keep up with what's going on in our community and to learn about ways that my office can help you, your family, or friends.

**You can find all this and more at RepEmilyKinkead.com; follow me on social media or scan the QR code to sign-up for my weekly e-newsletter!**



# NUCLEAR POTENTIAL IN PITTSBURGH

In August, I hosted a House Policy Committee hearing at the K&L Gates Center in downtown Pittsburgh to explore the potential of nuclear fusion research not just as a future, more sustainable energy source but also as a major industry and job driver for Pennsylvania.

What exactly is nuclear fusion power? It's not the nuclear power most of us think of. While current nuclear energy comes from fission (the breaking down of atoms), nuclear fusion emits energy from smashing atoms together. It has the potential to create nearly TEN TIMES the energy of current nuclear fission energy, without the risks of a nuclear meltdown OR the need to dispose of hazardous nuclear waste! In fact, nuclear fusion is what powers our sun.

While nuclear fusion technology is not yet at the point where we can start setting up power plants, much like the space race, nuclear fusion research is already leading to incredible technological breakthroughs, like advances in semiconductors and magnets. Fusion has even led to the development of high temperature superconducting (HTS) wire that can conduct about 200 times the electric current of a copper wire of the same size. The application possibilities for HTS wire in everything from rail transportation to medical imaging are staggering.

What does that mean? More jobs – and not just for Ph.D.s., engineers and nuclear physicists, but also for the same building trades and manufacturing jobs that made Pittsburgh a steel-production behemoth. With countries like China and Russia also pursuing nuclear fusion technology and aiming to be leaders in providing its essential components, the US needs to lead the pack and – just like landing on the moon – plant our flag in nuclear fusion first.

After hearing testimony from industry experts, I firmly believe that nuclear fusion could revolutionize sustainable energy production for our world, while accelerating job creation in our state. Given the Biden administration's recently passed Inflation Reduction Act, which provides aggressive investments to tackle the climate crisis and support green technology, now is the perfect time to pursue nuclear fusion.

With the 30 startup companies that comprise the Fusion Industry Association racing to find a way to harness fusion for electricity, the Pittsburgh region has a real chance to become a leader in this emerging industry that is potentially worth hundreds of billions of dollars.



## BONUS PAYMENT AVAILABLE FROM REBATE PROGRAM

Have you heard about the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program? If you qualify, you may be eligible to receive a rebate on rent or property taxes paid in 2021. If you're unfamiliar with the program, contact my office today to see if you're eligible.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but thanks to provisions in this year's state budget, claimants will automatically receive a one-time bonus rebate this year, equaling 70% of the amount they received for 2021. For example, someone who received the maximum refund of \$650 will get a bonus payment of \$455 this year. If you already received a rebate this year, you will automatically receive the bonus payment – you do not need to reapply.

If you received a rebate last year, you should have already received an application form in the mail. If not, applications are available online at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) or by calling 1-888-222-9190. Residents can also call or visit my office to obtain the form. My staff is available to process your application and answer any questions.

We help hundreds of folks each year with this process, so please reach out if you have questions. The application period closes at the end of the year.

**PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM**  
for residents who are permanently disabled, 50+ and widowed, or 65+  
Application Deadline: December 31, 2022

**TAX**  
What we need from you:

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

**\$35,000** household income for homeowners & **\$15,000** household income for renters  
For those on Social Security, half of \$18,000 income is excluded for eligibility.



# OUT & ABOUT



*Touring water infrastructure upgrades underway by the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority with my House colleagues from Allegheny County.*



*Throwing candy to kids with Sen. Lindsey Williams at Ross Township's July Fourth Celebration.*



*Helping folks access state resources at Ross Township's Community Day (Ward 5) in Scharmyrn Park.*



*At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new HQ of Aurora, a Pittsburgh-based company focused on safely developing self-driving technology, with Gov. Tom Wolf, U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, and other local leaders.*



*Checking out some vendors at the North Boroughs Community Day.*

# WORKING FOR YOU

In June, the House voted unanimously to pass my bill and Sen. Lindsey Williams' companion bill to designate part of U.S. Route 19, between Ivory Avenue and Cemetery Lane, as the Chief Vernon Moses Memorial Highway.

Chief Moses, the first and only Ross police officer ever killed in the line of duty, was tragically gunned down on this section of road 90 years ago.

As the Ross Township Police Department celebrates its centennial anniversary, I'm extremely proud that we could honor Chief Moses' sacrifice by dedicating this portion of highway in his name.

It was a great pleasure to have members of the department join us at the Capitol to celebrate!





# IN DISTRICT 20



*With Gov. Tom Wolf and Sen. Lindsey Williams at the West View HUB to advocate sending \$2,000 direct payments to Pennsylvanians from leftover ARPA funds.*



*Hanging out at the North Boroughs 5K and Walk.*



*Our inaugural Women's Resource Fair at the Ross Community Center.*

# U IN HARRISBURG



In July, Republicans in the state legislature launched an all-out assault on abortion rights in Pennsylvania, seeking to circumvent the governor with a constitutional amendment that would create a pathway to severely limit or eliminate access to abortion. This appalling and life-threatening step toward denying the rights of birthing people passed to resounding applause from House Republicans.

Despite this repulsive attack on bodily autonomy, abortion remains safe and legal in our state – for now. But the same cannot be said for individuals in our neighboring states of West Virginia and Ohio, many of whom fear reprisal upon seeking abortion care in Pennsylvania.

I've introduced legislation with Reps. Carol Hill-Evans and Chris Rabb to further solidify Pennsylvania's sovereignty and right to refuse cooperation with out-of-state investigations into procedures that are legal within our borders. It is our duty to defend reproductive rights in the Commonwealth – and I'm incredibly grateful to see a wave of support from our Democratic governor and my Democratic colleagues in the House.



# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

## Highlights of the 2022-23 State Budget

How are state tax dollars spent in Pennsylvania? That question is answered every year, typically during the month of June, when the state House, Senate, and governor work together to craft a budget to determine exactly how taxpayers' money is spent over the coming year.

On July 8, we passed a \$45.2 billion budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. We did leave some money on the table and could have gone further in many ways, but overall, I'm incredibly proud of this budget because the Democratic Caucus stood together to fight for - and win - some incredibly important, and historic, investments for our communities.



**The 2022-23 PA Budget**

Gives **\$115 million** to increase child care access and affordability

EMILY KINKEAD

**The 2022-23 PA Budget**

Provides **\$125 million** in grants for homeowners to make necessary repairs and invests **\$250 million** to construct more affordable housing

EMILY KINKEAD

**The 2022-23 PA Budget**

Makes our communities safer with **\$105 million** in grants for local violence prevention programs

EMILY KINKEAD

In addition to the investments above, Democrats won more investments that will make huge differences for Pennsylvanians across our Commonwealth, including:

- **\$200 million** to expand mental health services for students and adults across PA.
- An increase of **\$2 million** in funding for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS), an annual program that helps reduce food waste and supports low-income Pennsylvanians in need of food assistance.
- A **\$100 million** fund to support public school safety initiatives across the state, with each school district receiving \$100,000 and **\$15** for every student.
- An additional **\$1.8 billion** in funding for PA schools, from Pre-K through college programs, including **\$54.7 million** for our public schools in Allegheny County.
- **\$100 million** for the newly created State Parks and Outdoor Recreation program, which will support the rehabilitation, repair, and development of park and forest areas. Plus **\$56 million** to create three new state parks!
- **\$1 million** in tuition assistance for active volunteer first responders, **\$1.5 million** for emergency services training, and a 10.9% increase to the Department of Health's EMS operating fund.

With a Republican majority in the state House and Senate, it is extremely difficult to get Democratic-led initiatives like these implemented into the budget – but we stuck together and refused to back down. As a result, we secured funding for programs that will undoubtedly help working families throughout Pennsylvania.



433 E. Ohio St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**(412) 321-5523**

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Details on state budget spending.
- Photo recap from our summer in District 20.
- Important updates on state programs.

**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

lpo.ad.0822

## MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Unemployment
- Property tax/rent rebates for seniors
- Voter registration and vote by mail
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- PennDOT documents and all kinds of state forms
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Birth and death certificates
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications

If you need help with any state or government-related service, please contact my office by email at [RepKinkead@pahouse.net](mailto:RepKinkead@pahouse.net) or by calling 412-321-5523.

Join me and Sen. Lindsey Williams for a Senior Resource Fair on Sept. 27 at the Ross Township Municipal Center, located at 1000 Ross Municipal Dr. The free event will include health screenings, information for seniors and caregivers, light refreshments, and updates on state-related resources – I hope to see you there!



**Representing parts of Pittsburgh, Ross Township and Avalon, Bellevue and West View boroughs.**