



State Senator

**KATIE MUTH**

*Representing the 44th Senatorial District*

Winter 2020-21



*INSIDE: District Updates | Katie in the community | Policy Updates*



## UPDATES FROM SENATOR MUTH

### ■ Senator Muth Elected to PA Senate Leadership for 2021-22 Session



On November 19th, 2020, Senator Katie Muth was elected by her colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus to serve on its leadership team as the Chair of the Policy Committee. "During my first two years serving in the State Senate, I quickly recognized that the important and difficult policy issues facing our Commonwealth are seldom bound by the lines of any one individual legislative district or county line," said Senator Muth. "I am grateful to my Senate Democratic colleagues who have entrusted me with this influential position and will work hard to advance our shared policy issues that for far too long have remained unaddressed. I look forward to increasing public awareness about state governance and how it could and should function to protect and advance all Pennsylvanians."

The Senate Democratic Policy Committee travels the state holding hearings on legislative and policy matters of importance to its members and their constituents. As the Chair of the Policy Committee, Senator Muth will lead those efforts and host each of those hearings. Senator Muth also wants to expand the outreach efforts to the people of Pennsylvania by providing opportunities for public participation, including opportunities for public comment, listening tour sessions, town halls, and other community engagement efforts to expand public awareness about how state government functions. For more information on the Policy Committee, its upcoming and previous hearings, please visit [pasenate.com/policy](https://pasenate.com/policy).

*As your State Senator, the health and safety of you and your family has been my priority over the past 9 months as the Commonwealth and the world combats the pandemic. I know that this pandemic has wrecked some level of havoc and uncertainty on all of our lives, resulting in financial, emotional, and physical struggles. Please know that my team and I are here to help. Please reach out to our office with any questions and we will work to find the resources you need. We are always here to help you and your family, before, during, and after COVID-19. Also, please checkout our website for COVID-19 resources for at [senatormuth.com/covid19](https://senatormuth.com/covid19)*

*This past year in Harrisburg, the members of the General Assembly seem to be divided now more than ever. Despite political turbulence during this global pandemic, I fought hard for our region to receive its fair share of federal CARES dollars to help our small businesses, front line workers, schools and first responders. I also introduced legislation and demanded investigations to increase transparency and improve communication and guidance in our nursing, long term care, and congregate care facilities during COVID-19.*

*As I prepare to start the new legislative session in January, I know that there is still much more work to do. I'm ready to continue to fight for the hardworking people and families of our district and across the state. Our commonwealth desperately needs a just recovery, so that all of you and people across Pennsylvania have the resources they need to get their lives back together. Follow us on social media and sign up for our weekly e-blast updates to keep up to date with legislative happenings in Harrisburg.*

*In order to safely meet the needs of my constituency during this global pandemic, our district office is **open by appointment** at 338 Main Street in Royersford and my team is ready to help! Since I was elected two years ago, we have helped over **14,867 constituents!** If you have a question on any state government issue, we will work to get you an accurate, truthful, and helpful answer. If you have a problem or concern with any state government agency, please contact us and we will help! And, of course, your input is always welcomed, encouraged, and appreciated on any legislative or policy issue, as I work to represent the interests of **all** of the people of the 44th District. I look forward to hearing from you!*

Honored to represent you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Muth".

**Thank you to all of the healthcare workers, first responders, teachers, and essential workers for your sacrifice and service to our community throughout the pandemic. Thank you also to all of the small businesses who have worked tirelessly to protect both their workers and customers during these challenging economic times.**

Follow us on social media for the latest updates on legislation, community events and more!

## FIGHTING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### ■ Standing Up to Corporate Polluters to Protect Pennsylvania

Marsh Creek State Park (Chester County) serves as the flagship of our Commonwealth's park system. Tragically, on August 10th, Sunoco (a.k.a. Energy Transfer) failed drilling operations caused over 8,000 gallons of hazardous waste drill fluid to spew into the lake, wetlands, and tributaries. The Mariner East Pipeline Project contaminated this pristine community resource, highlighting the extreme environmental and public health dangers caused by the recklessness and willful noncompliance of Sunoco. For the past four years, many of my constituents near Sunoco's Mariner East Pipeline have dealt with industrial spills, multiple sinkholes, contamination of their drinking water supply, dust and noise pollution, damage to their private property, harassment from armed security guards stationed in tree-lined communities, and now, another incident impacting Marsh Creek Lake.



The Mariner East Pipeline project (a.k.a. Sunoco's Pennsylvania Pipeline Project) spans 17 counties, carrying volatile natural gas liquids (NGLs) that will be shipped overseas to make plastics, has racked up over \$15 million dollars in fines, and hundreds of violations across the state. Over the past few months, I have facilitated bi-monthly communications with all state agencies involved with the cleanup and regulation enforcement. Unfortunately, our Commonwealth agencies working together is not always the norm, but I am hopeful that this situation results in

permanent changes in the future regarding cross-agency coordination, as well as with local government officials at the municipal and county levels. Protecting our environmental quality and ensuring public health are top policy priorities for my office and, during this past legislative session, I have introduced or co-sponsored over five dozen bills and resolutions focused on environmental protection, pipeline regulatory reform, and public health. We will reintroduce these bills again in January at the start of the 2021-2022 legislative session, as well as new policy efforts to protect our state's natural resources, water supply, and public health. As your State Senator, I will continue to fight for these vital issues, work to hold harmful entities, such as Sunoco, accountable, and will not let up until Marsh Creek State Park is fully and completely restored to its original quality. For more info on my sponsored legislation, visit: <https://bit.ly/3reLMgz>

### ■ Protecting and Honoring our Veterans

One of my top priorities as the State Senator representing the 44th District is to make every effort to not only recognize, but also advance and protect the interests of our patriots who wore the uniform on behalf of our nation. Pennsylvanians who served in the armed forces account for 7.3% of the state's population, totaling 745,909 residents across our commonwealth. The very freedoms we enjoy were only secured through the sacrifice and service of those who accepted the call to action.

Earlier this year, the Southeastern Veterans' Center, part of Senate District 44 and one of the six veterans homes under the jurisdiction of the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), was disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Following the unfortunate passing of dozens of veterans at the Southeastern Veterans' Center from

COVID-19, and reports that officials and administrators at the center were inappropriately administering controversial and unapproved treatment methods for individuals in non-hospital settings, such as the use of hydroxychloroquine, I immediately and repeatedly called for multiple state and investigations by Governor Tom Wolf, the State Department of Health, Office of the Attorney General, and Office of the Inspector General, to thoroughly review the health and safety practices at the facility to address the threat of the virus. Since that time, numerous state and federal elected officials have echoed my demand for a comprehensive investigation into the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) management practices at their state-run homes.

I continue to receive numerous phone calls from families and rank and file care providers concerned over the

initial and ongoing response of Southeastern Veterans' Center officials to stop the spread of COVID-19. It is my responsibility to protect the resident veterans and those who provide care for them, and their families and I will continue to fight to protect the health of our nation's heroes entrusted in the Commonwealth's care.

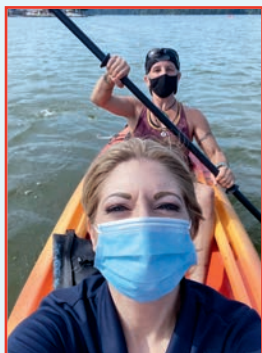


*Senator Muth and her team participated in a Veterans Day Parade for the residents of SEVC, which was organized by American Legion Post 602 of Spring City, PA.*

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## AROUND THE 44TH



Thank you to constituent Christine (in picture with me), an Upper Uwchlan resident, for taking me out on the lake! In late August, Rep. Danielle Friel Otten (HD155, Chester County) and I organized an informal meet-up with local officials, state legislators, and constituents, to paddle out and observe the damage at Marsh Creek Lake. On August 10th, Sunoco reported an inadvertent return (IR) incident at the HDD290 drill site, causing over 8,000 gallons of industrial waste drill fluid to spew into the lake, violating the Clean Streams Law. Issues at this site continue today, with two new sinkholes at the drill site, reported in late December. The site remains shutdown while the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) continues to review Sunoco's appeal to reverse the DEP's Administrative Order that mandates a reroute plan away from the lake.

I was invited as a special guest to watch the 12th Annual Fernbrook Derby Goat Race in North Coventry Township. North Coventry Township is a leader in maintaining and protecting open space that preserves the rural lifestyle of Chester County, natural landscapes and ecosystems. While spectators had to view via livestream online, having the goat race in a COVID-safe capacity still allowed the residents to keep the tradition alive and celebrate the hard work of the township in protecting our natural resources and maintaining public park space for our community.



I was on-hand to help distribute Norristown Area School District's 1,000,000th (one millionth) meal since schools moved to virtual learning on March 13th. Superintendent Christopher Dormer, his administration, and the faculty have done a tremendous job helping their students and families during this national crisis, both inside the virtual classroom and with efforts to help families through additional support programs.

Rep. Otten and I hosted a COVIDSafe shredding event in Uwchlan Township with record turnout! We ended up filling both trucks with over 2,000 pounds of paper!



I joined the MontCo Anti-Hunger Network, the RSVP volunteer corp and a host of other volunteers and organizations to distribute food and pet supplies to families at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. Over 450 cars were served in 3 hours time! I am pictured alongside Upper Providence Township Chief of Fire and Emergency Services, Dan Kerrigan, and Upper Providence Township Chief of Police, Mark Toomey.



My team and I donated and distributed 200 pumpkins at the Upper Providence Township Spooktacular Trunk-or-Treat event. A special thank you to John and Gavin Caroff of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau for picking the pumpkins and delivering them to the event.



My team and I decorated a tree for the 'Phestival of Trees' event held at the Oaks Expo Center in support of local animal shelters and rescues. This was a successful, COVID-safe event, that allowed for some holiday cheer and financial support for our local shelters!



Change starts in your own community! I had the honor of attending a memorial service for George Floyd, organized by Aidsand "Ace" Wright-Riggins, Mayor of Collegeville, PA, and the Collegeville borough council. Thank you to the organizers who challenged each of us to acknowledge our own implicit biases and to have difficult conversations with our neighbors to help bring about the kind of change that will dismantle the systems that contribute to racism, intolerance, and injustice across our nation. This was a well-attended event, where members of the community, elected leaders, and law enforcement from Collegeville Borough Police Department, stood together to say that Black Lives Matter, and that we must work together to end systems of oppression to ensure safety and equity for everyone.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES


### ■ 2 of my bills were amended into other bills that have since been signed into law!

As your State Senator, I will always fight to improve every bill that comes up for a vote. Because the senate rules are determined by the majority party, minority members have little to no power in terms what gets added the legislative calendar. Only majority chairman of committees can hold voting meetings and hearings, and determine what bills run out of committee for a possible floor vote. The majority leadership in the senate determine what bills get a vote on the floor and also have the power to vote

down or prevent amendments offered by the minority party from getting a vote. Offering amendments is one of the only ways to have the voices of my constituents heard on the senate floor. This involves crafting legislative amendments meant to modify and/or improve harmful or ineffective bills that are brought up for a vote. This past legislative session, I drafted and introduced the most floor amendments in the State Senate! Stay tuned for more legislative battles during the 2021-2022 legislative session, and

please know I will be armed with amendments and thoughtful, fact-based debate on the senate floor!

The bills I vote on impact the lives of all my constituents and I am determined to develop people-focused legislation that is written with you in mind, not special interests or corporate insiders. As the newly elected Chair of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, I will have a greater role in ensuring the legislation that becomes law has your best interests at heart and will always fight to prevent bad bills from reaching the Governor's desk.




## 2020 LEGISLATIVE YEAR IN REVIEW

**INTRODUCED**

**28**

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**



**2 BILLS WERE AMENDED INTO OTHER BILLS & ENACTED INTO LAW (BOTH HAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT)**

**SB851: 'No Consent in Custody' was amended into HB256**

**SB796: 'Increased Volunteer Assistance Program Loan Limits' for Fire and EMS was amended into HB1673**

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**COSPONSORED MEMOS/BILLS/RESOLUTIONS**

**176**

**34 BIPARTISAN MEMOS**

**29 ENACTED INTO LAW**

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**DRAFTED AND INTRODUCED THE MOST FLOOR AMENDMENTS IN THE STATE SENATE!**


**FILED**

**36**

**AMENDMENTS**

**Amendment #O5718: Established workers compensation coverage for PA national guard members**

**AMENDED INTO HB1869 AND SIGNED INTO LAW**



# 2021 A NEW YEAR. A NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

## ANOTHER YEAR TO FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE!

### PRIORITIES

- A Just Recovery, including economic security for all Pennsylvanians
- Protect Public and Environmental Health
- Increase transparency and accountability in all levels of government


Follow us on social media for the latest updates on legislation, community events and more!

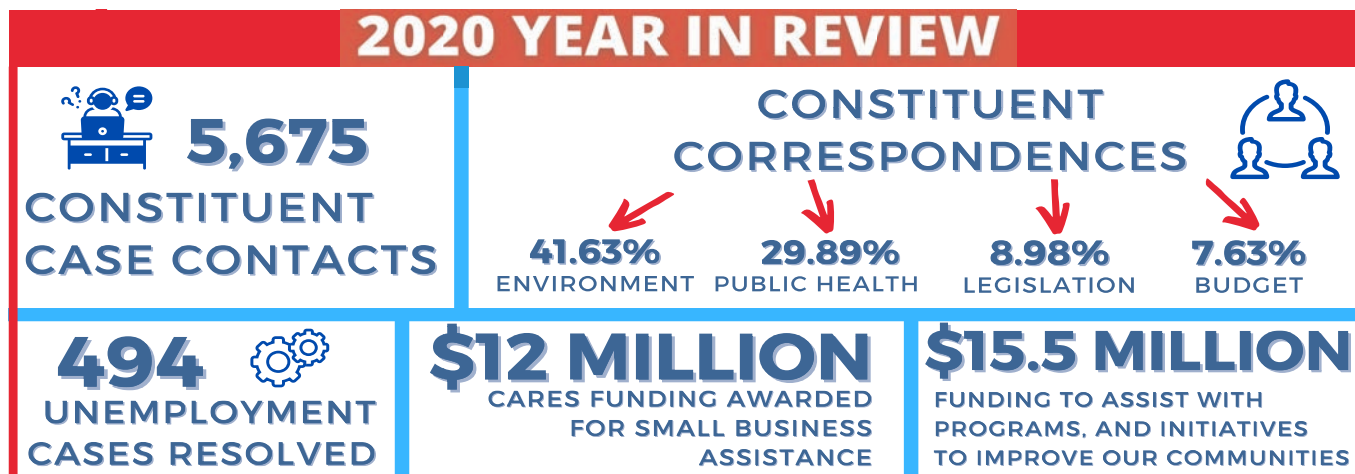




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## OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

### DISTRICT OFFICE

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E-MAIL: [senatormuth@pasenate.com](mailto:senatormuth@pasenate.com)

### OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

(Due to COVID restrictions, please call to make an appointment for in-person assistance' all CDC guidelines, including mandatory mask use while in the building are enforced)

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Wheelchair accessible entrance and handicap parking located in rear of building

### HARRISBURG OFFICE

Senate Box 203044 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3044 • (717) 787-1398 • Fax: (717) 783-4587

### OFFICE HOURS: VIRTUALLY BY APPOINTMENT

Closed for in-person meetings until Capitol Building reopens per the Governor's Emergency Declaration

Follow us on social media for the latest updates on legislation, community events and more!

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