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Dear Residents of SD-44:

In this newsletter you will find information on legislation introduced to protect renters and homeowners affected by COVID-19, my statement calling on the DEP to allow for an independent investigation of the environmental harm inflicted on our community, as well as important updates on the Census.

Last week, the Senate Democratic Caucus sent a letter to the Senate Majority leader and Senate Pro Tempore to reconvene session this week, in order to address needed changes to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's (PHFA) COVID-19 Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program. I will continue to fight for the hardworking people and small businesses affected by the pandemic, given that our region deserves a vast majority of the funding intended to help relieve the strain that many in our community are feeling.

We are here to help! My staff and I are always available by phone at 610-792-2137 and by email at [senatormuth@pasenate.com](mailto:senatormuth@pasenate.com) to help answer your questions and provide you with the resources that you need.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth

## Legislative Updates

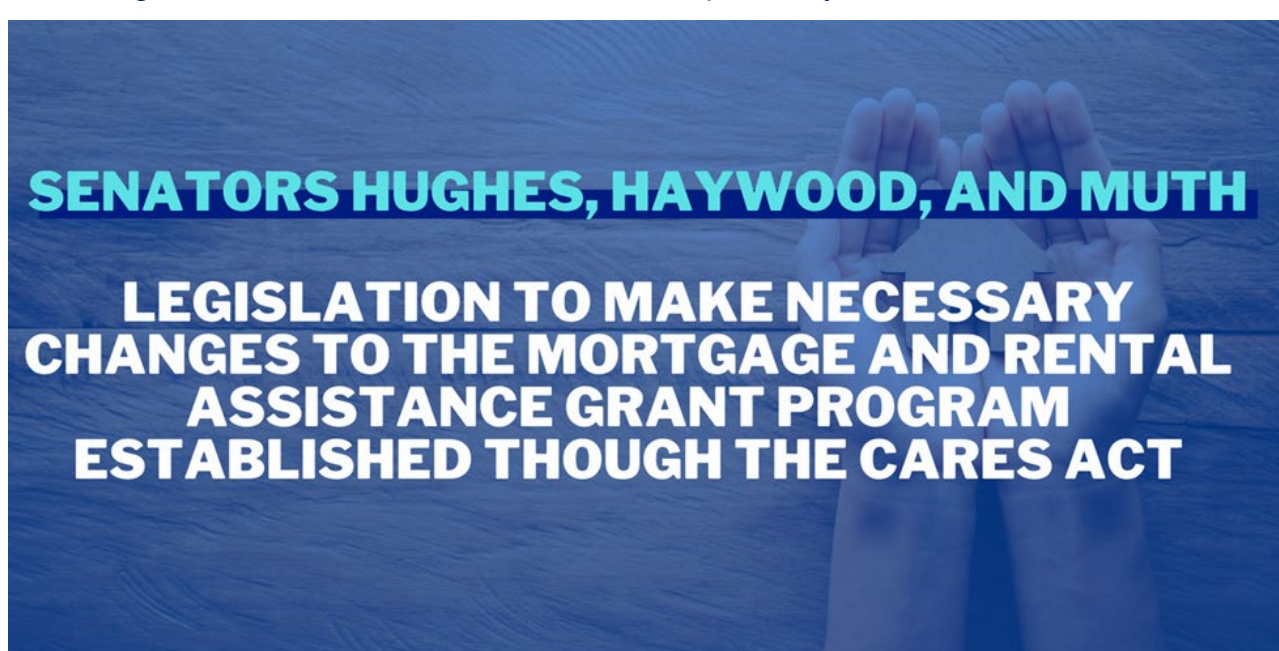
### ***Standing up for renters and homeowners facing payment challenges due to COVID-19***

We have to act NOW to make sure Pennsylvanians don't lose access to a necessary program that keeps people in their homes.

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's (PHFA) COVID-19 Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program was a bipartisan and key aspect of the budget we enacted in May. The current deadline to apply is today, August 31st. We need to extend this deadline so that Pennsylvanians across our Commonwealth have access to these resources as we continue to navigate the financial hardships caused by the pandemic.

Myself, along with Senators Art Haywood and Vincent Hughes introduced a [co-sponsorship memorandum](#) outlining the legislation that we need to pass to make the program function properly. Our offices have been working closely with the PHFA to make sure that these changes will be effective.

We as legislators need to do the work now to keep Pennsylvanians in their homes.



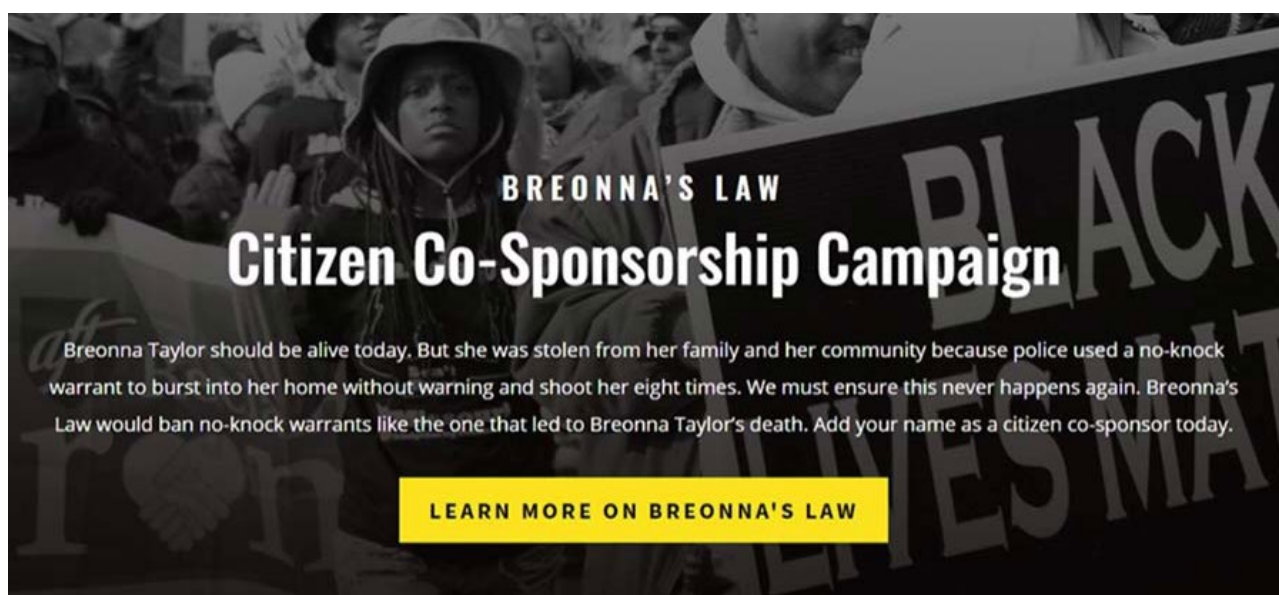
### ***Breonna's Law***

Breonna Taylor was unjustly taken from her family far too early. On March 13th, Breonna was shot and killed by police officers executing a "no-knock" warrant. Not only were the officers at the wrong address, but the person that they were looking for had been captured earlier in the day.

I am a proud co-sponsor of [Breonna's Law](#) introduced by

Senator Tim Kearney, which would require law enforcement officers to knock and announce themselves when serving a warrant, waiting at least 15 seconds for a response.

Senator Kearney has launched a Citizen Co-Sponsorship Campaign, where residents of Pennsylvania can add their name to support Breonna's Law. Those who want to become a citizen co-sponsor can go to: [www.senatorkearney.com/breonnaslaw](http://www.senatorkearney.com/breonnaslaw)



## EMS Frontline Workers Deserve Hazard Pay

The Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus wrote a letter to Governor Tom Wolf Monday urging the push for additional funding for Hazard Pay Grants for frontline workers.

Our caucus laid out a proposal to spend the Commonwealth's CARES Act funding in April. Our proposal included what was most important to our caucus: helping our frontline workers, small businesses and the healthcare industry. We were pleased that our efforts paid off and that many of our priorities were included in the May appropriation of some of the CARES Act funding.

Our caucus was disheartened to see that the awardee list did not include any EMS workers. In the course of their daily duties they cannot avoid direct, one-on-one contact with those individuals they are providing lifesaving care to. It is our belief that these workers are the very definition of frontline workers.

We believe that we should appropriate additional funding for Hazard Pay Grants and that a portion of that money should be made available to EMS frontline workers.



EMS FRONTLINE WORKERS  
DESERVE HAZARD PAY

**THANK YOU IS  
NOT ENOUGH**

## Letter Calling on the DEP and Gov. Wolf to Pause All Drilling Near Marsh Creek Lake, Allow for Comprehensive, Independent Investigation

Calls from residents in Upper Uwchlan township poured into my office late last Tuesday afternoon with reports of drill sounds off of Park Road. I later received confirmation from the DEP that Sunoco Pipeline, L.P. (Energy Transfer) had resumed horizontal directional drilling (HDD) at drill site HDD# S3-0300, located on the same easement as the August 10<sup>th</sup> inadvertent return (IR) incident at site HDD# S3-00290 that resulted in thousands of gallons of industrial waste spewing into Marsh Creek Lake, a 15 foot wide sink hole, and violations of the Clean Stream Law.

Sunoco has yet to submit an Interim IR report as required by the DEP, and results of investigation from other state entities have not yet been completed. My constituents are understandably extremely concerned and very distressed regarding the long-term environmental impacts caused by this event. As such, I strongly request that the DEP hold a public meeting to discuss environmental damage, forthcoming mitigation efforts, and the necessary thresholds required for consideration of any possible restart of construction activities.

In a [letter](#) to DEP Secretary McDonnell, I also requested that the following requirements be included in the ongoing DEP investigation into environmental harm:

- A full and comprehensive report containing complete hydrological, ground water, and geophysical associated data in proximity to the HDD 0290 drill site, pipeline easement, sinkhole, and surrounding headwaters of the Marsh Creek Lake.
- An independent content analysis supervised by an impacted municipal entity or the Attorney General's office of any and all drilling fluid utilized during HDD construction including, but not limited to, super sacks, super gel x, and bentonite.
- An independent content analysis of any and all grouting material utilized to stabilize the 15 foot wide and 8 foot deep wetland sinkhole which occurred following the most recent IR contamination event on August 10, 2020.

August 26, 2020

The Honorable Patrick McDonnell  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Secretary McDonnell,

As you are well aware, recent pipeline construction activities by Sunoco/Energy Transfer in Upper Uwchlan Township (Chester County) have resulted in significant environmental contamination and property damage following a substantial Inadvertent Return (IR) during the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) process at the headwaters of the Marsh Creek State Park. I understand various state agencies, including the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), are investigating the scope of environmental damage and strongly request the following factors are considered during the course of this vital inquiry.

I am aware that issues associated with this particular drill site (HDD 0290) have a lengthy and tumultuous history. Specifically, during the installation of the 16-inch pipeline in 2017, two IRs occurred between a pond and the wetland and within a small unnamed stream that serves as a tributary to the wetlands and the Marsh Creek State Park. In addition to the hundreds of gallons of drilling fluid found following the two 2017 IR events, two reported Loss of Circulation (LOC) events resulted in over 42,000 gallons of misplaced bentonite. These cumulative events required the categorization of HDD 0290 drill site as containing a **moderate to high risk of drilling fluid loss and IRs**, in the HDD Hydrogeologic Reevaluation Report dated May 27, 2019.

It should come as little surprise that during the installation of the 20-inch pipeline, a significant loss of drilling fluid resulted in a dramatic contamination of the 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake and the establishment of a 15-foot wide and 8-foot deep subsidence event in the headwaters of this pristine Commonwealth of Pennsylvania drinking water resource. In light of prior documented evidence, my constituents and I find this unacceptable and I strongly request the following requirements be included in the ongoing DEP investigation into environmental harm.

- A full and comprehensive report containing complete hydrological, ground water, and geophysical associated data in proximity to the HDD 0290 drill site, pipeline easement, sinkhole, and surrounding headwaters of the Marsh Creek Lake.
- An independent content analysis supervised by an impacted municipal entity or the Attorney General's office of any and all drilling fluid utilized during HDD construction including, but not limited to, super sacks, super gel x, and bentonite.
- An independent content analysis of any and all grouting material utilized to stabilize the 15 foot wide and 8 foot deep wetland sinkhole which occurred following the most recent IR contamination event on August 10, 2020.

Further, it has come to my attention that Sunoco has recently initiated construction activity at a nearby drill site, HDD 0300. I am extremely concerned as this drill site is located immediately adjacent to the most recent IR and sinkhole that occurred on August 10 at HDD 0290. I question the decision to allow Sunoco to resume construction that logically has a shared geology and therefore, may result in similar harm to Marsh Creek Lake. In fact, in Sunoco's Response to DEP Comments for HDD Re-Evaluation Report dated February 4, 2020, Sunoco acknowledged the regionally shared geological features and relied, in part, on geophysical studies at both HDD 0290 and HDD 0300 to justify the resumption of construction at HDD 0300. With this in mind, I strongly urge the Department to prohibit drilling activities at HDD 0300 until a comprehensive review of the geological conditions in this region can be adequately analyzed.

Finally, my constituents are understandably extremely concerned and very distressed regarding the long-term environmental impacts caused by this event. As such, I strongly request that the Department hold a public meeting to discuss environmental damage, forthcoming mitigation efforts, and the necessary thresholds required for consideration of any possible restart of construction activities. This meeting should include, at minimum, appropriate and knowledgeable staff from the DEP, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Public Utility Commission, the Chester County Conservation District, the Chester County Department of Health, and Sunoco.

I thank you for your time and attention to this serious and ongoing environmental issue in my Senate District. If I can assist in coordinating the public meeting or provide any clarification to these requests, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth, SD44

KJM: dcv

Cc: Governor Tom Wolf

## Mail-In vs Absentee Ballots

We have 64 days until election day! Our office has received a lot of calls regarding ballot confusion.

Mail-in and absentee ballot **applications** for the November 3, 2020, general election must be received by your county election office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

- ✔ Mail-in ballot – Any qualified voter may [apply](#) for a mail-in ballot. You may simply request this ballot without a reason.
- ✔ Absentee ballot – Still requires you to list a reason for your ballot (this applies to college students, members of the military, inmates who have not been convicted of a felony, or those with a physical disability)

In order to request either ballot type, you must be registered to vote.

Check your voter status [here](#).

- 📌 It is highly recommended that if you want to vote by mail that you submit your application as soon as possible and mail back your ballot shortly after receiving it.

**APPLY ONLINE FOR A  
MAIL-IN  
BALLOT**

**VotesPA.com/ApplyMailBallot**

## Census Bureau Ending Counting Efforts Early

The Census Bureau is ending all counting efforts for the 2020 census on Sept. 30, a month sooner than previously announced. Senate District 44 sits at only 79.3% and for every person not counted we risk losing nearly \$2,100 in federal dollars.

For the next 10 years, the federal government will rely on the collected 2020 census data to help guide distribution of approximately \$1.5 trillion in annual spending across 316 federal programs.

Don't delay: if you haven't already [sign-up to complete](#) the census today.

# 79.3%

## SENATE DISTRICT 44 RESPONSE RATE

### Free Shred Event: September 26th from 1-4pm

Join State Representative Danielle Friel Otten and Senator Katie Muth for a FREE Paper-Only Shred Event!

Bring your confidential documents to be destroyed! Each car will be limited to 4 file-size boxes. Small paper clips and staples are OK, but please no binder clips, binders, or cardboard (plan to take your boxes home with you). **To limit personal contact, this event will be drive-through. Please place papers to be shredded in your trunk, wear a mask, and remain in your vehicle.**

The mobile shredding unit will be located at the north end of the parking lot in front of Rep. Otten's office (631 Pottstown Pike in Exton) on Saturday, September 26th from 1-4 PM.

This event is first come, first served. When the truck is full, the event will end. All shredded paper will be recycled! If you have any questions, please contact our office at 610-792-2137.



### How to Stay Informed

#### Pennsylvania Department of Health

- The PA DoH [Daily COVID-19 report](#). Updated regularly throughout the day.
- Follow the PA Health Department on [Twitter](#).
- Follow them on [Facebook](#).

#### U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [Track confirmed cases in the US](#). (This site is updated weekdays at noon and shows numbers that were current as of 4 p.m. the previous day.)
- CDC provided information regarding "[What you should know about COVID-19](#)"
- Follow the CDC on [Twitter](#).
- Follow the CDC on [Facebook](#).
- Learn how best to [prevent "community transition"](#) with specific details on what to do before, during, and after outbreaks.

**Be sure to check out the complete list of information, data, and resources available to those in:**

[Berks County](#)

[Chester County](#)

[Montgomery County](#)



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from

**KATIE**  
**MUTH**  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR  
44

Submit your mobile number to stay up-to-date with the latest news and happenings from Senator Katie Muth sent right to your phone.


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