

Greetings Change Makers,

Welcome to a new era in Harrisburg! It's time to make our government work for the people. Each month we will send you developments in Harrisburg, news from the district, and exciting events where your participation is encouraged so that I can amplify your concerns in the Senate. For those of you who have been with me along the way, thank you for your continuous support! I'm so proud of what we accomplished together. For those of you new to the team - welcome! The opportunity to serve our district is an important and exciting undertaking and I look forward to sharing the change we bring to our communities with you.

# Swearing-In



On New Year's Day, I joined my fellow Senators in Harrisburg for our first legislative session of the new term. While driving to Harrisburg bright and early that Tuesday morning, I reflected on the 18 months of hard work that we did together, and it was an honor to be joined by so many of you that made this victory possible. Thank you. We have a lot of work to do and I plan to bring the same heart and hustle that reached over 100,000 constituents throughout the campaign to Harrisburg. You can check out photos from the ceremony <u>here</u>.

## **Committee Assignments**

It's my honor to have been appointed as the minority chair of the Senate Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing. I am eager to bring new leadership to the committee and I am determined to be an advocate for community development and affordable housing for all Pennsylvanians. My additional committee appointments include: Finance, Health and Human Services, Intergovernmental Operations, and State Government. As your elected representative for working families, this is a chance to fight for commonsense solutions that put hardworking people first.



## **Pennsylvania Farm Show**

On January 7th, I was honored to visit the Pennsylvania Farm Show. I was proud to see

the diverse goods, livestock, and produce our neighbors in the 44<sup>th</sup> district showcased this year. While at the Show, I spoke with PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell C. Redding about the very important role our district plays in the PA agriculture economy. Did you know that Chester County produces over half of all mushrooms consumed in the United States? Or that Berks County leads the nation in agricultural land preservation with over 72,000 acres that must remain dedicated to farming? I also had the opportunity to learn about advances in hydroculture farming with Senator Art Haywood of the 4th senatorial district. Check out photos from my visit <u>here</u>.



## Victoria's Law

Victoria's Law is legislation that is close to my heart, since my husband and I have two dogs that we adopted from a rescue shelter. Named for Victoria, a female German Shepard dog rescued from a puppy mill, Victoria's Law will affect pet stores throughout the Commonwealth by mandating that all cats, dogs, and rabbits for sale must come from animal shelters and rescues. Animals in mills are bread with little regard for their health, often passing on dangerous and complicated genetic disorders. I was happy to co-sign this legislation with my colleagues Senator Tom Killion and Senator Andy Dinniman and I am proud to serve in a Legislature that prioritizes for the welfare of those who cannot advocate for themselves. This legislation is a step towards removing the profits from keeping animals in such horrendous conditions.

## Women's March



On Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, thousands of women marched up the Ben Franklin Parkway and gathered at the Art Museum steps for the third annual Women's March. It was exciting to see women and allies clad in pink, carrying protest signs, while advocating for a stronger, fairer, more equitable world. I was honored to speak on behalf of our newly elected PA Senators and stated that we must demand better of those we trust to act on behalf of the State Legislature as a voice for the people of Pennsylvania. Congresswomen Madeleine Dean, Chrissy Houlahan, and Mary Gay Scanlon were also speakers, along with PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro. When women unite, our power is unstoppable. Photos from the March can be found on my Facebook page.



# New in the 44<sup>th</sup>

#### **STEM Grants**

In January, local schools within the 44<sup>th</sup> district were recipients of grants geared towards furthering STEM and computer science education. The grants were made available under two different programs: the PA <u>Department of Labor and Industry</u> awarded over \$350,000 for STEM job training and an additional \$105,000 under <u>Governor Wolf's PAsmart initiative</u>.

# **Upcoming Events**

#### Penn Environment Meet & Greet

Join State Senator Katie Muth and State Representative Joe Ciresi on **Thursday**, **February 7th** from 6:30-8:30PM at Stickman Brews in Royersford. Come hear their environmental priorities, ask questions, and let them know how important bold environmental action is to their constituents!



#### Join us for Coffee with Katie!



We are kicking off a series of events around the 44<sup>th</sup> district with the aim of providing greater access to your State Senator in a casual environment. Coffee with Katie will be a regular feature so bring your questions, comments, and concerns!

Our first event will be on **Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** from 12-2 PM in Royersford at Brewed Awakening. You can also join us on the following dates: **Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** from 10AM-12PM at Michael's Family Restaurant in Douglassville or on **Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** at Saint Peter's Bakery in Saint Peters Village.



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