Dear Residents of SD-44:

The PA Senate Democratic Caucus has written to Senate Republican leadership with grave reservations about the recent conduct of certain members of the PA Senate and questions about their involvement in the insurrection at our nation’s Capital on January 6, 2021.

We are urging Senate Republican leadership to request that the Senate immediately form an investigatory committee with equal bipartisan representation to ascertain the extent any member of the Pennsylvania Senate in the planning and execution of the despicable and unlawful events that left four Americans dead, including one from Pennsylvania, and left a permanent stain on our nation’s conscience, history and international reputation as a bulwark of democracy.

The events that transpired in Washington, DC on Wednesday were planned with the intent to disrupt Congress in the execution of its lawful duty to record the results of the Electoral College.

If it is shown that a sitting member, who was indisputably at the scene, was involved in these illegal acts, it would be reprehensible and constitute conduct unbecoming a State Senator, at best.

Specifically, we seek an investigation into conduct by any Senator that violated state and federal law with regard to the attack on our democracy and the rule of law that occurred at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

We are requesting that this investigation begin without delay and in a manner consistent with the Rules of the Senate.

Senator Katie Muth

Seat Senator Jim Brewster

Senator Jim Brewster has won election to the 45th senatorial district and defeated legal challenges disputing that fact. The PA Senate GOP continues to follow lockstep with the current President of the United States by authoring their own made for tv drama which rejects the will of voters, ignores state and federal court rulings, and asks the PA Senate to make a political decision that dishonors our state constitution.

For a group of Senators who claim to want to be “right on the rules” they seem to be following a dangerous playbook that is filled with more conspiracy theories than facts.

Senator Brewster must be seated immediately! Add your name to the petition and pledge your support to @katemuth and demand Senate Republicans set aside partisanship.

Senate Majority party rejects efforts to make the PA Senate more effective and transparent

Last week in Harrisburg, Senate Republicans rejected efforts by Senator Lindsey Williams and I to reform the Senate operating rules and procedures in ways that would increase transparency, advance policy, and ensure that members are able to adequately represent their constituents.

Not only were members not provided the Republican version of these rules, the text was not made readily available prior to the vote. Senator Williams and I then introduced a Resolution which would have established alternative Rules for the 2021-22 Senate Session. Highlights of changes from rules of recent Sessions contained in this Resolution include:

- Improving the quality of legislation introduced by: Requiring that every bill receive consideration and a vote in committee
- Prohibiting the majority party from silencing debate—and thereby the voices of constituents—by requiring a 2/3 vote of the standing membership to pass a motion to stop debate and call (vote on) the previous question
- Ensuring that the best legislation is passed into law by requiring that every amendment offered receive a vote, unless the maker of the amendment decides to withdraw it
- Improving transparency and accountability by requiring that all amendment votes, whether in committee or on the floor, be recorded on the public-facing website

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Mandating that any motion to suspend the rules must receive a two-thirds vote of the standing membership to pass.

Instead of voting on this resolution, Senate Republicans referred this Resolution to the Rules Committee, where it will likely never see a hearing or vote.

You can read the full text of our proposed resolution here.

COVID Vaccine Release Plan

The COVID-19 vaccine is finally here! Distribution to front-line health care workers has begun, and soon it will be available to the general population.

Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Office of Public Health has started scheduling appointments for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for Phase 1A which includes qualifying healthcare staff who live or work in the county.

Healthcare offices and healthcare professionals can complete the screening survey by clicking below. Individuals who are employed by a healthcare office should have their office complete one survey form for all staff.

Survey link: https://veoci.com/veoci/form/vqmnjex7fyjs#tab=entryForm

For more information on vaccine availability in Montco, as well as the phased approach, you can find more information here: https://www.montcopa.org/3660/COVID-19-Vaccine

Chester County

Chester County, through the Health Department, the hospitals and other healthcare providers, are actively receiving COVID-19 vaccine and administering it as quickly as possible.

We are currently vaccinating Phase 1A priority groups.

• All healthcare personnel not affiliated with a hospital/health system, please complete the Healthcare Vaccine Interest Survey.

Preparing for Phase 1B priority groups.

• Phase 1B groups and individuals should complete the Vaccine Interest Survey to express your interest in the vaccination and receive notifications when appointments are available.

Priority groups can be found on the COVID-19 Vaccination Information page.

Bucks County

Currently in phase 1A of the vaccine distribution plan. For more information, please refer to the PA Department of Health vaccine distribution dashboard.

COVID Vaccine Townhalls (2 Opportunities)

To give you more information on the vaccine distribution plan and provide an opportunity to have YOUR vaccine questions answered, I am co-hosting a virtual townhall with Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine and Senator-Elect John Kane.

Dr. Levine will answer questions from our audience, along with a panel from PEMA and the Department of Health responsible for overseeing the roll out of the COVID vaccine.

The townhall will be held on Zoom on January 20th, and all you have to do to participate is sign up here! The event is open to everyone and completely free.
The Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors, chaired by State Senator Gene Yaw, will hold a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, January 13, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., on the COVID-19 vaccines and how they will be distributed throughout rural Pennsylvania. Presenters scheduled for the public hearing are: Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine; Dr. George Garrow, Chief Medical Officer, Primary Health Network (Sharon, PA); Mr. Steven Johnson, President, UPMC Susquehanna; and Dr. Cary Funk, Director of Science and Society Research, Pew Research Center. The public hearing will be held via Zoom Webinar. Attendees are asked to please register in advance at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZaA2FdhAQjCV4HPcxfXxqA.

SNAP benefits update
REMINDER ALERT: The new COVID Relief response bill signed 12/27/2020 impacts your SNAP Benefits. Your benefits have increased 15% this month until June 30th, 2021. This is an average of $30 more per week which will directly put food in the mouths of those who desperately need it. Learn more here.

105th PA Farm Show
The 105th Pennsylvania Farm Show will take place from January 9-16, 2021. In light of the current public health crisis and keeping safety a priority, Pennsylvania’s agriculture industry will be celebrated virtually for the 105th show. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will bring stories of agriculture into your home and explore with the industry how we can cultivate a brighter tomorrow for Pennsylvania’s leading industry. For more, the full schedule can be found here.

How to Stay Informed
Pennsylvania Department of Health
- The PA DoH Daily COVID-19 report. Updated regularly throughout the day.
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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
  - 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:

Berk County
Chester County
Montgomery County