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Dear Residents of SD-44:

My office continues to receive a large number of calls and emails from residents who have questions about the COVID vaccine. The number of vaccine doses allocated to Pennsylvania has been much lower than initially anticipated, which has led to much frustration. I have heard your feedback both via calls and emails to my office, as well as on the various town halls that I have held along with county, state and federal partners.

As of TODAY, here is the latest information on how and where to sign-up to get the vaccinated for COVID-19 if you live in the tri-county area:

Montgomery County

If you live or work in Montgomery County and are 65 and older or you have a health condition that qualifies you for the vaccine under Phase 1B or 1C, you can pre-register for the vaccine [HERE](#).

[Montgomery County Vaccination Registry](#)

If you are a Montgomery County healthcare worker who qualifies for Phase 1A or 1B vaccination, you can have your business or provider fill out [this form](#) to schedule vaccinations.

[Montgomery County Business Vaccination Registry](#)

Chester County

Chester County continues to vaccinate groups in Phase 1A to include the individuals 65 and older, and individuals between the ages of 16-64 with certain medical conditions. Vaccine supply remains limited and appointments are opened as more vaccine becomes available.

If you are in the age "16-64 with a medical condition" group*, that now identifies you as Phase 1A, and you completed the previous survey, please complete this form again.

[Chester County Business Vaccination Registry](#)

Berks County

If you live in Berks County, Vaccine distribution is handled by licensed healthcare providers and pharmacies. The County of Berks cannot distribute nor determine who gets the vaccine, but officials are working closely with local health care providers as they continue to coordinate and communicate vaccine distribution efforts. Learn more about how to register with providers [HERE](#).

[Berks County Vaccination Registry](#)

COVID VACCINE DASHBOARD

While working to improve the efficiency of vaccine distribution across the state, the PA DOH has rolled out a new COVID19 vaccine dashboard, which includes information on the number of vaccinations administered by county, as well as demographic information about the people being vaccinated. This will hopefully help ensure that there is more transparency in the process, which is critical due to the abundance of misinformation traveling around. Check it out [HERE](#).

Senator Katie Muth

Pandemic Relief for Eligible Childcare Workers

The Department of Human Services announced the opportunity for one-time, \$600 grants for child care workers across Pennsylvania. The funds are available to child care providers licensed by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) through federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) quality dollars and remaining funding previously made available through federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated for child care providers.

Eligible employees include child care workers who:

- Are employed by a licensed child care provider as of January 1, 2021
- Earn less than or equal to a gross salary of \$70,000, annually
- Work a minimum of 20 hours per week at a licensed childcare provider.

For more information on child care providers operating during the COVID-19 public health crisis, visit www.dhs.pa.gov.



KATIE MUTH
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

senatormuth.com

Free Tax Prep Service

My district office in Royersford Borough is offering free tax prep service for anyone who needs to file a tax return by using a 1040 form. This service will be offered on Thursdays from 5-7pm beginning January 28 through April 8 (all COVID precautions will be enforced).

You **MUST make an appointment** by calling my office at 610-792-2137 (ask for Nikki). To learn more about the service and what you will need to bring to your appointment click [HERE](#).



LGBTQ Equality Caucus

It is with a humble heart and deep respect that I accept the position of chairwoman of the [LGBTQ Equality Caucus](#), along with co-chairmen Rep. Brian Sims and Rep. Dan Frankel. Our bi-partisan caucus is more diverse and stronger than ever.

The LGBTQ+ community has always elevated me, and it is time for us to elevate each and every LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanian.

Despite the recent Supreme Court ruling, most Pennsylvanians do not know that you can be married on a Saturday and then evicted from your apartment or fired from your job at will by Monday. We must pass real laws that protect real people.

You have my word that I will not only continue to lead with compassion, but that I will also be strongly vocal in our fight for fair and equitable treatment under the law.



PAHOUSE.COM
LGBTQ Equality Caucus announces changes for 2021-2 legislative session

Fighting for Early Childhood Providers

In December, I, along with the other members of the Women's Health Caucus, wrote a letter to Gov. Wolf regarding the effects of his administration's early childhood payment policy on the working women of Pennsylvania which has created significant fiscal challenges for early childhood providers, placing high-quality programs at risk of permanent closure.

A sampling of 81 child care centers reported a loss of \$1.5 million in state funding in just the first month of the OCDEL funding change. More than four months on, the accumulated financial loss has had devastating effects, with 154 child care centers in Southeast PA going out of business; hundreds more are barely able to keep their doors open. Governor Wolf has the authority to direct new federal funding to child care providers to increase payments moving forward and pay back the funding they lost.

This past Thursday, members of the Women's Health Caucus and childcare providers discussed how this has reverberated throughout their communities, hurting children, families, and child care center employees and owners. You can watch the full recording [here](#).



December 21, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
 Governor of Pennsylvania
 221 Main Capitol Building
 Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

As members of the Women's Health Caucus, we are sending this letter to bring an urgent matter to your attention regarding the effects of your administration's early childhood payment policy on the working women of Pennsylvania. We know you are committed to supporting high-quality early childhood education. Yet, your administration's recent change in payment policy has created significant fiscal challenges for early childhood providers, placing high-quality programs at risk of permanent closure. The effects of these closures would not only be devastating for young children and their families but would especially affect working women. The pandemic has already disproportionately impacted women. In a recent analysis by the National Women's Law Center, four times more women dropped out of the labor force than men in just the month of September. There is no question that a collapsed childcare sector would only exacerbate these inequities.

Since the COVID-19 shutdown, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) had been wisely making childcare subsidy payments to providers based on the March 2020 enrollment figures in an effort to stabilize the sector. The COVID-19 crisis had already resulted in providers losing revenue from private-pay parents, who withdrew their children out of fear of contracting the virus. The subsidy payments allowed these small business owners to pay their rent and other fixed expenses at a time of great economic uncertainty, and as a result they are still in business.

However, as of September 1st, OCDEL started paying providers based on actual attendance, resulting in substantially lower subsidy payments due to the depressed demand in response to COVID. It is startling that OCDEL adopted this policy without any data on its implications and still has not released data on the effects of this policy. However, there is evidence of its already devastating effects. At a recent press event hosted by Start Strong PA, 81 childcare providers in Southeastern PA reported losses of nearly \$1.4 million in just the month of September as a result of this policy change. Since this is a small fraction of providers in just one region, we know the total damage across the state is substantially greater.

It is not just working mothers affected by this policy—many childcare programs are led women. The childcare programs they run are an integral part of our communities and provide jobs for thousands in our neighborhoods. If this policy is left unchanged childcare providers will be forced to close permanently, stalling the economic recovery and exacerbating gender inequalities in the workforce. A collapsed childcare sector would take years if not decades to rebuild.

OCDEL recently changed its payment rules to accommodate centers directly affected by the virus, however, this new policy does not correct for the fact that many families, in fear of contracting the virus, have withdrawn from childcare programs over the past six months. Meanwhile, the costs of operating a childcare program have not changed. The only viable policy solution is to continue to pay providers based on pre-pandemic enrollment rates.

As you consider our request, please keep in mind that the payment relief we are seeking is a temporary measure to ensure that not only that pre-k and child care programs can stay open but that parents, especially women, have child care as they return to work and as our economy continues to reopen.

Childcare is one of the most important determinants of a woman's ability to work. A broken childcare system would have long lasting detrimental effects on women's careers. This is an opportunity for you to renew your commitment to early childhood programming. Thank you for your consideration of our request to find a workable solution to the devastating policy currently in place.

Sincerely,



Representative Frankel
 Representative Lee
 Representative Hanbridge
 Representative Sanchez
 Representative Schilling
 Representative Huberstein
 Representative Shusterman
 Representative Schwyer

Senator Muth
 Democratic Caucus Policy Chair
 Senator Benetton
 Senator Torres
 Senator Lefkowitz
 Senator Bullock
 Representative Madson
 Representative Sims
 Representative Kruger
 Representative Haason
 Representative Briggge

Representative Daley
 Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

Representative Cephas
 Women's Health Caucus Vice Chair

Representative McClinton
 House Democratic Leader

Senator Schwark
 Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

Senator-Elect Cappolletto
 Women's Health Caucus Vice Chair

Senator Collett
 Democratic Caucus Secretary

Property Tax Rent Rebate Program

The application Deadline for the 2021 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is June 30th, 2021. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older.

For more, click [HERE](#), OR call/email my office and my team can help walk you through the process:

Phone: (610) 792-2137
 Email: senatormuth@pasenate.com



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

- 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.



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

[Berks County](#)

[Chester County](#)

[Montgomery County](#)



SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS
from

KATIE MUTH
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

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



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