Dear Residents of SD-44:

In this newsletter you will find the latest updates on legislation in Harrisburg, hazard pay for workers, updated COVID restrictions, RSVP information for a zero-waste event this week, and more!

My district office is now open Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm by appointment only. Masks are required and hand sanitizer will be made available upon entry. If you cannot make it during normal operating hours and need to meet with us in person, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate your schedule.

My staff and I are always available by phone at 610-792-2137 and by email at senatormuth@pasenate.com to help answer your questions and provide you with the resources that you need. We will also continue to share new information through E-blasts, social media and on website as we receive it to ensure you, your family, schools, and small businesses have the most up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth

IN HARRISBURG

HB 732

Last week I spoke on the Senate floor against HB732 as amended, which provides a massive subsidy to the petrochemical industry at the cost of $650 million over the next 25 years. To put that in perspective, the latest CARES grant for small businesses was less than half that amount with over 32,000 applications.

Let me be clear: this bill would result in a massive net expenditure to Pennsylvania taxpayers. The financial impact that COVID-19 has had on Pennsylvania is significant and it is shameful that my colleagues in the Majority who control the Senate calendar chose to put this bill up for a vote when we are grappling with massive deficits to our Pennsylvania public school system, and much needed funding for infrastructure, workforce development, and public health.

We should be investing in a future that prioritizes our children, our planet, and our health as Pennsylvania citizens.

Speaking in Opposition to Gerrymandering Our Judicial System

The people of Pennsylvania want legislators who represent their constituents, not special interests. Similarly, people across the Commonwealth want legislative districts drawn in a manner that are fair, non-partisan, and not gerrymandered to minimize and limit their collective voices.

Last week, not only did the Senate majority party block a vote for an independent redistricting commission that a majority of Pennsylvanians have asked for, but they voted to push HB196 which allows for the gerrymandering of appellate courts.

The people of Pennsylvania deserve clarity, truth, and honest leadership. The general assembly should not be focusing on issues that continue to limit the voice of the hardworking people across the Commonwealth.

IN THE DISTRICT

Blood Drive with the American Red Cross

Due to the pandemic, blood donations have significantly decreased, but the need has increased. Blood drives are safe and all employees adhere to CDC guidelines. Thank you to everyone who came out to donate blood and save a life! Thank you to First United Church and the American Red Cross for your work.
IN OTHER NEWS/EVENTS

Hazard Pay for PA workers
Late last week the Governor announced that as part of Act 2A of 2020, $50,000,000 was appropriated from CARES Act funding to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to provide Hazard Pay for frontline workers.

Applications will be open for a two-week window beginning on July 16, 2020 and closing on July 31, 2020.

Eligible applicants will apply on behalf of the frontline workers in eligible industries. The program will not be first come, first served.

Updated COVID-19 Restrictions
The Governor announced targeted statewide restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 due to the rise in cases. These restrictions have been updated beyond simply wearing a mask when you leave the house.

- Bars and restaurants are to limit their indoor occupancy to 25%
- Indoor gatherings should be limited to 25 people
- Outdoor gatherings should be limited to 250 people (Events, like weddings, held in tents are considered as outdoor events)
- If you are able to work remotely, you must
- No music or dance clubs are permitted to be open

This does not impact outdoor dining or takeout food or alcohol. Gyms, hair salons, dentists, casinos are not included in the order either.

Updated COVID Restrictions

- Bars and restaurants are to limit their indoor occupancy to 25%
- Indoor gatherings should be limited to 25 people, and outdoor gatherings limited to 250

- If you are able to work remotely, you must
- No music or dance clubs are permitted to be open

July 10, 2020

Continue to wear a mask when you leave your home
Fresh Food Financing Initiative

Senate District 44 is home to farms and businesses that help contribute to better health outcomes by improving access to fresh foods.

The Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI) provides one-time grants to eligible food retailers in order to increase access to healthy, affordable grocery food options and to improve economic opportunities for underserved communities in urban, rural and suburban areas across the state.

Learn about eligibility requirements and how you can apply here.

Path to Zero Waste: A Recycling Panel with state Senator Katie Muth Hosted by PennEnvironment

Join PennEnvironment and State Senator Katie Muth on Thursday, July 23rd to learn about the crisis facing our recycling systems and the solutions that exist for moving us to a zero-waste society.

PennEnvironment will join recycling and waste management experts from the region in a panel discussion, moderated by Senator Muth. The panelists will discuss how we can respond - as governments and as individuals - to changes in the recycling landscape, and to the flood of single-use plastics we’re facing every day.

The panel discussion will take place virtually over Zoom. RSVP here.

Joint Policy Hearing on Worker Protection

Join us on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. for a Joint Senate & House Democratic Policy Committee hearing co-chaired by Senator Lindsey Williams, Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler, Rep. Patrick Harkins, and me.

The purpose of this hearing is to learn how we can best address worker protections as many individuals are risking exposure to COVID-19 by entering back into the workplace.

Feel free to view on my Facebook or website.

How to Stay Informed

Below is an extensive list of information, statistics, and resources to ensure you stay up-to-date with any changes happening due to COVID-19.

Check out my website for a comprehensive list of resources or one of the helpful sites below.

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 U.S. [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 implement “immunity transition” with specific details on what to do before, during, and after outbreaks.
Learn what’s happening worldwide with the WHO’s daily report. The most recent report is located at the top of the page. It includes confirmed case and death tallies.

Additional COVID-19 information is provided on their website.

Stay informed on Twitter.

Follow their Facebook page.

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

Berk County
Chester County
Montgomery County

SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS from KATIE MUTHER Pennsylvania State Senator

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