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Dear Residents of SD-44:

Late Friday evening I voted against the nearly \$11 billion supplemental budget. The partial spending plan completed the current year's \$36.5 billion operating budget by raiding millions from restricted environmental funds, redirecting federal CARES funding meant for struggling families, and could jeopardize vital infrastructure and roadway improvements throughout Pennsylvania.

The spending plan was approved in the Senate by a vote of 31 -18 and relies on \$1.3 billion in federal CARES funding to close revenue shortfalls caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the plan takes \$531 million in reserved Special Funds including \$26.5 million from the PENNVEST Drinking Water Revolving Fund, \$50 million from the Recycling Fund, \$30 million from the Job Training Fund, \$10 million from the Industrial Sites Cleanup Fund, \$5 million from the Agriculture Conservation Easement Purchase Fund, and \$6 million from the Volunteer Companies Loan Fund.

Raiding our Special Funds and relying on CARES dollars to balance our budget sends all of us down an impossible path that will only make future budgetary decisions more difficult. Pennsylvania is home to some of the most regressive tax policies in the country which favors the ultra-rich and large corporations and disproportionately impacts the working and middle-class citizens of the Commonwealth. We had the opportunity to address this discrepancy by making real changes that will improve the lives of the majority of Pennsylvanians and instead we set back our ability to protect our environment, train our workers, and support first responders."

In addition, a last-minute change to the state Fiscal Code removed a long-standing bonding or borrowing provision for the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) that places at risk hundreds of ongoing and planned construction projects statewide. If uncorrected, this change will cause all PennDOT work to cease on December 1st, immediately eliminating over 240,000 construction jobs and halting repairs and improvements to structurally deficient bridges, unsafe roadways, and intersections throughout the Commonwealth.

While I recognize that the ongoing global pandemic forced very difficult decisions, we have the opportunity to make lasting improvements to how our Commonwealth operates moving forward. I will continue to fight for workers throughout Pennsylvania and create change that prioritizes our environment, a living wage, and economic growth that represents the majority of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth

Senator Muth Elected to PA Senate Democrats Leadership Team for 2021-22 Session



Serving in the State Senate, I quickly recognized that the important and difficult policy issues facing our Commonwealth are seldom bound by the lines of our individual Senate Districts. I am grateful to my Senate Democratic colleagues who have entrusted me with this influential position and will work hard to advance our shared policy issues that for far too long have remained unaddressed.

I am eager to get to work collaborating with our caucus members, member of the -, stakeholders, and the people of our Commonwealth to develop a people-centric policy platform, I look forward to increasing public awareness about state governance and how it could and should function to protect and advance all Pennsylvanians.

The Senate Democratic Policy Committee travels the state holding hearings on legislative matters of interest to its members and constituents. It hears testimony from experts on both sides of those issues and offers the opportunity for members to ask questions before forming policy solutions that will later be introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate. As Chair, I will lead those efforts and host each of those meetings.

The following other members of the Senate Democratic Caucus were elected to leadership roles in the caucus for the upcoming legislative session:

- Leader – Jay Costa, Jr.
- Whip – Anthony Hardy Williams
- Appropriations Committee Chair – Vincent Hughes
- Chair – Wayne D. Fontana
- Secretary – Maria Collett

For more information on the Policy Committee, its upcoming and previous hearings, please visit pasenate.com/policy.

Grant funding awarded to SD44

Last week I announced that Senate District 44 received grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) totaling over \$80,000 for technical education programs, and \$371,991 for school safety grants.

Senator Muth Announces over \$80,000 in Career and Technical Education Grants



The Western Montgomery CTC was awarded \$32,500.00 and the Berks CTC was awarded \$50,000.00 for new equipment for students that are in training. These grants will help our technical education centers procure up-to-date equipment that will directly benefit our students as they develop the critical skills necessary to be competitive in high-demand fields,” stated Senator Muth. “Our career and technical centers do an outstanding job coordinating with local businesses, to ensure that students are acquiring the skills necessary to be successful in whatever path they choose after graduating.

Senator Muth Announces Over \$371,000 in School Safety Grants



Protect our right to clean water

Last week, I [spoke on the Senate floor](#) in strong opposition to Senate Bill 790 due to the disastrous impacts this piece of legislation would have on our Commonwealths environment.

As it stands, Senate Bill 790 would allow the petrochemical industry the unchecked ability to pollute our pristine waterways and drinking water resources.

This legislation would significantly roll back protection of our shared water supplies, placing at risk vital drinking water for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania citizens.

Our constituents, regardless of political affiliation, depend on clean and safe drinking water each and every day. and it defies logic that we would act to place this constitutionally protected right at risk upon the bequest of corporate interests.



Chester Springs teen is finalist for ‘Kid of the Year’ honor from Time and Nickelodeon

Congratulations to Ronak Suchindra, 13, of Chester Springs who is one of 20 finalists for the [‘Kid of the Year’](#) award sponsored by Time, and Nickelodeon.

Ronak is an activist dedicated to helping spread the love of learning by motivating youth to help teach kids all around the world through his non-profit organization, Kids Connect.

The top five will be featured in a TV special hosted by Trevor Noah. One will be recognized as Kid of the Year and featured on the cover of Time. The TV special will air at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 simulcast across Nickelodeon, CBS Television Network, TeenNick and Nicktoons.

KID of the YEAR

TIME

nickelodeon



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.

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

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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