Dear Residents of SD-44:

This past week I was in Harrisburg fighting to protect our environment, sustain our economy, and create good paying jobs for hardworking Pennsylvanians. The Senate passed HB2025, which hurts Pennsylvania’s economy by denying our state essential revenue by delaying Pennsylvania’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Investment of RGGI proceeds into emergency efficiency programs will lower demand & drive costs down for everyone.

My staff continues to receive a large amount of calls regarding mail-in ballots. If you have applied for a mail-in ballot, then you should be receiving it in the mail within the next few weeks. It is highly recommended that you mail your ballot back in at least 2-3 weeks before the Nov. 3rd election.

Counties will be releasing the locations and dates of their secure ballot drop boxes soon. Ballot drop boxes are another great option, especially if you receive your ballot closer to the election.

You are not alone when faced with issues that you need assistance with. We are here to help! 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.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth

Legislative Updates

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would increase transparency in patient-doctor interactions and enhance consumer protections for patients. Currently, there are no protections in statute to notify patients if a healthcare professional is facing disciplinary actions for the aforementioned reasons.

My legislation would require healthcare professionals to notify their patients prior to an appointment if they have been disciplined by their regulatory board for one of the following:

- Sexual misconduct with a patient
- Drug abuse that can harm patients
- Criminal conviction involving harm to patients
- Inappropriate prescribing resulting in patient harm and five or more years of probation

This legislation, modeled off of legislation recently passed in California, would apply to physicians as well as surgeons, naturopathic doctors, chiropractors, podiatrists, & acupuncturists.

Drive-up Flu Vaccinations

Beginning September 13 and running through October 17, select GIANT pharmacies will offer drive-up flu vaccinations where patients can pull into a spot in the designated area of the store parking lot and be vaccinated without leaving their car. For customers who cannot be safely vaccinated from inside their vehicle or for walk-up customers, seating will be available. Social distancing measures will be in place if more than one patient is being served.

Most insurance plans cover flu shots at $0 copays, including Medicare Part B. Flu shots are administered by immunizing GIANT pharmacists, subject to state regulations. No appointment is needed for both the in-store and drive-up vaccinations.
Find the nearest GIANT pharmacy and the complete schedule of drive-up flu clinics by visiting the GIANT website.

Suicide Prevention Month

Suicide is the leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 29 and for every suicide that results in death, there are as many as 40 attempted suicides.

How to help someone who may need it:

- Talking about suicide is an important first step in ridding society of the idea that mental health issues should remain hidden.
- Listening: People with suicidal thoughts often feel alone and misunderstood, so be sure to let them know that you deeply care about what they have to say.
- Do a safety check. Learn the warning signs of suicide ideation, and if spotted early, act. If you are concerned about their well-being, remove anything they could use to harm themselves, including access to a car, weapons or medications.
- Ensure they seek professional help, it is important to seek additional help from a counselor, social worker or doctor.

For more information on Suicide Prevention, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or visit: http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention/index.shtml
Free Shred Event: September 26th from 1-4pm

Join State Representative Danielle Friel Otten and Senator Katie Muth for a FREE Paper-Only Shred Event!

Bring your confidential documents to be destroyed! Each car will be limited to 4 file-size boxes. Small paper clips and staples are OK, but please no binder clips, binders, or cardboard (plan to take your boxes home with you). To limit personal contact, this event will be drive-through. Please place papers to be shredded in your trunk, wear a mask, and remain in your vehicle.

The mobile shredding unit will be located at the north end of the parking lot in front of Rep. Otten’s office (631 Pottstown, Pike in Exton) on Saturday, September 26th from 1-4 PM.

This event is first come, first served. When the truck is full, the event will end. All shredded paper will be recycled! If you have any questions, please contact our office at 610-750-2137.

How to Stay Informed

Pennsylvania Department of Health
- The PA 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 US. (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 prevent “community transmission” 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