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Stan Saylor

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
WORKING FOR A BETTER YORK COUNTY

Summer 2011

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for the opportunity to continue representing your interests in Harrisburg.

My colleagues and I recently completed work on the state budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year. In this newsletter, you will find important information about the budget as well as updates on other issues we are facing in Harrisburg and my work on your behalf here at home.

I have taken on new responsibilities in this legislative session. At the end of the last session, my colleagues elected me House majority whip. As majority whip, I am responsible for encouraging attendance by House members, keeping the members informed of upcoming legislative debates and helping maintain voting majorities on the floor of the House.

Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss an issue in further detail, please feel free to contact my office at (717) 244-9232, (717) 382-4595, or toll free: 1-800-3SAYLOR (1-800-372-9567). Also, be sure to visit my website at RepSaylor.com for important news and updates.

Stanley Saylor
State Representative
94th Legislative District

House Passes Responsible, On Time State Budget

For the first time in eight years, the state budget process was completed by the legally mandated June 30 deadline with the passage of House Bill 1485.

Over the last eight years, state spending has increased 31 percent while the rate of inflation has grown only 21 percent. The budget we passed stops the trend of spending money we do not have. It reduces state spending by nearly \$1 billion from last year's budget, marking only the third time in nearly 40 years that a budget spends less than the previous year, and it begins the process of right-sizing Pennsylvania government by eliminating nearly 100 duplicative non-essential budget lines.

Despite the reductions in spending and despite the fact that \$2.7 billion in stimulus funds from the federal government were no longer available to us, we were able to maintain a safety net for those in need, health care for the sick, and quality education for our children. Most importantly, we were able to accomplish those goals without new borrowing and without increasing taxes on Pennsylvania families and employers.

During debate over this budget there was some discussion of the higher than expected revenue collections reported by the Department of Revenue. Some argued that those revenues represent a "surplus" and an opportunity for us to spend more in the new budget. However, when they refer to those funds as a surplus, they ignore Pennsylvania's \$50.5 billion in outstanding liabilities, including \$12.9 billion in outstanding debt payments, \$29.4 billion in pension obligations, \$4 billion owed to the federal government for borrowed unemployment compensation funds, \$3.5 billion in road and bridge costs, and \$716 million in an MCARE judgment. When we have so many obligations which must be met, it would be irresponsible to spend these additional revenues.

The budget we passed is a realistic, responsible, and sustainable plan which stops wasteful spending and closes a \$4 billion structural deficit. We still have work to do but, with this budget we have begun a new era of fiscal responsibility in Pennsylvania.

Office Information:

DISTRICT OFFICE: 15 South Main St. (Second Floor), Red Lion, PA 17356 Phone: 717-244-9232 717-382-4595 Fax: 717-246-2387
Hours: M- W 8:30- 4:30, Th 10:00 - 6:00, F 8:30 - 12:30

CAPITOL OFFICE: Main Capitol Building, Room 121 Toll-Free: 1-800-3SAYLOR (1-800-372-9567) Fax: 717-783-7655

SATELLITE OFFICES: Delta Senior Center / 5 Pendyrus St. / Delta, PA 17314 Hours: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m. to Noon
Hopewell Township Municipal Building / 3336 Bridgeview Road / Stewartstown, PA 17363 Hours: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m. to Noon

Visit my website: www.RepSaylor.com

New Law Requires Voter Approval for School Property Tax Increases

For years, the Legislature has tried to control rising school property taxes. In 2006, Act 1 was passed to require school districts to gain voter approval for tax increases above the rate of inflation. However, Act 1 allows for 10 exceptions, which have allowed school districts to circumvent the referendum process and increase property taxes without seeking voter approval.

In June, the Legislature approved and Gov. Tom Corbett signed legislation to close these loopholes in Act 1 and eliminate every exception by which school districts can currently increase property taxes beyond the state index, except special education costs, pension obligations, and grandfathered or electoral debt. In the House, I was co-sponsor of this legislation which holds school districts to property tax increases within the index and forces them to seek voter approval for any increase above and beyond the index.

Nearly every week, I hear from residents who are concerned about increasing property taxes and who feel powerless to stop them. By passing this legislation, we are giving Pennsylvania's property owners a voice in how they are taxed and requiring school districts to control their spending.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Extended

The deadline to file for the state's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program has been extended to Dec. 31, 2011. Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms are available by contacting my district office or by visiting my website at RepSaylor.com

Performance-Based Budgeting Ties State Spending To Actual Results

While the new state budget begins to address Pennsylvania's spending problems, in the coming years we will continue to face some difficult decisions about where we can cut our spending.

I have been saying we need to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in state government for a long time. To make that happen, we need an accurate and efficient way for lawmakers to measure program performance.

That is why I introduced House Bill 726, the Performance, Accountability and Results Act, which would implement a performance-based budgeting system in Pennsylvania. Performance-based budgeting requires state programs to set specific goals and then makes future funding decisions based on the program meeting those goals.

Performance-based budgeting systems are having great success in a number of states, including large states like Texas and Florida. In Washington state, a switch to performance-based budgeting enabled the state to close a \$2.8 billion deficit without raising taxes.

If other states are realizing cost savings by using a performance-based model, there is no reason we cannot do the same in Pennsylvania. Agencies must be accountable for their spending. Instead of distributing money to agencies and hoping for the results we want, we need to require agencies to set goals and then make the attainment of those goals a condition for continued funding. My legislation will make that possible.

Marcellus Works Will Create Jobs and Promote Clean Energy Growth

Pennsylvania sits on top of one of the largest natural gas fields in the world. The development of that natural gas from the Marcellus Shale offers great potential for Pennsylvania's economic future, including the creation of tens of thousands of jobs in natural gas and related industries.

Earlier this year, several of my House colleagues and I introduced a package of legislation known as Marcellus Works. These bills will help create jobs and secure Pennsylvania's economic and energy futures by capturing the full benefit of natural gas, which is cleaner and cheaper than gasoline.

The "Marcellus Works" plan includes incentives for private fleet vehicles to switch to natural gas and incentives for transit agencies to switch to natural gas buses. In addition, it includes incentives to encourage the construction of natural gas fueling stations along Pennsylvania's major travel corridors and other incentives to encourage the use of natural gas.

As we begin to consider the potential of this abundant resource, we must be mindful of the impact the drilling process may have on our environment and the health of our citizens. While I support the development of this industry in Pennsylvania, I believe we must protect our rivers and local water supplies by imposing appropriate regulations and ensuring those regulations are enforced by qualified inspectors working for the Department of Environmental Protection.

Some have argued for a so-called "severance tax" on natural gas as it is extracted from the ground. Like every other corporate entity, the natural gas industry pays hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes to the Commonwealth every year. While it is true that the Commonwealth does not charge a special tax targeted specifically at the natural gas industry, it is also true that Pennsylvania has one of the highest corporate tax rates in the nation. Imposing an additional tax on the natural gas industry will drive the industry to nearby states with lower tax rates.

Pennsylvania has a chance to take the lead on clean energy and to encourage the development and growth of small businesses and the jobs they will bring. We cannot squander this once in a lifetime opportunity.

To learn more about Marcellus Works, visit MarcellusWorks.net.



Rep. Saylor discusses the Marcellus Works package during a recent Capitol press conference.

Visit my website: www.RepSaylor.com

Bill Requires Insurance Companies To Cover Anesthesia For Children, Special Needs Patients

Tooth decay remains the single most chronic disease of childhood. To prevent this disease, regular trips to the dentist for examinations and cleanings are an uncomfortable but necessary part of life. For parents of small children and children of any age with special needs, these visits to the dentist are more than uncomfortable – they are traumatic. Often, these children are extremely difficult to treat and require general anesthesia in order to even begin the necessary treatments.

Unfortunately, some Pennsylvania insurance companies do not cover general anesthesia for these situations. For most families, an insurance company's refusal to cover anesthesia eliminates that option for them. The result is either treatment with compromised outcomes or a denial of treatment altogether.

In May, the House Insurance Committee passed House Bill 532, my legislation to require insurance companies to cover the cost of general anesthesia for children and special needs patients. More than 30 states already require coverage of anesthesia for these patients, and similar legislation is pending in several other states. It is time Pennsylvania join those states in assuring young children and patients with special needs can receive the dental care they need.

Encouraging Investment in Pennsylvania-Based Technology Start Ups

As our Commonwealth and our nation endure one of the most difficult economic recessions in decades, resources are scarce for start-up businesses. In May, I introduced House Bill 1503, which would create an angel investment tax credit in Pennsylvania. My bill provides a 25 percent tax credit to investors to encourage investment in Pennsylvania-based start-up technology-related businesses.

My legislation would create an incentive for local and out-of-state investors to direct much-needed resources to Pennsylvania-based businesses.

Road Projects in the 94th District

Projects depend on funding availability and weather. Note: Some of these projects could be in progress and/or completed.

SR2024-Paper Mill Road:
Widen (with Rap)

SR 2038-Blue Ball Road:
Widen (with Rap)

SR 2038-Blue Ball Road: Seal

SR 2067-Round Hill Church Road: Seal

SR 2076-Stewartstown Road:
Widen (with Rap)

SR 2076-Stewartstown Road: Widen

SR 2087-Iron Stone Hill: Seal

SR 425-Bridge
Over Bald Eagle Creek
Closed for bridge replacement.
Expected to reopen by Oct. 1

Honoring Korean War Veterans

Gov. Tom Corbett has signed into law my legislation designating State Route 462 from its intersection with U.S. Route 30 in West Manchester Township to the point where it meets State Route 24 in Springettsbury Township as the "Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway."

More than 33,000 U.S. soldiers lost their lives, and more than 92,000 U.S. soldiers were wounded in the Korean War. Designating this highway in their memory is a small gesture to show our gratitude for their service to our nation.



Rep. Saylor and House Speaker Sam Smith welcome Pastor Lanny Kilgore of New Covenant Community Church to the House floor. Pastor Kilgore served as guest chaplain during a recent House session.



Rep. Saylor recently attended a ground-breaking ceremony for Lion Pharmacy on the square in Red Lion. Pictured are (from left): Rep. Saylor; Ryan Sanders, president of the Red Lion Area Business Association; Rep. Ron Miller; Attorney John Miller; Bethany Miller, pharmacist/owner; Sen. Mike Waugh; Jeremy Haines, project manager, Markey Builders; Red Lion Mayor Steve Kopp; Kelly Henshaw, president, Red Lion borough council; and Tina Frutiger, Red Lion borough council.

Visit my website: www.RepSaylor.com

Castle Doctrine Guarantees Citizens' Right to Self-Defense

In June, Gov. Tom Corbett signed legislation establishing the Castle Doctrine as Pennsylvania's legal standard for the use of force in self-defense.

The Castle Doctrine creates the presumption that an attacker or intruder in one's legally occupied home or vehicle intends to do great bodily harm and holds that protective force – even lethal force – may be used to protect oneself, one's family, and others from attack. The bill also offers specific protections against civil liability for the lawful use of force in self-defense.

Previously, Pennsylvania's laws favored the rights of criminals over law-abiding citizens. Pennsylvanians should have the legal right to defend themselves and their families from attack, even if it means using lethal force. While the Castle Doctrine does not create a legal right to misuse lethal force, it does assure citizens they have the right to protect themselves and their families if they need to.

Restoring Accountability and Integrity to Pennsylvania's Welfare System

Part of our efforts to reduce spending and streamline state government must be eliminating waste, fraud and abuse at every level of government.

One example is the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), which consumes about one-third of the state budget.

Clearly, our welfare system is in need of serious reform and we have already taken steps to fix this broken system. Earlier this year, my House Republican colleagues and I supported a package of bills known as WelFAIR, which seek to restore fairness, accountability, integrity and responsibility to Pennsylvania's welfare system. Since then, the House passed House Bill 1251, which strengthens penalties for those convicted of more than \$1,000 worth of welfare fraud by increasing the offense to a third-degree felony. In addition, the bill clarifies existing law on welfare fraud to include the use of benefit access devices such as ACCESS cards or EBT cards, which are debit cards that allow recipients of public assistance benefits to authorize transfer of funds from their account to pay for products received.

Several pieces of the WelFAIR initiative were included in the Welfare Code the governor signed along with the state budget in June:

Drug Testing -- Drug felons applying for welfare public assistance will be subjected to random drug testing before receiving benefits. Tests will also be applied to drug felons currently in the welfare system.

Anti-Benefit Shopping -- Cash benefit levels differ from county to county. Previously, welfare recipients were able to apply for benefits in counties other than their home county as "temporary" residents and receive that county's benefit level. Now, residents receiving public assistance benefits are only eligible for benefits based on the levels allowed in their county of legal residence, regardless of where benefit applications are submitted in the Commonwealth.

Income Eligibility Verification System -- DPW will now be required to use an electronic cross-reference system to provide a 19-point check on applicants' eligibility and create a standard fraud detection system. This measure will help prevent welfare abuse before it can happen.

Reforming the Special Allowance Program -- Audit reports have shown that the Special Allowance Program was extensively abused, wasting millions of dollars. DPW must now look at ways to scale back this program. This measure requires reductions of up to 25 percent and provides leeway to eliminate allowances within the program.

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Rep. Saylor presents a citation from the House of Representatives to Mason-Dixon Lions Club member Gordon Sinclair congratulating the club on its 80th anniversary.



Rep. Saylor presented a citation from the House of Representatives to Chance Marsteller congratulating him on winning the PIAA Class AAA state wrestling championship in the 152-pound weight class. Chance, his family, friends, and coach joined Saylor on the House floor for the citation presentation.



Rep. Saylor congratulates Caleb Nathaniel Crizer and Joshua Nathaniel Pittman on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.



Rep. Saylor welcomes students from the Kennard-Dale High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America to the Capitol.



Rep. Saylor welcomes students from the Red Lion Area High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America to the Capitol.