



State Representative

VALERIE GAYDOS

44th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

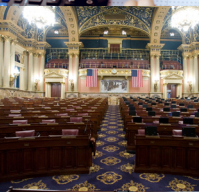
LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: ***Fighting for the 44th District Together***

With the 2023-24 Legislative Session well underway, I have been advocating for your interests in the state Capitol and have introduced several bills.



Eliminating the Inheritance Tax

Pennsylvania currently has one of the highest inheritance taxes in the nation! There is a 4.5% tax applied to transfers to direct descendants and other lineal heirs like grandchildren. House Bill 136 would eliminate the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax, otherwise known as the “death tax.” The elimination of this tax at the state level would protect against double taxation, ensure that inheritance goes to the family or heirs it was meant to go to, and help prevent individuals who receive an inheritance from ending up with a tax bill at a time when they are also mourning the loss of their loved one.



Reducing the Size of the Legislature

Pennsylvania has one of the largest and most expensive legislatures in the nation. It's time for that to change. House Bill 444 would reduce the size of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to 151 members. By increasing the population of House districts by approximately a third, this measure would bring the ratio of lawmakers in Pennsylvania more in line with other states and save taxpayer dollars.



Affordable Health Care for Small Business Employees

Health care is one of the most expensive costs for any small business. House Bill 555 would require a group or association health plan being offered is fully insured, provides essential health benefits, and protects small businesses and employees. The association health plan coverage would be guaranteed issued and renewable.



Landslide Insurance

House Bill 589 would create a new insurance program for homeowners living in landslide-prone areas, as well as assistance to local governments that wish to mitigate the risk of landslides within their communities. The goal of this legislation would be to help protect Pennsylvania homeowners from the damage caused by naturally occurring landslides.



Prescription Drug Cost Transparency

House Bill 969 would create transparency in benefits, eligibility and costs for prescription drugs. The bill would require health plans and pharmacy benefit managers to share certain information with enrollees and health care providers upon request, in the format in which it was requested.



‘Voter Motor’ Legislation—Updating Information Promptly

Pennsylvania has a law to enable people to register to vote when they get their driver license. House Bill 970 will save taxpayers money by interconnecting government information systems so data and information from new voter registration applications would be transmitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, as well as to other state and local agencies, taxing authorities and political subdivisions, so that data updates can be made timely and across the board.



Correcting Improper Payments

House Bill 971 would require state agencies to review their programs and expenditures and assess whether they are highly, moderately or unlikely to be susceptible to an improper payment. This assessment is sent to the governor, budget office, independent fiscal office, General Assembly and the state inspector general.



Equity in Education

House Bill 1110 would require school districts to begin to compile information listing the number of gifted children they serve. The students would be captured in the school district's weighted special education student headcount, which would allow additional compensation to school districts to fund programs for gifted students.



Dental Health for All

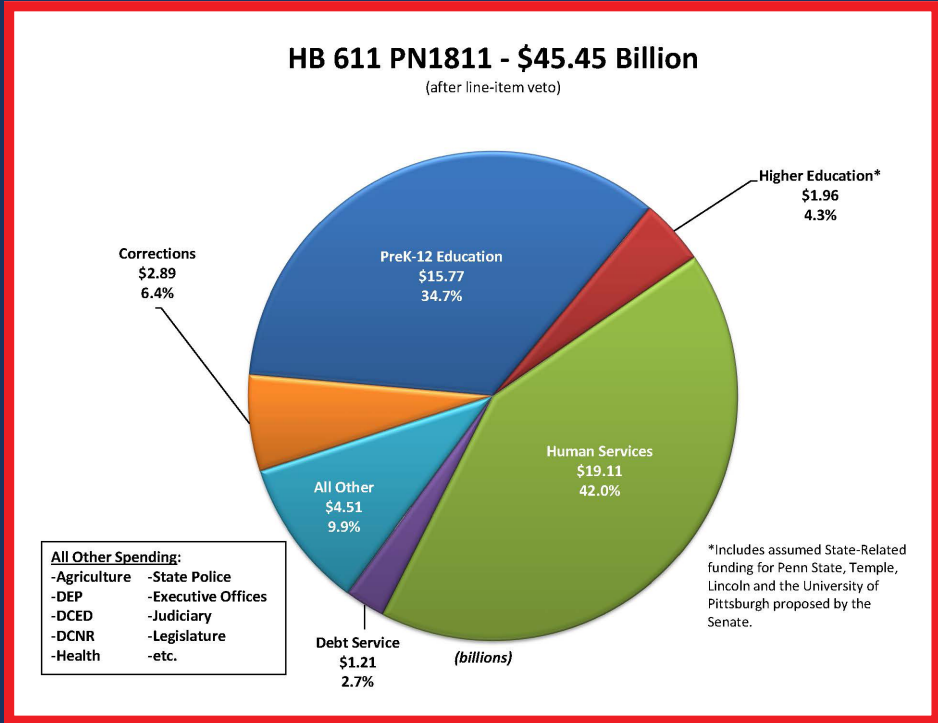
House Bill 1417 would restore dental coverage for Medical Assistance recipients. The bill would ensure that Medical Assistance provides a dental benefit package that includes those coverages that existed before cuts were made in 2011 without removing any existing dental coverage. The cuts prevented many low-income Pennsylvanians from receiving the oral health care they need.

State Budget Now Law

One of our biggest responsibilities as a Legislature is passing a budget for each fiscal year so our core services can receive proper funding. After a 33-day impasse, Gov. Josh Shapiro signed a delayed \$45.5 billion budget for the 2023–24 fiscal year.

Enacting the budget bill into law will provide the necessary funding to schools, counties and organizations. That’s the good news. However, without accompanying code bills, which direct how these dollars should be spent, government will be unable to fund key initiatives, including aid for poorer school districts, until further legislative action is taken.

When the budget legislation came before the House on July 5, I voted “no” for a variety of reasons. First, this level of spending is unsustainable and would lead to a tax hike in the near future. Second, the governor backtracked on several campaign promises including his failure to remove the state from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which will lead to a significant energy tax on Pennsylvania employers



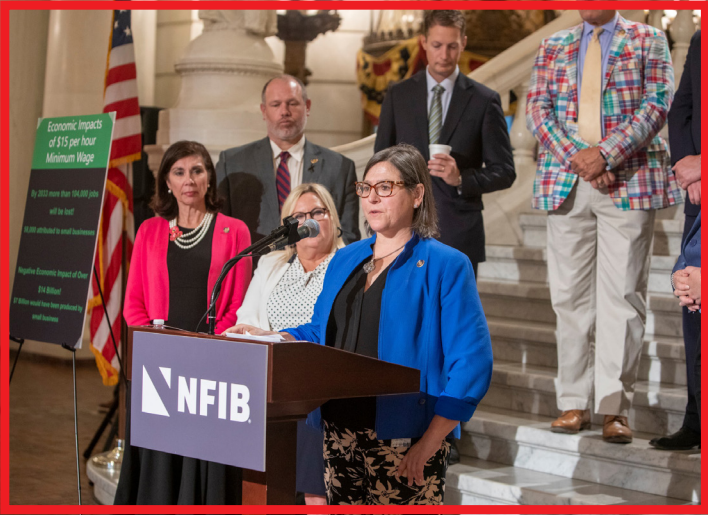
and consumers, not to mention his backtracking on his commitment to funding lifeline scholarships in the budget. Ultimately, the governor’s failure to keep to his commitments has eroded any trust he has earned and will ultimately result in higher costs to all Pennsylvanians. I pledged to fight for taxpayers and a vote against the budget keeps my commitment to taxpayers as my No. 1 priority.

Supporting Small Businesses and Better Access to Affordable Health Care

In June, I spoke about House Bill 555 at a Capitol press conference hosted by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in support of small businesses that are concerned about a hike in costs all around, but more specifically health care coverage for all Pennsylvanians.

The legislation would aim to help small businesses remain competitive by being able to offer more affordable health care coverage to their employees. The legislation is currently with the House Insurance Committee for consideration.

In addition, the NFIB joined some of my colleagues in rallying against the impacts on employers in the Commonwealth that would result from legislation that aims to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The NFIB says this increase could cause the loss of more than 104,000 jobs by 2033. According to an Independent Fiscal Office study, an increase to just \$12 an hour would cause consumers to cover 65% of the added costs. Coupled with skyrocketing inflation, the bill would greatly decrease consumers’ spending power.



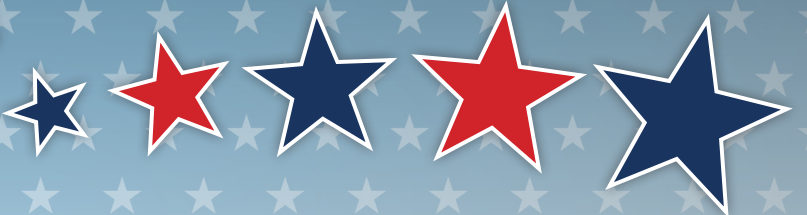
Gaydos Named to America250PA Commission

I’m honored to have been appointed as the House Republican Caucus designee for the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA). In addition, I was chosen to be a member of the Fundraising and Historical Preservation committees.

America250PA was established by the Legislature and governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania’s integral role in that event, and the impact of its people on the nation’s past, present and future. Commission members are comprised of current and past leaders of Pennsylvania, private citizens and industry leaders celebrating the rich history and diversity of the state.

It is a time to celebrate the best of our past, the best of our present, and to help craft a vision for an even better future. Mark your calendars for a great celebration on July 4, 2026!

Out and About in the 44th District



Energy diversity is important to our national and state security. I was pleased to participate as I was a guest speaker at this year's CLEANPOWER Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans. Approximately 8,300 people from around the globe attended. Fellow speakers included notable names such as U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy from Louisiana, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards and even former NBA star Earvin "Magic" Johnson. My panel focused on the issue of messaging clean energy. It's a subject that hits home for us in the 44th Legislative District. Leetsdale is home to BCI Steel's plant and Nextracker. They produce solar tracker equipment for large-scale solar power plants. My panel was hosted by Kathy Weiss, vice president of government relations for Nextracker.



Good teachers deserve great recognition. It was my pleasure to present Joe Martonik with a House of Representatives citation after being awarded with the 2023 Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals (PASAP) Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Martonik was a teacher at the Moon Area School District for more than 35 years.



Good jobs and hard-working people are what makes Pittsburgh and surrounding areas such a great place. I had the pleasure of joining my colleagues from the House Steel Caucus for a meeting at U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works, Irvin Plant, to discuss relevant public policy issues and the findings of a new study measuring the economic impact of the steel industry in Pennsylvania. The steel industry accounts for approximately 300,000 jobs across the Commonwealth and is a major player in our state's economy.



It was my honor to present Edward Stack, chief executive officer of Dick's Sporting Goods, with a House of Representatives citation celebrating the company's 75th anniversary. Sen. Devlin Robinson joined me and presented Mr. Stack with a senatorial citation. In 2011, the Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation was created to bolster and enable youth sports participation. The foundation has donated more than \$80 million to youth athletics.



I hosted a series of discussions called "Open Mic." These meaningful dialogues took place at the Western Allegheny Public Library, Sewickley Valley YMCA and the Moon Public Library. My constituents had the opportunity to step up to the microphone and tell me what's on their minds. We enjoyed lively discussions on issues such as the state budget, health care, landslides in our area, property taxes, employment and much more.



It was a bittersweet moment to present a House of Representatives citation to Jennifer Hayes, the widow of Sgt. Micheal Hayes of North Fayette who passed away from cancer last September. Officer Hayes was a pillar of our community, and we were honored to have him serve our community for more than 20 years as a distinguished police officer and West Allegheny resource officer before his retirement. Officer Hayes will be missed greatly.



I am pictured with (left) Shayne Quinn, fire chief, Sewickley Fire Department; and Sgt. David Yurkovac, Sewickley Police Department, as we teamed up to host National Healthy Kids Day at the Sewickley Valley YMCA. We had a great showing of kids and their parents at this event. All the activities were designed to inspire kids to get active while simultaneously teaching families how to develop routines that support mental and physical health at home. Sen. Devlin Robinson and the Sewickley Valley YMCA also co-hosted the event.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
VALERIE GAYDOS

FALL 2023

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Bell Acres Gets New Police Car and More

Having the right resources enables municipalities to be most effective and responsive to their citizens. I was happy to join Sen. Devlin Robinson to present a check for \$169,976 to Bell Acres Borough. The money will be used to replace aging equipment, which includes a backhoe, commercial mower and police car.

The funding came from the Local Share Account grants, which support economic development, job training, community improvement and public interest projects through gaming funds.

Pictured with me are (left) Lisa Fleming, borough manager; Kris Korol, chief of police; Charlie Kulbacki, councilman; Ken Alvania, mayor; Sen. Devlin Robinson; Brock Meanor, council vice president; David Renfrew, council president; Jill Palko, of Bell Acres Borough; and Chris Abell, councilman.



Happy's Mini Mart

As part of Americans for Prosperity's nationwide "Prosperity is Possible" campaign, Americans for Prosperity-Pennsylvania (AFP-PA) held a pre-inflation gas station event on Friday to offer gas prices to motorists at a discounted \$2.38 a gallon. Thank you to Americans for Prosperity and Happy's Mini Mart on Brodhead Road for hosting the event. Pennsylvania has the highest gasoline tax in the country and energy costs continue to rise. With rising inflation, these prices are unsustainable and unacceptable for America.

I am pictured with "Happy" Singh, owner of Happy's Mini Mart.



Funding to Benefit Residents of the 44th District

Communities in our legislative district in Allegheny County will receive more than \$211,000 in Marcellus Shale impact fees. Impact fees are levied on top of regular business taxes to ensure communities affected by natural gas drilling receive their fair share of funding.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) reports this year's statewide distribution of nearly \$279 million is more than \$44 million higher than last year, driven primarily by the average price of natural gas in 2022.

I am pleased to see the industry continues to create jobs and increase local revenue. The funding can be used in a variety of ways that improve our quality of life, including water system upgrades, clean air and road repairs.

Allegheny County will receive more than \$2.29 million in funding.