



State Representative

VALERIE GAYDOS

44th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES AND SUPPORT FAMILIES

I have introduced a series of bills aimed at making Pennsylvania more efficient, fair and accountable while directly benefiting our communities and families. These proposals focus on practical solutions that reduce costs, improve government services and ensure Pennsylvanians are supported in their everyday lives.

These initiatives also focus on everyday priorities such as helping small businesses access affordable health care, returning surplus funds to taxpayers, protecting students through equitable education policies, and improving government transparency and accountability. Each piece of legislation reflects a commitment to strengthening our Commonwealth, empowering residents and preparing Pennsylvania for a brighter, more prosperous future.

Elimination of Pennsylvania's Inheritance Tax

House Bill 1394 would eliminate Pennsylvania's inheritance tax, ending state taxation on inherited assets to prevent double taxation and would also ensure families receive inheritances without an added financial burden during a time of loss.

Reducing the Size of the Legislature

House Bill 1010 would reduce the size of Pennsylvania's General Assembly to streamline operations, lower costs, increase accountability and create a more efficient and transparent government. It would also empower voters to decide on a smaller, more effective legislature that can act swiftly and responsibly in the best interest of all Pennsylvanians.

Association Health Care Plans

House Bill 1444 would allow small businesses to band together to form association health plans, enabling them to negotiate lower health insurance costs and offer more competitive benefits to their employees.

Protecting Pennsylvanians From Landslides

House Bill 589 would establish a program through the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide insurance coverage for landslides, slope movement and sinkholes caused by natural forces, protecting Pennsylvanians from significant financial losses. The legislation passed the House in September and now awaits consideration in the Senate.

Cost Reduction for County Election Offices

House Bill 978 would streamline Pennsylvania's campaign finance reporting by eliminating outdated duplicate county filings and requiring state-level candidates and political committees to file reports only with the Department of State.

State Improper Payment Act

House Bill 979 would strengthen accountability in state programs by requiring agencies to assess, report and publicly disclose improper payments, mirroring federal standards to reduce waste, improve transparency and protect taxpayer dollars.

Financial Disclosure for Write-In Candidates

House Bill 984 would ensure fairness in elections by requiring all candidates, including write-ins, to file a statement of financial interests before appearing on the general election ballot.

'Voter Motor' Bill — Connecting State Agency Data to Address of Residency

House Bill 981 would improve government efficiency by securely sharing voter registration address updates across state and local agencies, ensuring accurate records, streamlined services and better access to benefits for residents who move within or into the Commonwealth.

Returning Surplus to PA Taxpayers

House Bill 1362 would create the Taxpayer Surplus Refund Program to return excess General Fund dollars directly to Pennsylvania taxpayers, rather than using a one-time surplus to fund ongoing government spending.

Equity in Education

House Bill 976 aims to ensure public schools meet the needs of gifted learners by requiring Pennsylvania school districts to identify gifted students and include them in a weighted funding formula, addressing the current lack of required services and compensation.

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Taxpayer Dividend Program

House Bill 1092 would establish the Taxpayer Dividend Program, directing the state treasurer and Department of Revenue to administer and distribute dividend payments to eligible taxpayers.

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America: Capitol Semiquincentennial Bell

House Bill 999 would authorize the placement of a privately funded semiquincentennial commemorative bell at the Capitol to mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding.

Orthotic, Prosthetic and Pedorthic Device Coverage

House Bill 1391 would update insurance law to make sure health insurers and Medicaid cover medically necessary custom medical devices like prosthetics and orthotics, including fitting, repair and replacement when prescribed by a licensed provider.

Prohibiting 'No-Zero' Grading Policies

House Bill 1398 would prohibit school districts from requiring no-zero grading policies that would prevent teachers from assigning a zero for missing or poorly completed work — restoring teacher discretion and reinforcing student accountability.

Restriction on School Directors Serving Where Family Is Employed

House Bill 1395 would remove situations where school directors could oversee or vote on matters affecting their own family members. This helps protect against conflicts of interest and promotes fairness in district decision-making.

School Savings Contracting

House Bill 1392 would reduce unnecessary state mandates that make it harder for school districts to use third-party contractors to control rising benefit and pension costs. It would give local school leaders more flexibility to make responsible decisions that save taxpayer dollars and put more resources back into classrooms.

Prevention of Human Trafficking of Illegal Immigrants Act

House Bill 975 would strengthen penalties for trafficking undocumented immigrants, acknowledging that migrants, especially women, are often victims of severe exploitation and abuse. It also focuses on stopping drug cartels that have become increasingly involved in human smuggling to maximize profits and put vulnerable people at risk.

***DELIVERING RESULTS* WITH FOUR NEW LAWS TO BENEFIT PENNSYLVANIANS**

Since being elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I have been proud to have four of my bills signed into law, each designed to protect and empower residents across our Commonwealth. These laws reflect my commitment to protecting Pennsylvanians by promoting fair and transparent pharmacy pricing, enhancing cybersecurity and supporting victims of human trafficking.



Pharmacy Benefit Manager Accountability and Patient Protection Act

Act 77 of 2024 strengthens protections for patients and community pharmacies by regulating Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and limiting harmful practices such as patient steering, spread pricing and retroactive recoupments. The law also establishes a clear complaint resolution process through the Department of Insurance, ensuring PBMs prioritize patient care, fair competition and the sustainability of local pharmacies.



PANG Cyber Security

Act 38 of 2022 allows the Commonwealth to use the expertise of the Pennsylvania National Guard to respond to cyber crises and counteract cyber intrusions. The law strengthens the state's cybersecurity defenses by enabling rapid, coordinated support during digital threats or attacks.



Protecting Victims of Human Trafficking

Act 45 of 2021 expands the list of sexual offenses requiring incarcerated offenders to participate in Department of Corrections counseling and therapy programs. By including offenders who subjected minors to sexual servitude, the law aims to reduce recidivism and improve public safety through targeted, evidence-based treatment.



Prohibition of 'Gag Clauses' by PBMs

Act 67 of 2020 prohibits "gag clauses" in pharmacy contracts, ensuring pharmacists can inform patients when paying cash could be less expensive than using insurance. The law empowers pharmacists to disclose prescription price information, helping patients access the lowest possible out-of-pocket costs and promoting transparency in medication pricing.

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A BUDGET THAT MOVES PENNSYLVANIA FORWARD

After nearly four and a half months without a state budget, I am glad the House has passed a spending plan that moves Pennsylvania in the right direction, and I am pleased it was signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro. While I still have concerns about the overall level of spending, this budget does not raise taxes or take money from the Rainy Day Fund. That is a win for taxpayers and a step toward keeping government accountable.

This plan also gives us the time and stability to implement reforms I have been working on to make government more efficient and reduce costs for families.

I am pleased the governor recognized the importance of supporting Pennsylvania's energy industry by withdrawing from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This decision helps protect jobs, lower energy costs for families and encourage investment in our communities.

The budget also invests in education by increasing scholarships and improving literacy programs so all children can get the education they deserve. At the same time, it reduces red tape for businesses and strengthens checks to ensure taxpayer dollars go to those who truly need help.

This budget is not perfect, but it shows that both sides can work together. There is more work to do, but this plan takes real steps to grow the economy, improve education, protect families and keep Pennsylvania moving forward.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Since elected to serve in the House of Representatives in 2019, nearly **\$104 million** in state grants has been secured for the 44th Legislative District. These funds help build stronger communities for residents and create opportunities for local businesses.



There was a great turnout for my Pie & Policy event in Moon Township. Thank you to everyone who joined the lively discussion on issues impacting our communities and Pennsylvania, and to Eat'n Park for the sweet hospitality.



Standing with our community means showing up when it matters most. Together, we supported neighbors impacted by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) delays by delivering food and hope to 104 Quaker Valley families through the Greater Valley YMCA's mini pantries. Thank you to Safran's Market, donors and dedicated volunteers.



Our community gathered at Robin Hill Park for a special Veterans Breakfast hosted by Moon Parks and Recreation and Harmony at Diamond Ridge, honoring the men and women who have served our country. Thank you to Sen. Devlin Robinson for joining us in recognizing our veterans.



Recognizing 32 years of dedicated service, I presented a House of Representatives citation to Keri Muir, executive director of Choices Pregnancy Services, alongside my legislative colleagues. *Pictured with me are (left) Rep. Marla Brown, Keri Muir, and Sens. Kim Ward and Judy Ward.*



I enjoyed meeting with Richard Longo and John Higgins from Duquesne University SBDC and was honored to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for my support of Pennsylvania's small businesses. I was also glad to be joined by my furry friend, Annie, who insisted on being part of the picture.



I joined colleagues on a once-in-a-lifetime in-flight refueling mission with the Pennsylvania National Guard's 171st Air Refueling Wing, witnessing firsthand the precision and professionalism that make its work vital to national defense. The visit also included the presentation of the Omaha Trophy, recognizing the outstanding service of the men and women of the 171st in Pennsylvania.



I served as a guest speaker for the unveiling of the America250PA Capitol Display, an installation by artist Molly Egan in the East Wing of the Capitol celebrating Pennsylvania's rich history and innovation. The illuminated 12- by 20-foot display, featuring icons such as the Liberty Bell, Crayola Crayons and Punxsutawney Phil, is open to the public daily and commemorates America's 250th anniversary.



Recently, I visited Havens Hideout Ranch in Moon Township and met with owner Doug Havens, whose lifelong passion for horses and the cowboy lifestyle is now being shared with the western Pennsylvania community through riding lessons, training and unique ranch experiences.



I enjoyed visiting Half Crown Hill Orchard and Apiary in McDonald, a fourth-generation family farm where owner Craig Senovich talked about its thriving apple orchard, cider and beekeeping operation, which produces thousands of pounds of local honey each year.



DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATIONS

MOON TOWNSHIP:

1005 Beaver Grade Road,
Suite 106
Moon Township, PA 15108
412-262-3780
FAX: 412-262-3783

CAPITOL:

Room 107, Ryan Building
PO Box 202044
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2044
717-787-6651
FAX: 717-782-2889

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU... NOW ON THE ROAD!

Our district office is holding remote office hours each month to better serve you:

- ★ **Sewickley Borough Building**
601 Thorn St., Sewickley
Third Thursday of the Month
10 a.m. to Noon
- ★ **Western Allegheny Community Library**
181 Bateman Road, Oakdale
Second Tuesday of the Month
2–4 p.m.
- ★ **Leetsdale Borough Community Room**
373 Beaver St., Leetsdale
Third Thursday of the Month
2–4 p.m.
- ★ **Main Office (Moon Township)**
1005 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township
Open Weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Pictured with me (from left) are Brian Beyer, Hellbender; Ryan Kuo, Funky Chunky Popcorn; Rick Webb, NewRoad Capital Partners; Emma Heise, White House and U.S. Department of Commerce; Doug Doan, Hivers and Strivers Capital; Brig. Gen. Terry Williams, PenFed Foundation's Veteran Entrepreneur Program; Col. Jason Figley, 171st Air Refueling Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard; James Schenck, PenFed Foundation and PenFed Credit Union; Rachel Miller, PenFed Veteran Entrepreneur Program; Chris Sowder, PenFed Foundation; Al Quayle, Moon Township; Allen DiFrischia, 171st Air Refueling Wing, Playthings Etc.; and Wesley Brown, veteran Lt.Col, chief executive officer of Tension Dynamics.

I hosted PenFed Foundation for Military Heroes Veteran Entrepreneur Program and the Hivers and Strivers Venture Capital Fund in Pittsburgh to explore creating a veteran-focused accelerator and incubator in our region. Meetings with Carnegie Mellon University, the 171st Air Refueling Wing, University of Pittsburgh and local business and civic leaders highlighted strong regional support for expanding mentorship, training and early stage capital for veteran entrepreneurs. This initiative leverages Pennsylvania's large veteran population and Pittsburgh's innovation strengths to grow veteran-led businesses and strengthen the local economy.