

STATE REP. STEPHENIE SCIALABBA



It is an honor and privilege to serve as your voice in Harrisburg.

Hearing from you is very important. It connects me with your experiences and ideas and helps me to serve the district's needs.

Please contact me or my staff at the district office or online to share your thoughts or concerns and give feedback on district or state-related matters.

Did You Know?

I send weekly updates and insights on the Community and the "Dome".

Sign up and follow me here:
RepScialabba.com/Email-Signup
Facebook.com/StateRepSS

IN THE DISTRICT

NEARLY \$14 MILLION DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT DISTRICT 12

District 12 received nearly \$14 million in state funding to our first responders; repair roads and community parks in Adams Township, Cranberry Township and Seven Fields Borough; alleviate traffic issues; restore the Harmony Museum; and renovate the Passavant House in Zelienople.

I enjoy assisting state and local officials in addressing needs facing our communities. It takes a team effort, and the work continues to serve you in the best way possible.



SENIOR EXPO IN CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

Thank you to all the residents and 50-plus vendors who attended my first senior expo in May! This was a fun and easy way to learn what services are available for you or your family member.

It was great catching up with everyone. I look forward to hosting this event again next year!



SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF THE EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT

Some of Butler's finest woke up early in March and loaded four vehicles and a horse trailer full of bottled water and traveled to East Palestine, Ohio. In total, we donated over 500 cases of bottled water to those in need. Thank you to all of those who volunteered their time and those who donated water including North Catholic, Saint Michael's and Men of Good Will for making this happen!



NEW COLLEGE CAMPUS IN CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

South College opened a new campus in Cranberry Township in April. Founded in 1882 in Nashville, TN, South College has campuses across the country where students can pursue academic programs at all levels, including professional certificates and associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

There is a state-of-the-art medical wing where scholars will gain knowledge about patient care and graduate as nurses, CRNAs and other professionals.

Check out my social media!



RepScialabba.com



Facebook.com/StateRepSS



SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Small businesses are not smaller versions of large businesses. Small business owners dedicate their lives, time, and capital in an effort to run a successful, local company.

In April, I hosted my first small business roundtable with local business owners and Greg Moreland of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB).

We had around 20 business owners who were able to find coverage so that they could attend without closing for a few hours. We had several who had to leave partway through or cancel because of staffing issues. That is just one problem that hits heavier with small businesses.

We also talked about market predictions, legislation on the horizon, and additional policy initiatives that I am eager to advance in Harrisburg to protect small businesses.

Thank you to those of you who came out to participate!



SUCCESSFUL TOWN HALLS

We had great turnout for our town halls in March and September. I was so happy to speak with so many wonderful people. Lots of great questions and discussion.

Special thanks to Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, Republican chairman of the House Transportation Committee, for traveling this way for the first event to give attention to the needs in our area!



REPLACING ILLEGIBLE LICENSE PLATES

I enjoyed hosting three hard-to-read license plate events in the district, which gave constituents an opportunity to get a new license plate free of charge.

Thank you to my office staff and officers with the Adams Township, Cranberry Township and Jackson Township police departments for making this successful! We helped several hundred people.



GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Southwest Butler County Stormwater Planning Group was awarded a 2023 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence for their efforts in mitigating stormwater and flooding issues in the region. I commend all of the individuals involved in this monumental and inspiring effort to collaborate regionally. Great work and well deserved!

After attending a meeting earlier this year, I was impressed by the group's collegiality and commitment to putting the entire region first. It's not often you find this kind of leadership!



HELPING OUR HEROES

For the 2023-24 session, I was appointed as the House Republican Secretary of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

In this capacity, I participated in the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Veterans Advisory Council meeting at the Butler VA Health Care System.

I am continually astounded at the talent and resources that our VA offers. It's all thanks to the passionate individuals who work and volunteer there to help our vets. A national film crew was also there to highlight our center. I'm so proud of what we have here for our veterans, and we will continue to work to expand care for our heroes.

JOINT HEARING FOCUSED ON URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS

I recently participated at a joint public hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committees to discuss legislation that would create an Urban Search and Rescue Team in western Pennsylvania. Given the geography and topography, it is an appropriate step in ensuring the safety of western Pennsylvania.

Currently, the only urban search and rescue team is based in Philadelphia. This results in a four- to eight-hour delay to mobilize when minutes matter.

As the Republican Secretary of the House committee, I asked about designations, resources and response times. There was a lot to unpack, and I am more convinced that we need a dedicated team here in Western PA.

I encourage you to check out my discussion by visiting repscialabba.com. You can access the video by scrolling to the newsroom tab and clicking on video.





LOCAL CEREMONY RECOGNIZED VETERANS

I had the utmost privilege of being the Keynote Speaker for the 70th Anniversary of the Korean Conflict Armistice at the Butler VA Health Care System. Recognizing these veterans and their contribution to our way of life around the globe was the honor of a lifetime.

To our veterans: You matter. What you did for us mattered. We know it. We see it. We live it and we appreciate it. You will never be forgotten.



BREAKING GROUND IN HARMONY

It was an honor to participate in the groundbreaking for Harmony Fire District’s new station site on South Main Street – which will be the location of the \$7.7 million facility.

The fire district serves Harmony, Zelienople, Lancaster Township and Jackson Township, and will include decontamination rooms and other necessities.

The expectation is that operations will be in full swing in one year.

Thank you to these selfless and brave men and women for being the backbone of our community! Somehow in a world where there is never enough time, these firefighters find a way to still give more of their time and themselves.



UNDER THE DOME

BUDGET IS A DISSERVICE TO PENNSYLVANIA

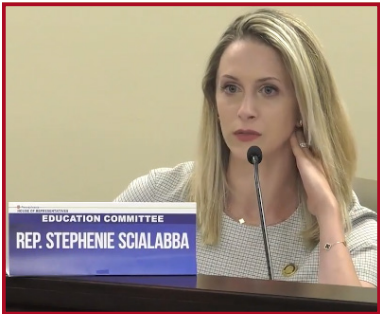
Despite the governor signing a general appropriations bill into law, the Commonwealth is still without the completed budget necessary to meet critical funding needs. State spending was set at \$45.5 billion, a 6% increase over last year. It is estimated that there will be a \$1.5 billion shortfall that will be covered by our reserve funds. The Independent Fiscal Office forecasts that the reserve funds will be depleted within five years if spending remains static. If spending increases, as it tends to do, the funds will be depleted more quickly.

We will not be able to sustain this level of spending in the years to come. Pennsylvania has the fifth oldest population in the United States and is the 40th state in terms of population growth. Between an aging and slow-growing population, and a stagnant birth rate, we are losing our employment base at an extremely high rate. Our retirees also need significant government services, which will only increase the demand for additional government spending and taxes.

The governor also line-item vetoed the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success (PASS) Scholarship Program, formerly known as the Lifeline Scholarship Program, which would allow students trapped within the worst-performing school districts to seek education elsewhere without taking from public schools.

Bottom line: I did not vote for the budget. It is bloated, short-sighted and has the wrong priorities.

If you want to keep up with the economic climate in Pennsylvania, visit pabudget.com.



CR-SE & KOOTH

CR-SE

In order for current teachers to keep certifications, new teachers to gain certifications, and schools to keep funding, the Pennsylvania Department of Education is requiring teachers to satisfy nine new “competencies.” These “competencies” are known as Culturally-Relevant and Sustaining Education (CR-SE) standards.

- These standards are in effect now and require teachers to:
- “Believe and acknowledge that micro-aggressions are real and take steps to educate themselves about the subtle and obvious ways in which they are used to harm and invalidate the existence of others.”
 - “Actively counter deficit-based and invalidating behavior in themselves and others by engaging in affirming practices.”
 - “Challenge their own beliefs, attitudes, assumptions and behaviors regarding the knowledge and backgrounds of dominant and non-dominant social groups, thinking critically about the nuances of culture, identity, and other social markers, and how they manifest themselves in curricula and other education materials.”
 - “Know and acknowledge that biases exist in the educational system, disrupt harmful institutional practices, policies, and norms by advocating and engaging in efforts to rewrite policies, change practices, and raise awareness.”
 - “Engage in critical and difficult conversations with others to deepen their awareness of their own conscious/unconscious biases, stereotypes, and prejudices.”

I sponsored legislation to repeal these regulations, and I filed a lawsuit to stop these guidelines.

KOOTH

I introduced legislation after Pennsylvania became the first state in the country to award a statewide \$3 million contract to Kooth, a London-based online platform where school-aged children can receive mental health care without parental knowledge, involvement or consent. Children are able to chat with each other in the platform about sensitive topics, such as suicide or gender identity. Are these chats regulated? Recorded and retained? For how long? Did the kids consent? Are they even able to consent? Where is their data going? Parents deserve the right to have these discussions with their children and to be involved in caring for the most important people in their lives.

My legislation requires school districts to notify parents if they intend to enter a contract with Kooth; mandate specific, informed parental consent for their child to access the platform; share the records with the parents without requiring a Right-to-Know request; and permit parents to sit in the room with their child while using it.

I understand these are sensitive topics, but parents must be the ones who have those discussions with their children. See my comments on this issue at repscialabba.com.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
STEPHENIE SCIALABBA
12TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

FALL 2023

PRSR STD U.S. POSTAGE
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P: 717-783-1707



HIGHER EDUCATION

I am a double Pitt graduate. My mom went there, my dad went to Penn State, I met my husband at Pitt Law School, and I received my undergraduate degrees from Pitt. Still, I voted against their funding. Let me tell you why. It is not because I am against funding our students — in fact, I would like to fund them directly.

I voted to support funding for community colleges, Pennsylvania State System of Higher

Education (PASSHE) schools, and Lincoln University because they promised to freeze tuition, have government oversight, exercise transparency and participate in our Right-to-Know Law. If institutions take taxpayer money, they should be subject to the Right-to-Know Law. Until Pitt, Penn State and Temple agree to this reasonable requirement, I will not vote for their funding. They also need to ask for a reasonable amount. Even when Gov. Shapiro proposed a 7.1% increase over the previous year, for a total of \$166 million dollars, they still asked for more.

Finally, this money needs to benefit Pennsylvanians. Penn State recently sent people to Ghana to teach about gender as a social construct. As a result, I am introducing legislation to require universities to use taxpayer dollars for the betterment of Pennsylvanians.



FUNDING CUT FOR REAL ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

The governor cut funding to the Real Alternatives program.

The program has 83 crisis centers statewide, with several in our area, and offers alternatives to abortion as well as parenting support.

The decision to cut this funding is not pro-life and it is not pro-choice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

MONDAY, DEC. 18
4-6 P.M.

Cranberry Township Municipal Center

2525 Rochester Road

Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Please call 724-772-3110 to schedule an appointment.

VETERANS OUTREACH HOURS

NOV. 30 | DEC. 28
10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Cranberry Township Municipal Center

2525 Rochester Road

Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Please call 724-772-3110 to schedule an appointment.

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