



WINTER 2023

State Representative **DONNA SCHEUREN** *147th Legislative District*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has now been over a year since you, the people, elected me to be your state representative. It continues to be the greatest honor of my life to serve you all in Harrisburg. I have stayed true in my efforts to fight for seniors, a sensible energy policy, lower taxes, small businesses and making Pennsylvania a more affordable place to live.

In addition, our government needs to be transparent about how it spends its money, in all facets. This should include settlements of all types that come from our state government, which use public tax dollars. To do so, I have reintroduced a similar piece of legislation to a former bill by Rep. Marcy Toepel.

This bill would require any settlements that include taxpayer money to be posted to the public PennWATCH website. There would be exceptions made if there is a non-disclosure agreement signed to withhold some personal information to avoid inflicting humiliation or invading privacy. This legislation would add another layer of necessary transparency to our government and allow the public to make sure their tax dollars are being spent properly.

I humbly ask for your continued support as I head into the second year of my first term.

Respectfully yours,

Donna

Solving the Bus Driver Crisis

Across Pennsylvania, school districts are having problems with getting enough school bus drivers to drive their full fleet of buses. This has led to some schools taking drastic action.

At West Shore and Cedar Cliff school districts in Cumberland County and Red Land School District in York County, students have had to alternate between in-person and virtual learning days because of the lack of available bus drivers. In our area, Souderton Area School District is hiring private transportation services to get kids to school at a much higher cost. And in Philadelphia, the School District of Philadelphia has offered families \$3,000 to transport their children to school.

These added costs are clearly untenable for school districts, and with what we know regarding learning loss during the pandemic, having students take online classes because school districts do not have enough bus drivers to transport them to school is unacceptable.

In response to this problem, I proposed legislation that I believe will help alleviate this crisis. House Bill 1306 would create a new tax credit, worth \$2,500, for new bus drivers that would last three years. This would give school districts a new tool to advertise open bus driver spots and help them fill these gaps across Pennsylvania. It is important we make sure our students get to school safely, on time and for in-person learning. We also need to ensure taxpayers dollars are spent as efficiently as possible, and this legislation will help to correct the workarounds happening now in various school districts across the Commonwealth.

Successful Launch of My First Veterans Breakfast

In our district, we are blessed to have a large veteran population. I was pleased to honor their service at my first Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast, held at the Franconia Heritage Banquet Center. The room was perfect and offered great acoustics for Souderton's High School Advanced Choir to sing our National Anthem, and various other songs, to all the guests in attendance. With a hot buffet, guest speakers, prizes, gifts for our veterans and the thanks of a grateful nation, the event was warmly received. Even with 150 guests attending, there's room for plenty more of our district's 350+ veterans.

Personal invites get mailed to all the veterans in the district weeks before the event, so please be sure to call my office and double check that your veteran status and current address is correct in our database. We wouldn't want any veteran to miss out on this touching tribute.



I Stand With Israel

In what is a trying time for Jewish people across the world, I want to reconfirm my support for Israel and the right for it to exist. In the face of the terrorist attack launched by Hamas on Oct. 7 and increasing antisemitic incidents, the House took up a resolution.

House Resolution 245 calls for justice and safety for both the Israeli and Palestinian people and condemns the violent actions of Hamas. It also calls on Congress to provide the state of Israel with the support it needs to ensure the safety and security of its people.

I was proud to vote to approve this resolution, along with every member of the House. I will always stand with Israel and the Jewish people and hope to see a rapid end to this conflict that sees hostages returned to their families and Hamas knocked out of power in Palestine.



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State Representative
DONNA SCHEUREN

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Legislative District*



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Donna in the District



Rep. Donna Scheuren invites you to attend a

**Legislative
OPEN
HOUSE**

Wednesday, Dec. 20 • 3-6 p.m.

**At my Gilbertsville District office,
located at 1885 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville, PA**
Holiday snacks and refreshments will be provided
along with updates on happenings in Harrisburg.
Feel free to bring non-perishable can good items to
donate to Preston's Pantry in Boyertown.

For questions, please call 610-323-3299.

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