

The Honorable Thomas W. Wolf  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

The pandemic has laid bare the crucial role that schools, homes, and parks and recreation centers have played in ensuring residents' mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Investing in these facilities and spaces is an investment into the survival and long-term health of the people in this Commonwealth as we fight through a third year of a global pandemic and a rapidly changing climate.

**As members of the House and Senate Democratic Caucuses we urge you to make bold investments in the built environment – schools, homes, and parks and recreational centers –as part of your FY2022 – 2023 budget proposal.** These investments will enhance the health and resiliency of the people of the Commonwealth as we continue to live through the challenges wrought by a global pandemic, economic inequality, and climate change.

With the knowledge that our state revenues have exceeded expectations over the past year, we specifically ask for the following to be included in your FY2022-2023 budget proposal:

#### **Healthy Schools Funding**

*Direct \$1 Billion in Emergency Capital Grants to Public School Districts across the Commonwealth.*

Every child across the Commonwealth has the right to a quality public education in a school that is safe, healthy, and clean. Across our state students are surrounded by lead, asbestos, mold, and rodents in their school. The unsafe conditions of public schools impact our children's' physical health, mental wellbeing, and academic achievement. Most Pennsylvania public school buildings were built between 1950 and 1959; there are more than 200 Pennsylvania public school buildings built before 1950. The systems within those buildings – heating, cooling, lighting, electrical, etc. - are broken, inefficient and in desperate need of replacement. The onset of the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated many of the existing needs within buildings, specifically around air quality and ventilation.

As part of your FY2022-2023 we ask that you direct \$1 Billion in Emergency Grants to Public School Districts with exigent health problems across the Commonwealth. School districts could use the grant funding solely for emergency repairs, such as lead and asbestos abatement or remediation, HVAC repair or replacement, electrical system repair or replacement, plumbing repair or replacement, roof and window repair or replacement and other repairs or replacements that present a health or safety issue. Districts could use the grants to install proper COVID-19 air ventilation systems.

You have been a champion for fair education funding during your administration, and securing this historic investment in our school facilities would add to that legacy.

## **Whole-Home Repairs**

*Direct \$1 Billion to a Whole-Home Repair fund to fill gaps in existing home repair programs to achieve comprehensive home repairs and weatherization.*

Pennsylvanians deserve housing that is warm, safe, and dry. During the COVID-19 pandemic a home means the difference between life and death. But for thousands of Pennsylvanians, the very place they call home is unsafe. More than 280,000 occupied units in Pennsylvania have moderate to severe physical inadequacies: leaky windows, collapsing rooves, blown fuses or exposed wiring, unreliable or no heating, no working toilet or failed plumbing.

As part of your FY2022-2023 budget we ask that you direct \$1B in funding to fill critical gaps in existing programs: basic system repair funding to address deferred maintenance, support staff to help homeowners and landlords access and sequence home repair and weatherization programs, and funding to grow the necessary workforce. By building off existing federal, state, and local grant program infrastructure, we can create a comprehensive home repair program for low-income households that will keep thousands in safe housing they can afford, reduce utility bills, stabilize communities by slowing displacement and reducing crime, and create new family sustaining jobs in the process.

## **Repairing and improving Parks and Recreation Centers**

*Direct \$1 Billion in funding to parks, recreation centers, and open spaces repairs and improvements.*

Our public parks and recreations centers are vital for the well-being of our constituents. Studies have shown that people located within 3 miles of a recreation center or open space are physically and emotionally healthier, are less likely to experience crime, experience increased property value and a reduction in the impacts of climate change. Recreation centers create out-of-school time activities and learning opportunities for children and youth. During the COVID-19 pandemic access to parks and open space created opportunities to socialize and recreate - both things that were crucial to maintaining mental well-being. Deferred maintenance and disinvestment from parks, recreation centers, and open spaces has left many of these spaces unusable or in disrepair.

As part of your FY2022-2023 budget we ask that you direct \$1B in funding to fund recreation center repairs and improvements to parks and open spaces throughout the Commonwealth. This can be administered through grants to municipalities and counties over several years.

In the final year of your administration, and with a budget surplus from excess revenues, now is the time for bold, generational investments in our built environment. We ask that you include these demands in your budget address and that you fight alongside of us over the next few months to deliver these victories for the people of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



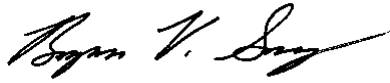
Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler  
House District 184



Rep. Rick Krajewski  
House District 188



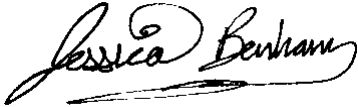
Senator Nikil Saval  
Senate District 1



Rep. Ben Sanchez  
House District 153



Senator Katie Muth  
Senate District 44



Rep. Jessica Benham  
House District 36



Senator Amanda Cappelletti  
Senate District 17



Rep. Nancy Guent  
House District 152



Senator Lindsey Williams  
Senate District 38



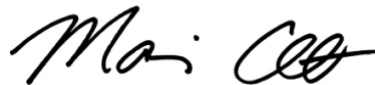
Rep. Tina Davis  
House District 141



Senator Tim Kearney  
Senate District 26



Rep. Danielle Friel-Otten  
House District 155



Senator Maria Collett  
Senate District 12



Rep. Mike Zabel  
House District 163



Rep. Donna Bullock  
House District 195



Rep. Mary Jo Daley  
House District 148



Rep. Kevin Boyle  
House District 172



Rep. Perry Warren  
House District 31



Rep. Peter Schweyer  
House District 22



Rep. Carol Hill-Evans  
House District 95



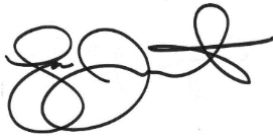
Rep. Thom Welby  
House District 113



Rep. Christopher Rabb  
House District 200



Rep. Summer Lee  
House District 34



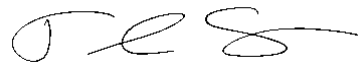
Rep. Sarah Innamorato  
House District 21

**Pamela A. DeLissio**  
Signed

Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio  
House District 194



Rep. Robert Freeman  
House District 136



Rep. Jared Solomon  
House District 202



Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta  
House District 181



Rep. Leanne Krueger  
House District 161



Rep. Bridget Kosierowski  
House District 114