



SUPPORTING
FIRST RESPONDERS

SAFEGUARDING
WORKERS

EDUCATION



STATE SENATOR LINDSEY WILLIAMS

Summer 2023

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS

This legislative session I have joined advocates in working to make sure that no child goes hungry at school. Over the course of the pandemic, universal school meals were made available to all students regardless of income. Last year, then-Governor Tom Wolf extended the universal breakfast program only for school year 2022-2023. This session I joined Senator Judy Schwank and Representative Emily Kinhead in introducing a **Universal School Meal bill** that makes universal breakfast and lunch permanent and seeks to eliminate school meal debt. Governor Josh Shapiro's proposed budget to the General Assembly included the funding for universal breakfast, which is less than **1%** of the total proposed budget. For updates on the budget, head to my website.

Removing any barriers that exist between our students and access to food is important to me. School meals should be treated as fundamental, just like textbooks, in our schools. We know that kids are not fully prepared to learn or behave in the classroom if their stomach is empty. I've heard from so many parents who are grateful for the continuation of school breakfast because it keeps costs down at home and eliminates shame. I want to work toward a future where our students not only have access to meals, but access to fresh, locally grown and supported meals from farmers in their backyard. ■



BY THE NUMBERS

- The Universal Breakfast Program has **doubled school breakfast participation.**
- The **Universal Breakfast Program** has served over **23 million breakfasts** during the 2022-23 school year alone.
- **29% of children** are food insecure but do not qualify for free meals.

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FOR UPDATES on school meals, head to my website:
SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/SchoolMeals.

SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS

In March, I joined Rep. Mandy Steele, Brackenridge Mayor Lindsay Fraser, and the entire Allegheny Valley community for a **Hometown Hero Thank You** celebration of our first responders. During this event, we had the opportunity to recognize all of the police, fire, and EMS departments in the Allegheny Valley, with special recognition to Officer Jordan Schrecengost and the family of Chief Justin McIntire. Officer Schrecengost was shot and injured in the January 2 shooting that took the life of Chief Justin McIntire.

Thank you to everyone who participated, especially to Lori Miller and the Cookie Brigade, who coordinated the event and donated over **\$3,000** in Girl Scout Cookies to the local police, fire, and EMS departments as an extra sweet thank you. It was a wonderful way to say thank you to the brave individuals who give so much to our neighborhoods.

By way of further honoring Chief McIntire, Brackenridge Borough Council voted to change the name of Third Avenue to McIntire Way. Chief McIntire grew up on Third Avenue and still has family on the street.

The Borough and the McIntire family held a naming ceremony in May to dedicate the new street name and honor the sacrifice of Chief McIntire and his entire family. ■



NATIONAL
EMS
WEEK

I celebrated EMS Week (May 21-27) this year by joining a crew from Ross/West View EMS on a ridealong and by meeting with the crew from Foxwall EMS. Spending a few hours in a rig with an EMT crew and getting to experience the work they do on a daily basis gives me a deeper understanding of their needs that I can take back to Harrisburg.

During my ridealong, we filmed a short video to show the incredibly difficult work that our EMTs do every single day for the community. This video also highlights how you can help out your local ambulance authority by subscribing to their services. EMS agencies rely on these subscriptions as a consistent stream of funding so that, on your worst day, they can be at their best! You can watch the video and learn more about subscribing to your local ambulance service at SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/EMS.



If you need help finding which ambulance agency provides services to your home, please contact my office or visit my website, SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/district for a full list of EMS agencies within Senate District 38 and their websites.

SAFEGUARDING WORKERS

WORKERS ARE THE KEY TO RAIL SAFETY

The February 3 train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, just minutes from the Pennsylvania border, has put a spotlight on rail safety. After several hearings, including one with Pennsylvania residents affected by the accident and one with Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw, I remain incredibly concerned about safety—particularly whether workers on these trains are able to slow down or stop an unsafe train without permission from a supervisor. These workers are in the best position to be able to stop a derailment and they should be able to exercise their judgment without fear of retaliation.

During the hearing with Mr. Shaw, he was unable to tell me if workers are able to make these calls, and that is a big problem. A culture of safety and prioritizing workers starts from the top.

Train tracks like the ones that run through East Palestine, Ohio run throughout Senate District 38—through our neighborhoods, near our schools, and too close to our rivers for comfort. Less than a year ago, an accident at a crossing in Harmar Township caused a 17-car derailment. Nine of those cars fell into Deer Creek at the mouth of the Allegheny River. Four of those cars were oil tankers. More

than 3,000 gallons of petroleum distillate leaked into our waterways during that incident. Regular derailments at the expense of our communities cannot be just another cost of doing business—we demand better. ■



Thank you to the members of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties for naming me as your Distinguished Friend of Higher Education this year. Supporting the hard work that APSCUF members do as educators and coaches is one of my highest priorities, so I'm proud to receive this honor.

The last few years have been incredibly difficult in PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), but the professors and coaches at these universities have repeatedly risen to the occasion and fought for their students and for one another. I'm proud to continue to ask the hard questions and push for what we all know that students need to be successful.



I am absolutely honored to be named their Distinguished Friend-- I can think of no better company to keep than by the side of APSCUF members.

SBUX RISING

In January, I joined local labor leaders and members of the striking Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Writers' Guild in support of the Starbucks United workers ahead of their long-awaited trial against Starbucks for Unfair Labor Practices. Since the Starbucks unionizing efforts began nationwide, 11 locations in Pittsburgh have unionized—more than anywhere else in the country. I'm proud to stand with these workers fighting for a more democratic and equitable workplace. ■





EDUCATION



You can watch that hearing on my website at www.SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/neuro-affirming-policy.

JOINT POLICY HEARING ON SUPPORTIVE EDUCATION FOR NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS

On April 14, Rep. Jess Benham and I co-hosted a joint Senate and House Democratic Caucus Policy Committee Hearing on supportive education for neurodivergent students. This hearing focused on how we can create public schools that are affirming, inclusive, safe educational environments for all students, especially those with ADHD, Autism, Intellectual Disabilities, PTSD, Learning Disabilities, Epilepsy, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and other diagnoses. I'm incredibly grateful for the students and parents who took the time to speak with us about their lived experiences. We often only hear from experts at these hearings, but it's important to also hear the perspectives of neurodivergent students and parents directly impacted by our decisions as legislators. Testifying at a public hearing can be incredibly overwhelming, so I appreciate how much work went into preparing and sharing their stories with all of us—and I want them all to know how impactful their words were. I'm committed to working on legislation and policy that will provide our students with the resources that they need to thrive. ■

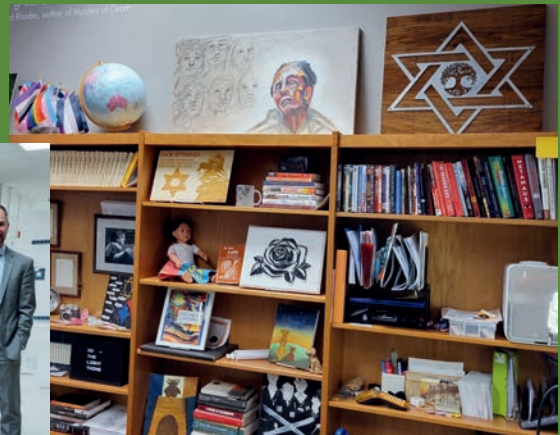


I'm very excited that my reading of "Everyone Gets a Say" by Jill Twiss is now available in the Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP). It's available for download on BARD and on digital cartridge format for LAMP to patron's mailbox delivery. I had an amazing time recording this book and making it accessible to everyone. If you or a loved one struggles with standard print because of your vision, dyslexia or because you physically cannot hold a book or turn its pages, please let the staff at LAMP give reading back to you. LAMP is a completely free service that is available to all ages.

You can check out their full catalog of books and services at mylamp.org

SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT VISIT WITH THE PA DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

In March, I had a chance to tour Scott Primary School and the Shaler Area High School along with Pennsylvania Department of Education Deputy Secretary Dr. Fuller and Rep. Sara Innamorato. We got to check out everything from Kindergarten and 3rd grade beginning programming to senior high tech ed classes, where they're making really cool charging stations for their iPads and other devices. We also had a moment to meet with their LIGHT Education Initiative instructors, who are doing amazing work towards inspiring, preparing, and empowering the next generation of humanitarians.



PA SCHOOL LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

I was incredibly honored to receive the PA School Librarians Association Presidential Award this year. I'm thankful for the partnership and dedication of so many school librarians who stand up for all students and ensure excellence in our school libraries.



EVENTS AROUND THE 38TH DISTRICT

AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM

This year our office scheduled over 1,000 tax appointments for senior citizens through the annual AARP Tax-Aide program! I want to recognize the dedicated AARP volunteers who made this year's tax preparation program such a huge success. We're proud to partner with the AARP to offer this fantastic service. A special thank you to AARP volunteer coordinators Roger, Gloria, and Julie. We've received so many compliments about everyone's wonderful experiences this year. We're grateful to the Ross Community Center and Shaler Undercliff Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the program again.



SPRING SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

We had a wonderful time at my Spring Senior Fair at the Mt. Ararat Community Activity Center in April! This free event included health screenings, information for seniors and caregivers, a delicious breakfast provided by Tanya's Catering, and so much more. Thank you to Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes and all of the vendors who came out to share resources and information with the attendees. I'm looking forward to my Fall Senior Resource Fair with Rep. Emily Kinkead on October 26 at the Ross Community Center.

HARD-TO-READ LICENSE PLATE REPLACEMENTS

We hosted an amazing Hard-to-Read License Plate Replacement event at our Natrona office. Thank you to the Harrison Police Department for partnering on the event. If you couldn't make the event but still need a replacement, you can stop by our office or give us a call to get the form to fill out at your convenience. License plates are considered unreadable when any of the numbers or letters on your plate can't be recognized from 50 feet away, or if your plate is blistering, peeling, or discolored. Standard license plates (non-personalized, non-special fund) are replaced for free by PennDOT.



SHREDDING EVENT WITH REP. SARA INNAMORATO

Representative Sara Innamorato and I co-hosted a great free shredding event with Shred America at the Lawrenceville Goodwill. Thank you to everyone who stopped by—especially those who brought their dogs to say hello.

Our next shredding event will be with Rep. Arvind Venkat on Saturday, September 9 in North Park. We hope to see you there.



PITTSBURGH GLASS CENTER HOT POUR



I was thrilled to join the Pittsburgh Glass Center for their Hot Glass Pour to mark the groundbreaking of their expansion, which will provide affordable artist housing and meeting and event space for community members and non-profits. Thank you to PGC for being a leader not just through your art, but by bringing opportunity, innovation, and economic development to the region. I'm looking forward to seeing what comes next as you continue to "shatter" expectations.



STATE SENATOR • 38TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Senator Williams and staff will be at neighborhood and municipal Community Days across Senate District 38 throughout the summer. Look for our table and stop by to say hi, ask a question, or get resources.

JULY 6

Demystifying Harrisburg: What's in the Budget
6 p.m. Zoom

SEPTEMBER 7

Investing for Women
with PA Department of Banking and Securities
6 p.m. Zoom

SEPTEMBER 9

Free Shredding Event
with Representative Arvind Venkat
9 a.m. – Noon • North Park

OCTOBER 26

Fall Senior Resource Fair
with Representative Emily Kinkad
10 a.m. – Noon • Ross Community Center

Register for Events and get more Details at
SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/Events

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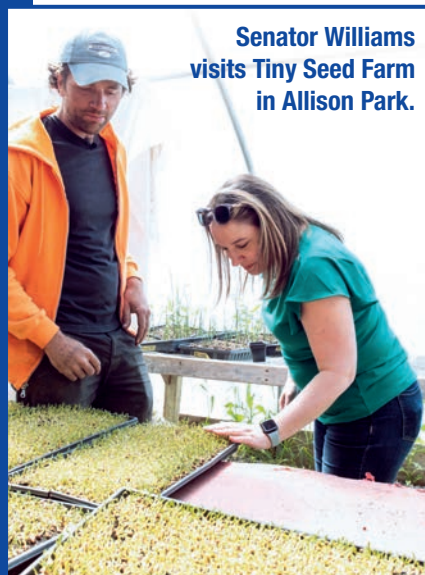
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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visits Tiny Seed Farm
in Allison Park.

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