

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN CAUSER



An Update on the Fight for Rural Healthcare

Our community took a devastating hit earlier this year when executives at Kaleida Health in Buffalo, NY, decided to close Bradford Regional Medical Center, abandoning our citizens and depriving them of local hospital and emergency department services.

I share the anger and frustration so many have expressed to me. We all deserve better.

As of this writing (in early August), LECOM Health's plan to acquire the hospital building and The Pavilion nursing facility is still being reviewed by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. I have spoken with leaders at LECOM Health and am encouraged by their interest in providing services here. I have also talked with officials at the attorney general's office and expressed how important it is for our residents to be treated fairly and equitably in the transaction and that the review needs to move forward as quickly as possible. In addition, I have spoken directly with the PA Secretary of Health about our situation and the fact that we need support, resources, and active participation by her department in our efforts to restore healthcare services.

In other encouraging news for our community, Universal Primary Care (UPC) was awarded a \$1.25 million state grant for an expansion project in Bradford that will triple its patient capacity, expanding access to care for 3,500 additional patients annually. UPC also plans to launch a healthcare workforce training hub in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Given the major healthcare challenges we are facing locally, UPC's desire to grow here and enhance access to primary care, women's/maternal healthcare, dental care and more in our community is truly a godsend.

While these are encouraging steps, our work is far from over. Bradford needs a hospital, including an emergency department, and I want to assure everyone that elected officials and community leaders are working hard to restore vital healthcare services in our community.

Many of you have also expressed concerns about services at UPMC-run hospitals in Kane and Coudersport. Please know I am in regular communication with UPMC officials, discussing how we can work together to strengthen rural healthcare in the region.



Affordable Energy Requires Increased Production

These days, most of us cringe at the sight of our electric bills. Not to mention our natural gas bills and the price at the pump. The cost of goods and services are up, too, and that is largely because of the price of energy.

As Republican chair of the House Energy Committee, my priority is and always has been to advance policies that will support the growth of our energy industry to improve reliability and affordability. We may be an energy powerhouse, but we have the opportunity to be so much more.



We're all familiar with the law of supply and demand, and the reason our electricity prices are so high right now is that our supply is not meeting the increase in demand. Our electric grid is managed by PJM Interconnection and shared with 13 other states, along with Washington, D.C. Some PJM states have enacted policies that are severely restricting energy generation there, leaving states like Pennsylvania to fill the void. This is not fair to Pennsylvania taxpayers and ratepayers.

While our governor claims to want to boost PA's energy production, his focus remains on less reliable renewable sources that simply can't keep up, especially when extreme temperatures cause spikes in electricity demand.

The governor also wants to take away local control when it comes to siting large-scale energy projects through his RESET board. He claims the so-called Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Siting and Electric Transition Board will speed up permitting and reduce red tape – laudable goals but they should never come at the expense of local residents who know best what works and what doesn't in their communities.

I am committed to protecting local control and advancing policies that will increase production of the kind of baseload energy that has effectively powered our Commonwealth for more than a century. A vibrant energy industry will improve affordability for consumers and help the state's economy grow and thrive.

Areas With State-Owned Land Deserve Tax Fairness

Recognizing the financial challenges facing communities with a high percentage of state-owned land, I have again introduced legislation to help increase revenues for those counties, municipalities and school districts.

House Bill 2141 would expand upon the existing Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) currently provided by the state by requiring a portion of revenue collected from the sale of timber, oil and natural gas from state-owned land – as well as revenue from the construction or placement of radio towers, and rent and royalties – to be shared with government entities in which the land is located.

Disbursements would be based proportionately on the number of acres of state land in each area. This proposal is similar to federal law that provides revenue to local governments from the sale of timber on national forest land.

I have successfully advocated for three increases in PILT rates in the past and will continue to do so to ensure our communities are fairly compensated. My bill has been referred to the House Finance Committee for consideration.

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MARTIN CAUSER
67TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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**SENIOR
CITIZENS
EXPOS**

KANE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

Kane Community Center
46 N. Fraley St., Kane

ROULETTE

FRIDAY, OCT. 9

Roulette Fire Hall
12 River St., Roulette

*Each event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Admission is free!*



Thank you to the Emporium Senior Center for inviting me to your annual Senior Expo.



It was an honor to speak at this year's Memorial Day service at the Ulysses Cemetery. As always, the members of Carl E. Hyde American Legion Post 963 did a fantastic job paying tribute to the men and women who fought and died for our country.



I met up with the team from Bradford Family Medicine at the McKean County Grand Celebration Parade in honor of America's 250th birthday!