


# STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN CAUSER

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## Realizing PA's Energy Potential

As Republican chairman of the House Energy Committee, I am continuing my commitment this session to helping our Commonwealth realize its full energy potential.

Demand for energy continues to grow, particularly for electricity to power artificial intelligence and data centers, as well as the electrification of vehicles and appliances. There are very real concerns about the reliability and capacity of our electric grid to meet this growing demand.

We have the resources to power Pennsylvania and beyond, but costly and overzealous regulations being pushed by the Shapiro administration are holding us back. In fact, the governor's insistence on imposing a carbon tax and mandating certain sources of energy would ultimately lead to higher costs for consumers and a higher potential for power shortages and even blackouts.

We need an "all of the above" energy policy that supports increased production from multiple sources, including oil, natural gas and nuclear power. Just listen to the experts! PJM Interconnection, which manages the region's electric grid, has repeatedly pointed out alternative sources simply aren't as reliable and productive as our fossil fuel sources.

With federal partners now in place that actually support energy production, now is the time to realize our full potential. Now is the time to increase production, stabilize the grid and lower the cost of energy for consumers.

## Support for Rural Health Care, EMS

We are working on solutions to boost access to health care in rural communities like ours.

**House Bill 157** would create the Rural Health Care Grant Program, which would provide funding to health care entities in medically underserved areas or rural counties to pay for the education debt of practitioners it employs. Physician recruitment is a major challenge facing many rural health care facilities, and this program could provide a valuable tool to help. The bill passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support and is awaiting consideration in the Senate.

**House Bill 857** would help EMS agencies by ensuring they are reimbursed by Medicaid for calls in which treatment is provided but the patient is not transported to the hospital. EMS care is so much more than simple transportation, and there is a cost for the time, supplies, equipment and expertise provided on every call.

**House Bill 73** would assist with recruitment and retention of EMS providers in two ways: first, by simplifying and streamlining the process of recertification for Emergency Medical Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians who were previously certified but whose certifications have expired; and second, by providing regulatory relief in continuing education and staffing requirements.

I'm also drafting a bill that would create an independent Office of EMS Commissioner to operate within the Department of Health. This person would report directly to the governor and effectively elevate and strengthen the voices of the men and women who provide this vital, life-saving service in our communities.



*In March, I had the opportunity to meet with three registered nurses who are completing their bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Pictured with me, from left, are RNs Olivia Reese, Ashlyn Avenali and Mia VanScoter, along with Dr. Jean Truman, director of Nursing.*

## Proposed \$51.47 Billion Budget More Than PA Can Afford

Back in February, Gov. Josh Shapiro unveiled his 2025-26 state budget proposal, which would spend \$51.47 billion. That's an increase of \$3.57 billion, or 7.5%, over the current year.

With revenues projected to increase by just 2.8%, the governor's plan would fully deplete the state's surplus funds and would again dip into the Rainy Day Fund, as well as require revenue from new taxes on things like recreational marijuana and skill games.

This approach is unsustainable. We must instead focus on policies that grow the economy and create family-sustaining jobs. There is great growth potential in our energy industry alone, and I look forward to advancing policies that support these goals.

Keep up to date on budget issues by subscribing to my weekly email at [www.RepCausser.com](http://www.RepCausser.com).

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On a recent visit to UPMC Kane, we talked about rural health care and the great work they are doing to meet patient needs in the area. I was especially impressed by their enthusiasm for the people and communities they serve and how they use that enthusiasm to help recruit physicians. Pictured from left: Mark Papalia, UPMC Kane president; Hannah Ross, director of operations; and John Papalia, executive director of the Kane Community Hospital Foundation.



I joined the Potter County Conservation District for its annual legislative luncheon in March to learn more about the projects they've worked on over the past year, as well as initiatives in the works this year. Thanks so much to District Manager Jason Childs and his team!



Port Allegany Fire Department Star Hose Company #1 recently got new SCBA – self-contained breathing apparatus – purchased in part by a \$150,000 state grant I helped secure. It's important to ensure our emergency responders have the proper safety equipment to keep themselves safe while coming to the rescue of others. Thanks to Chief Mike Johnson for the demonstration.

**SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS EXPOS!**

- Friday, Aug. 1** University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
- Friday, Sept. 12** Kane Community Center
- Friday, Oct. 10** Roulette Fire Hall

