

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN CAUSER



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## Elevating the Voices of EMS Providers

With the situation facing emergency medical services (EMS) becoming more dire every day, I have introduced legislation to create a Pennsylvania Office of EMS Commissioner.

This independent office would replace the current Bureau of EMS, which is buried in the bureaucracy of the Department of Health. Under **House Bill 1491**, the office would have a separate line item in the state budget, and the EMS commissioner would report directly to the governor.

In the last two years alone, 50 EMS agencies ceased operations in the Commonwealth. Hospitals are reducing services, making ambulance services even more vital, especially in rural areas like ours where people already live far from health care facilities. Our EMS system is in crisis right now, but not enough people in power are listening. The Office of EMS Commissioner is intended to elevate the voices of our EMS providers and spur action that will ultimately save lives.

I talked about this legislation, as well as my own experiences as a volunteer EMT, at a press conference with the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania in the Capitol Rotunda in May.

## Fighting for Health Care Access

Earlier this summer, I voted in support of a bill that would increase oversight of certain hospital mergers and acquisitions. Health care should always be about what's in the best interest of the PATIENT!

**House Bill 1460** would create the Health System Protection Act, which would require action on the part of the state's attorney general when mergers or acquisitions involve for-profit hospitals. While I believe nonprofit facilities should have been included in the bill as well, I still consider this measure to be a positive step in our ongoing efforts to address health care challenges in the Commonwealth. The bill is pending consideration in the Senate.

Locally, I took part in the North Central Regional Health Care Summit in July. It was encouraging to see citizens, health care providers, health care educators, as well as state, county and local officials come together to talk about the issues and potential solutions for issues such as workforce development, women's health and maternity care, access to care and services, and emergency medical services/transportation. I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure affordable, accessible health care in our communities.

## Supporting Our Senior Citizens and Senior Centers



Senior centers play a vital role in supporting the health and well-being of our senior citizens. I recently obtained much-needed and much-deserved grants for all 12 of the senior centers serving Cameron, McKean and Potter counties. Each center received \$25,000 to be used as their leadership saw fit, whether it was helping with utility bills and rent, building repairs or maintenance, equipment, supplies, meals and more.

The ceremonial \$100,000 check presented at the Oswayo Valley Senior Center to Potter County Human Services was split evenly among the county's four senior centers in Coudersport, Galeton, Shinglehouse and Ulysses. The ceremonial \$200,000 check presented to the Office of Human Services Area Agency on Aging at the Greater Bradford Senior Activity Center was split evenly among McKean County's six senior centers in Bradford, Eldred, Kane, Mt. Jewett, Port Allegany and Smethport, and Cameron County's two senior centers in Driftwood and Emporium.

Many thanks to our senior center directors and volunteers for their dedication!



# Celebrating Community Service

Our region is blessed with many volunteers and public servants who devote their time and even risk their lives to help their neighbors and keep our communities safe and running smoothly. Over the years, I've been blessed to know and honor many of these men and women for their service to our communities, and I wanted to share some of this year's recognitions.



Adeline Angevine for 50 years of service as Judge of Elections in Otto Township's second district.



Junior "Skip" Baker for 70 years of volunteer service to the Genesee Township Volunteer Fire/EMS Department Station 37.



Perley Bowen for more than 60 years of volunteer service with the Gale Hose Ambulance Company and Goodyear Hose Company No. 1. *Photo credit: Andy Lychalk Jr.*



Dan "Beans" Gustafson for 54 years of volunteer service to the Mt. Jewett Volunteer Fire Department.



Jim Long and Chief Dan Burkhouse for 50 years of service to the Bradford Township Volunteer Fire Department. *Photo credit: Jay Bradish.*



Dr. Jill Owens, who was presented with the SARAH Award from the Bradford Hospital Foundation.



Sally Scrivo for many years of service as an emergency medical technician and EMS instructor.



Hamlin Township Volunteer Fire Department for 50 years of service to the community.



Kettle Creek Hose Company No. 1 for 50 years of service to the community.



Port Area Ambulance Service for 50 years of service to the community. *Photo credit: Pam Fischer.*



Tri-County Fire School for 60 years of training firefighters across the region. *Photo credit: Jay Bradish.*





## Advocating for Pennsylvania Energy

Pennsylvania is already an energy powerhouse, but we have the potential for so much more! I was pleased to join fellow lawmakers and advocates for the state's energy industry for a press conference in the Main Capitol Rotunda to mark Natural Gas and Oil Day. With growing concerns about the reliability of our electric grid, especially as energy demands increase due in part to the expansion of data centers to support AI development, we need reliable and consistent sources of energy now more than ever.

### Celebrating Seniors in Emporium



Congratulations to the Emporium Senior Center on another great Senior Expo in June.

### State Budget Update

At the time of this writing, the Commonwealth's 2025-26 state budget remains unresolved. The level of spending remains a key sticking point, as the governor is proposing to spend well beyond the amount of revenue we anticipate collecting this fiscal year.

We must work to grow our state's economy, unleash the full potential of our energy industry, and eliminate waste and fraud in government programs. I will continue to advocate for a final plan that supports the core functions of government and respects the taxpayers who foot the bill.

## More Retirees Eligible for Reduced-Fee Vehicle Registration

A new state law I supported to allow more Pennsylvania retirees to qualify for a reduction in their vehicle registration took effect late last year.

The benefit is now available to retired persons earning up to \$29,906, an increase of more than \$10,000 from the prior income eligibility limit. Those who qualify will pay a \$12 processing fee to register their vehicle each year, rather than the standard \$48 registration fee.

Qualified applicants must be retired and receiving Social Security or other pension payments. Please note, 100% of a veterans' benefit payment or payment to the unmarried surviving spouse, upon the death of a veteran, should be excluded from the income calculation.

The applicant must be listed as an owner on the vehicle's registration and only one vehicle per qualified applicant may be registered for the reduced fee. Qualifying vehicles must be a passenger car or truck with a registered gross weight of not more than 9,000 pounds.

Contact one of my offices for assistance.

## Application Deadline Extended for 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The deadline for senior citizens and Pennsylvanians with disabilities to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2024 has been **extended to Dec. 31**.

Income limits for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program increased this year to \$46,520 for both homeowners and renters. If you were earning too much to qualify before, you may be eligible now. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The law I supported to expand the program also increased the maximum rebate to \$1,000.

The program is open to residents age 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older.

Remember – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Apply online at [my.path.pa.gov](https://my.path.pa.gov), or contact my offices for help.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**MARTIN CAUSER**  
67<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SUMMER 2025

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P.O. Box 202067  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2067  
Phone: 717-787-5075

Join Us for  
**SENIOR CITIZENS EXPOS!**

If you didn't make it to the Bradford Senior Citizens Expo earlier this month, you have two more opportunities to access a wide range of information in one convenient location.

**KANE**  
**SENIOR CITIZENS EXPO**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 12**  
9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Kane Community Center, 46 N. Fraley St., Kane

**ROULETTE**  
**Senior Citizens Expo**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 10**  
9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Roulette Fire Hall, 12 River St., Roulette

**New Liberty Bell License Plates**

*NOW AVAILABLE*



Pennsylvania vehicle owners can now order new state license plates featuring the Liberty Bell, the quintessential symbol of the Commonwealth and our nation's independence. Perfect timing as we prepare to mark the nation's 250th birthday next year!

The new style is available for standard vehicles and trucks, including personalized plates. If you switch from a specialty plate (like a military, organization or special fund plate), it will be replaced with a standard plate in the new design.

PennDOT's partners, such as dealers and online messengers, will use all existing standard issue license plate inventory before transitioning to the new plate design. If you want to ensure you receive the new plate design, order directly through PennDOT. The new license plates are optional for drivers with current license plates.

The cost for the new plate is \$14.