

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN CAUSER



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## Continuing the Fight for Rural Health Care

By far, one of the most important issues facing our region – and much of rural America – is access to health care.

We've seen several reductions in services at area hospitals, with the most recent being the end of labor and delivery services at Warren General Hospital. That means the "maternity care desert" in our area now stands at eight counties. This is not safe or sustainable for expectant mothers or their children.

In the Legislature we have been and will continue working to support our rural hospitals and health care providers so they can provide needed care to our residents. In our most recent state budget, we approved an additional \$10 million in funding for rural hospitals, along with more than \$13.5 million for financially distressed hospitals. Additionally, the federal government recently approved nearly \$200 million in funding for the state's Rural Health Transformation Program.

The House passed legislation I co-sponsored to create a grant program that would provide funding to approved health care facilities to pay the education debt of practitioners they employ. That bill is pending consideration in the Senate. I have also authored legislation that would create a grant program for distressed hospitals.

Health care is the top issue I hear about from so many of you, and I share your concerns. Rest assured that I, along with other rural representatives and senators across the state, are committed to fighting for health care access in our communities.

## Bill to Close Loophole, Better Protect Children

In the wake of 2-year-old Oakley Hedlund's death in Bradford last year, I introduced legislation that aims to better protect children against convicted child abusers.

The man accused in Oakley's death – his father – had recently completed a 40-month sentence on charges of endangering the welfare of a child and reckless endangerment of another person. Because he had served his full sentence in that case, he was released without any further supervision.

My bill, **House Bill 2075**, would impose a mandatory period of post-release supervision for any offender convicted of a crime involving a minor child, even if the offender has served the maximum term of imprisonment imposed by the court. Closing this major loophole in our justice system is an important step toward achieving that goal.

I am also co-sponsoring two other bills that would address the tragedy of child abuse by creating a registry of convicted abusers and establishing the offense of child torture. All three bills are pending consideration in the House Judiciary Committee.

## Energy, Economic Improvements Part of PA Budget Deal

The 2025-26 state budget package included some vital policy changes I believe will greatly benefit our region and the Commonwealth in the years ahead.

Most notably, this year's budget finally removes roadblocks and puts policies in place that will allow our energy industry to reach its full potential.

Pennsylvania has always been an energy powerhouse, but we've missed out on thousands of jobs and billions in economic growth in recent years because of slow permitting and the threat of higher costs associated with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The budget agreement set new standards for permitting and permanently removed the state from RGGI.

Energy is the key to our region's future, as well as the future of the Commonwealth and our nation. With increased electrification and the growth of data centers, the demand for electricity is rising. Costs are rising as well, but the reliability of our electric grid is declining because of policies that have discouraged new generation. The changes made in the budget agreement will allow us to pursue initiatives that increase supply, strengthen the grid and lower costs for consumers.



Congratulations and thanks to Chris Darling and the Darling's Family of Services upon the opening of the new Coudersport Pharmacy, located at 101 N. Main St.



It was great celebrating the new Cameron County Chamber of Commerce Economic Innovation Center in Emporium!



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

SPRING 2026

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## Upcoming Event

### DCED GRANT SEMINAR

for Local Governments and  
Nonprofit Organizations

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 5-7 P.M.**

Smethport Fire Hall | 109 S. Nelson St., Smethport

RSVP at [www.RepCauser.com](http://www.RepCauser.com) or  
call 814-362-4400.

## Save the Dates FOR OUR SENIOR EXPOS!

**FRIDAY, AUG. 7**

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 11**

Kane Community Center

**FRIDAY, OCT. 9**

Roulette Fire Hall

## A Century of Agriculture!



Robert and Julie Cospers's Keating Township, McKean County, farm was officially designated a Century Farm by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.



I presented a citation from the House of Representatives to Lowell and Virginia Geiser of Forest View Evergreen Tree Farms in Germana, Potter County, in recognition of its 100th anniversary.