



STATE SENATOR  
**Tom Killion**

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## Providing Help During the Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unparalleled crisis for the world, our nation and our state. This crisis has tragically caused many deaths, much sickness and countless hardships for Pennsylvania's families.

While this pandemic resulted in an unprecedented and disastrous situation for Pennsylvania, it also led to an unprecedented response from our state government.

In March, I joined fellow lawmakers in passing emergency legislation to help with the COVID-19 crisis, including:

- \$50 million for Personal Protection Equipment and supplies for healthcare facilities (House Bill 1232)
- Additional unemployment compensation eligibility for workers affected by the pandemic (House Bill 68)
- Flexibility for our schools to finish the academic year (Senate Bill 751)
- A later date for the spring Primary to give election officials more time to prepare (Senate Bill 422)

As the crisis unfolded over the last few months, a \$2.6 billion COVID-19 Impact Recovery Plan was advanced in Harrisburg with federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (or CARES) Act resources. I voted in favor of several pieces of legislation that provided this much-needed pandemic assistance:

- \$692 million for long-term living services providers
- \$625 million for counties that did not receive a direct subsidy from the federal government
- \$260 million for providers of intellectual disability and autism services
- \$225 million to help Pennsylvania's small businesses recover
- \$175 million to provide rent and mortgage assistance to low- and middle-income families impacted by the pandemic
- \$150 million to help school districts meet the challenges created by COVID-19 through school safety and security funding
- \$116 million for childcare services



*Senator Killion discusses the challenges facing Pennsylvania.*

- \$72.2 million to support higher education students
- \$50 million to support first responders
- \$40 million for agricultural and food insecurity programs
- \$28 million for community programs, including domestic violence programs (\$10 million), homeless assistance (\$10 million) and legal services (\$8 million)
- \$20 million for cultural and museum organizations
- \$9 million for early childhood education programs (\$7 million for Pre-K Counts and \$2 million for Head Start Supplemental Assistance)

In addition, my offices provided an incredible amount of services throughout the crisis. Even though my staff worked remotely during the height of the pandemic, we fielded over 5,000 inquiries during that time, including several hundred individuals asking for assistance with unemployment benefits. This was a record for our offices.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented extraordinary challenges for our state. I am pleased we were able to address many of these challenges and provide help for local families during the crisis.

# Healing, Unity and Reform in the Aftermath of George Floyd's Death

The killing of George Floyd on May 25 in Minneapolis has led to many things. Mr. Floyd's horrific death spurred peaceful protests and riots around the country, but it also sparked a national conversation on race relations and police reforms.

During my time as a public servant, I have supported efforts to ensure fairness in our criminal justice system. In December, Governor Tom Wolf signed my justice reform legislation to provide new probation and parole opportunities for nonviolent offenders instead of incarceration.

I have also had the privilege of meeting hundreds of men and women who serve in our police departments. The overwhelming majority of them serve with distinction and honor. They are committed to being a positive, constructive influence and they stand ready to make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of those they serve.

In the aftermath of the George Floyd tragedy, we must reevaluate and reform how law enforcement interacts with communities of color. I believe this is a healthy and needed conversation as our country strives for a renewed sense of fairness in our criminal justice system.

Shortly after Mr. Floyd was killed and charges were filed against

the police officers involved with his death, the Pennsylvania Senate held a hearing on the treatment of minorities by law enforcement. As a member of the Senate Law and Justice Committee, I participated in this important hearing.

During the hearing, we heard from minority communities, law enforcement and judicial system officials. We listened as individuals testified about the inequities experienced by communities of color, the challenges facing our police officers and the changes needed in our justice system. It is my hope that this hearing will help serve as a basis for policing reforms in our state.

The death of George Floyd has required our country to reexamine its treatment of minority communities and to reassess race relations and policing tactics. I am optimistic positive changes will result from this tragedy.

As your Senator, I am committed to doing everything possible to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all people regardless of the color of their skin. I will also continue to support our police officers who risk their lives to protect our families.

Let this now be a time of healing, unity and reform for our country and our state.

## Historic Education Funding Maintained in New State Budget

The economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the loss of billions of dollars in state revenue. Despite this fact, the General Assembly passed a new budget that maintains last year's historic levels of state education funding without any tax increases.

Pennsylvania's new \$25.8 billion budget, passed in late May by the Senate and signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf, is an interim spending plan for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year which starts July 1. It funds state operations for the next five months but includes a full year of education funding.

An interim spending plan is necessary for two important reasons. First, tax filing deadlines have been moved to July 15, making it difficult to determine the amount of revenue available to fund our state's budget. Second, revenue projections will become clearer as our economy rebounds from the pandemic over the next several months. We will also be watching for additional funding from the federal government.

It should be noted that this interim budget means the General Assembly will need to pass an additional state spending plan by the end of November.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, educa-



*Senator Killion speaks with local schoolchildren.*

tion funding is my top priority in Pennsylvania's budget. I am glad we are continuing last year's record state investment in our schools despite our uncertain economic situation. Our students, teachers and parents must know we fully support them during these difficult times.

### School Funding in 2020-2021 State Budget

- **Kennett Consolidated SD – \$7,721,662**
- **Unionville-Chadds Ford SD – \$5,059,797**
- **West Chester Area SD – \$14,052,861**
- **Chester-Upland SD – \$87,208,155**
- **Chichester SD – \$13,490,453**
- **Garnet Valley SD – \$6,212,027**
- **Penn-Delco SD – \$8,543,733**
- **Ridley SD – \$15,895,769**
- **Rose Tree Media SD – \$4,922,118**
- **Wallingford-Swarthmore – \$5,649,149**



### Monthly Veterans Assistance

Fourth Wednesday of Every month

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Senator Killion's Delaware County Office  
4110 Edgmont Avenue, Brookhaven, PA

I have partnered with the Pennsylvania American Legion to assist veterans with issues on a monthly basis. This organization provides a representative at my Brookhaven district office to help veterans and their families with questions about benefits and programs. Please call the Brookhaven office at 610-447-3163 to make an appointment.

# Ensuring Quality Healthcare for Families

As our country and state continue to rebuild from the coronavirus pandemic, it is more important than ever to ensure that Pennsylvania's families have the healthcare coverage they need.

I am the co-sponsor of two key healthcare measures to protect residents:

- **Requiring Pre-Existing Condition Coverage** – This legislation prohibits health insurance companies from using an individual's pre-existing medical condition to deny or exclude coverage under a health insurance policy. This is Senate Bill 50.
- **Allowing Young Adults to Stay on Parents' Plans** – This legislation allows young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance plans until the age of 26. This is Senate Bill 982.

Last year, I was proud to vote for Pennsylvania's historic new healthcare reform law. This law, Act 42 of 2019, creates an online insurance exchange for Pennsylvania residents. This new online marketplace will reduce the cost of insurance coverage and will save residents hundreds of millions of dollars every year. Our new insurance exchange will soon be operational and offer-

ing coverage options for families.

In addition, I am currently working on a legislative proposal to reduce the costs of prescription drugs. The United States has the highest prescription drug costs in the world. We need to do everything we can to make these medications more affordable for



Pennsylvania residents. I will be introducing my new prescription drug legislation in the near future.

Healthcare must be accessible and affordable. I will continue to make this a priority as your Senator.

# Safely Restarting Our Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unimaginable health crisis for our state, but it has also been an unmatched economic crisis. Pennsylvania has seen a record 2.5 million residents seeking unemployment compensation in just a few short months, and massive numbers of small businesses have applied for government loans and grants to help stay afloat.

As Chairman of the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, in April I held the state's first hearing on the government's response to the crisis. This hearing was conducted jointly with the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

The joint hearing included testimony from Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of the Department of Health; Dennis Davin, Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development; Randy Padfield, Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; and numerous individuals and stakeholders representing the business community. The testimony offered at the hearing provided valuable information that the General Assembly used for successfully crafting legislative responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

Later in the spring, I shepherded legislation through my committee aimed at safely reopening parts of Pennsylvania's economy. With bipartisan votes, we passed House Bills 2388 and 2412. These bills provided for the safe reopening of vehicle dealers, lawn and garden centers, cosmetology salons, bar-



*Senator Killion co-chaired one of the country's first legislative hearings on the coronavirus pandemic.*

ber shops, messenger and agent services, animal grooming services, manufacturing operations, real estate businesses and legal services by following guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Pennsylvania Department of Health.

I am pleased to see in recent weeks Democratic and Republican elected officials working together toward safely restarting Pennsylvania's economy as counties move through Governor Tom Wolf's red, yellow and green reopening phases. While nothing is more important than the safety of our citizens, we must and can protect both lives and livelihoods as we chart a path forward from the COVID-19 crisis.



## RESOURCES FOR PANDEMIC RECOVERY

Visit [SenatorKillion.com](http://SenatorKillion.com) for the latest information on how we can help you and your family recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. You will find a resource guide, information on continuing unemployment benefits, news and videos on how Pennsylvania is responding to this crisis along with many other helpful tools.

## Protecting Our Families, Communities and the Environment

The General Assembly's current two-year legislative session, which concludes at the end of this year, has been very productive.

One of the new laws I authored during this legislative session expands CPR training in our high schools, and another provides major criminal justice reforms in Pennsylvania by focusing on probation and parole for nonviolent offenders instead of incarceration.

While we are approaching the fourth quarter of our legislative session, I will continue to champion bills I have proposed over the last two years, including:

- **Stopping Repeat DUI Offenders with Deana's Law** – This legislation (Senate Bill 773) is named after Deana Eckman, a Brookhaven resident who was tragically killed by a repeat drunk driver on February 16, 2019. This bill creates tougher penalties for repeat drunk drivers and requires offenders to wear Continuous Alcohol Monitoring Devices.
- **Reducing Gun Violence with a Red Flag Law** - My legislation would allow our courts to issue Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Pennsylvania to temporarily remove firearms from disturbed and dangerous individuals. These laws are working in nineteen other states and the District of Columbia to reduce gun suicides and mass shootings. My Red Flag Law (Senate Bill 90) is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- **Shutting Down Puppy Mills with Victoria's Law** – This legislation would help shut down the puppy mill pipeline in our state by requiring pet stores to only sell animals from shelters and rescues. Victoria's Law (Senate Bill 44) has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- **Protecting Our Environment and Expanding Renewable Energy** – I am the prime sponsor or co-prime sponsor of three bills that expand renewable energy, including solar and wind resources. One bill would convert Pennsylvania to one hundred percent renewable energy. These legislative proposals on renewable energy include Senate Bills 600 and 630.
- **Helping Communities with Pipeline Safety Laws** – I am the prime sponsor or co-prime sponsor of over a dozen pipeline safety bills. One of my legislative proposals, Senate Bill 284, requires pipeline companies to provide their emergency response plans to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and county emergency response officials. This



Senator Killion speaks at a Moms Demand Action rally for his Red Flag gun safety legislation at the state Capitol last year.

bill passed in committee and awaits a final vote by the full Senate.

- **Empowering Citizens to Create Legislative Districts** – Instead of politicians controlling how legislative districts are created, my proposal empowers citizens to create fair districts for our elections. This legislation (Senate Bill 1023) awaits action in the Senate State Government Committee.
- **Allowing Loved Ones to Inherit Digital Property** – My legislation allows digital property to be left to loved ones after we die. This would include our treasured digital photo collections, family videos, music and book collections, among other property stored on the cloud. My Digital Property Law (Senate Bill 320) passed the Senate and awaits action by the House of Representatives.
- **Protecting Families from Dangerous Dogs** – My legislation fixes a loophole in state law to better allow for the prosecution of the owners of dangerous dogs that commit unprovoked attacks on children and others. My Dangerous Dog Law (Senate Bill 798) was passed by the Senate and sent to the House of Representatives.

My colleagues and I have worked to enhance the quality of life in our communities during this legislative session, yet more must be done. While it is not uncommon for important bills to take years to enact, I am committed to continue building bipartisan support for my legislative proposals no matter how long it takes to get them to the Governor's desk.

### How I Can Help

- Unemployment compensation issues
- SEPTA Key Senior Photo IDs
- Free notary service
- Pennsylvania birth certificates
- PennDOT assistance with drivers' licenses and forms
- Help with preparation of Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- Assistance with PA insurance programs: Medical Assistance and CHIP
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Pennsylvania personal income tax forms
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Citations from the Pennsylvania Senate for notable local accomplishments and milestones
- Fishing and hunting information
- Pennsylvania road maps
- Assistance with all state agency issues

### Sign Up for My E-Newsletter and Follow Us on Social Media

Visit [SenatorKillion.com](http://SenatorKillion.com) to have my newsletter sent to you by email. You are able to do this in the "Contact" page of the website. Also, my website has lots of great information that you may find useful.

#### "Like" and "Follow Us" on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Connecting with us on social media is a great way to stay updated about local news, events in our communities and how state government is working for our families.

### Contact Me at Any Time

Feel free to contact me by email at [tkillion@pasen.gov](mailto:tkillion@pasen.gov) if I can be of assistance. You may also contact one of my offices for help.

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