



# Senator Lisa M. **BOSCOLA**

*Independent • Effective • Working to Make a Difference*

**WINTER 2022**

## **Fighting** for the **18<sup>th</sup> District!**

An independent voice fighting for common sense solutions to help hard working families and business owners in these challenging times.



*Inside*

Redistricting & the Fight for the 18th  
2021 By the Numbers...  
Boscola Legislation on the Move

# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

**\$30,061,634**

**Grant Funding** in the 18th District

**4,762** Constituents

**Served** PTTR, stimulus questions, notary work, P-EBT, small business grants, COVID rent relief, where to get vaccinated, etc.



**2,296**

**Resolved Unemployment Compensation Cases**



**75** Boscola Bulletin eNewsletters sent out to constituents in the 18th District providing updates,

information & assistance with state-related matters

## Awards and Acknowledgements

### Legislative Champion Award

The **Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) Legislative Champion** Award acknowledged the commitment of Senator Boscola for her work in sponsoring legislation for and championing the Nurse Licensure Compact.

### 2021 Legislator of the Year Award Lehigh Valley Labor Council

It has been Senator Boscola's honor to stand side by side with organized labor to fight for the issues of importance of working Pennsylvanians.

### Defender of Democracy Award

Senator Boscola was presented with the '**Empowering Voters - Defender of Democracy**' Award in April 2021 by Fair Districts of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters for her relentless efforts in redistricting reform since 2002.



## New State Senate Maps approved by Redistricting Commission

On February 4th, the Legislative Reapportionment Commission approved new maps for the next decade. These Senate maps are nothing more than a schizophrenically, Harrisburg drawn back-room assault on the Lehigh Valley. It should really come as no surprise to any of us because for more than 3 decades Lehigh Valley communities have been disrespected as the political playground for faceless powerbrokers from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg.

The maps were gerrymandered again. In fact, the initial proposal sought to break up the City of Bethlehem and merge it with a portion of the City of Allentown. I testified before the Commission seeking to keep Bethlehem united and explained that this process routinely disregards communities of interest in the 18th district – and this time was no different.

At the outset, this process was celebrated by many as open and transparent; but honestly, it was a sham. The Commission disregarded the Pennsylvania Constitution by breaking up communities unnecessarily. They ignored proposed maps from independent groups like Fair Districts and the compelling testimony from residents of the Lehigh Valley. Openly encouraging input only to have it fall on deaf ears.

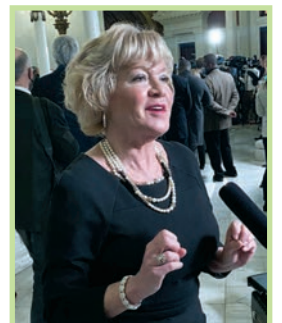
Politicians picking voters is wrong and I will continue my advocacy to take the politics out of this process. We need an independent commission to draw these maps to better protect our communities and our democracy. We need to start today demanding change. I have introduced several bills which enjoy bipartisan support that would create such an independent process.

## Boscola Reacts to Governor's Budget Address

The Governor's 2022-23 budget did offer some positive initiatives. The proposal to add an additional \$1.25 billion in education funding through the fair funding formula and another \$300 million in Level Up funding will help some seriously underfunded school districts in the Lehigh Valley. As a prime sponsor of legislation to expedite the use of the fair funding formula to fund Pennsylvania schools, the Governor's proposal to invest more into the fair funding formula will better direct our education funds where they belong.

I am disappointed however, in the Governor's proposal to raid the property tax relief fund. The Property Tax Relief Fund was created when gaming was introduced into Pennsylvania. When the table games were legalized, a provision was inserted that requires taxes generated from table games to go into the Property Tax Relief Fund when our rainy-day fund exceeds \$750 million. Our rainy-day fund is healthy, it holds \$2.8 billion, so an additional \$130 million should be headed to property tax relief. This would amount to a 20% increase in property tax relief that would be shared by homeowners across PA. This money needs to get into the pockets of homeowners not the abyss that is Pennsylvania's general fund.

The real work on our state budget starts now. This Legislature needs to craft a responsible, bipartisan, spending plan that meets the needs of Pennsylvania today and helps lay the foundation for a brighter better future. The good news is that both Democrats and Republicans have agreed that this year's state budget would not include a tax increase for the residents of this Commonwealth.







# LEGISLATION *on the move...*

## The Nurse Licensure Compact Signed Into Law (Act 68)



Earlier this year, my legislation ([Senate Bill 115](#)) that cuts red tape to get more nurses licensed in Pennsylvania was signed into law as [Act 68](#) of 2021.

By joining the Compact, Pennsylvania is better able to meet the health care needs of our residents. The Nurse Licensure Compact allows nurses to have one multistate license with the ability to practice in all compact states – via telemedicine or in person. This means a nurse from any one of the 34 other compact states can more easily get licensed in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania now becomes a better option for all nursing graduates. With so many excellent nursing schools, I believe joining the compact makes a Pennsylvania nursing license more valuable and better empowers nurses.

## \$75 Million Economic Recovery Grant Program (Senate Bill 977)

On December 15th, the Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee reported out my legislation, [Senate Bill 977](#), that would continue to support Pennsylvania's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

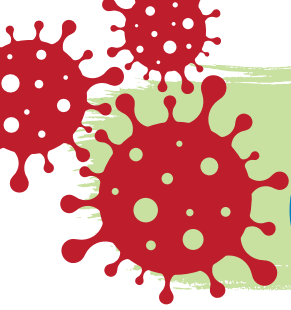
Senate Bill 977 would create a new \$75 million economic recovery grant program within the Commonwealth Financing Authority to assist projects across the Commonwealth that were not fully funded, not funded at all through other state programs, or that need additional dollars because Covid has impacted costs.

## Infant Opioid Addiction Reporting (Senate Bill 936)

This bill was unanimously approved in January by the Senate Aging and Youth Committee. It would ensure the coordination of reporting through the Department of Human Services, which would track that information and break it down by county. Better data will allow us to be more aggressive in combating the opioid epidemic where it is located. This data will help us understand the communities most impacted by the epidemic.

**SENATOR BOSCOLA'S**  
**SB337**  
*approved*  
BY COMMITTEE

**IF SIGNED INTO LAW**  
THIS BILL WOULD INCREASE THE  
FINE FOR KILLING, INJURING OR  
UNLAWFULLY TAKING A  
*Bald OR Golden Eagle*  
IN PENNSYLVANIA



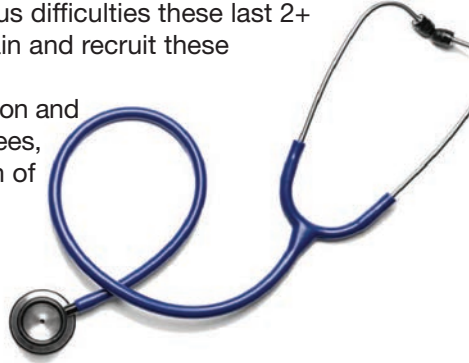
# *Continued* **COVID ASSISTANCE**

## **\$225 Million in Funding for Hospitals & Health Care Providers**

Late January, legislation passed that provided \$225 million in funding to Pennsylvania hospitals and health care networks.

Funding our frontline healthcare workers here in Pennsylvania is crucial. The frontline employees faced tremendous difficulties these last 2+ years and we needed this funding to retain and recruit these valuable employees.

\$100 million is allocated for the retention and recruitment of direct care hospital employees, \$110 million for recruitment and retention of staff at behavioral health providers, high Medicaid hospitals, and critical access hospitals. There will also be a \$15 million allocation to PHEAA for further loan forgiveness for Pennsylvania nurses.



## **Boscola Bill Would Provide More Funding for Main Street Business Revitalization Program**

Our small businesses are hurting. Recently, I introduced legislation to appropriate \$500 million of the approximately \$2.4 billion remaining from the Commonwealth's American Rescue Plan funds to assist small businesses through the Main Street Business Revitalization Program. This program helped many of our businesses survive the pandemic, now we need to use it to help them thrive.

Small businesses are the backbone of our communities. They support our little leagues and various youth programs, donate their goods and services for school and other community fundraisers. When our small businesses succeed,

our communities win. Many of these mom and pop, main street businesses still need our help.

This proposal would direct \$500 million of funds in the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account to the Department of Community and Economic Development for distribution to community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other economic development organizations to provide support and assistance to small businesses through the Main Street Business Revitalization Program.

Making sure we take care of these businesses that continue to take care of our communities is imperative.



## **School Funding and Property Tax Updates**

I remain a proponent of eliminating homeowner property taxes and replacing them with a combination of sales and personal incomes tax increases. In fact, I introduced a constitutional amendment to get a question on the ballot calling for the end of property taxes by a certain date and requiring the legislature to come up with a solution. Unfortunately, the bill was tabled.

Eliminating property taxes and not requiring any new dollars to be spent in Pennsylvania's fair funding formula will only continue the under-funding of schools here in the Lehigh Valley. The Basic Education Funding Formula is the single largest education funding stream in the state budget. While this new Basic Education Funding Formula was met with universal praise, its implementation has been remarkably disappointing especially to areas such as the Lehigh Valley.

A faster implementation of the new fair funding formula must be balanced with the political reality that some elected officials would be voting to reduce money to their school districts. My proposal, Senate Bill 123, recognizes that this cannot be done overnight but needs to be done more quickly.

There is nothing "fair" about the current system. We must find a quicker and more effective way to push money through the new fairer funding formula. It's not fair to our homeowners who have to pay more than they should. It is not fair to our students who are being shorted the money due their schools. And it's not fair to our teachers and administrators who are trying to make do with inadequate funding.



# Around the Community

**1** Senator Boscola celebrates a \$10,000 donation to the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts received from Verizon.



**2**

**2** Senator Boscola always loves a beautiful day for a Halloween parade! Here she celebrates with the Bethlehem Fire Department at the City of Bethlehem Halloween Parade.



**3** Senator Boscola with Kevin Lott, Business Agent Lehigh Valley Carpenters Union, and friends at the LV Labor Council Dinner where Senator Boscola was honored to receive the 2021 Legislator of the Year award.



**4**

**4** Senator Boscola is always proud of her Portuguese heritage – especially at the Portuguese Flag Raising Ceremony at City Hall.



**6**

**5** Senator Boscola visits with Wilson Police Chief, Chris Meehan, to discuss the new body camera system the Department purchased with a \$50,000 grant from Senator Boscola.



**5**

**6** Senator Boscola celebrates the ground breaking of the Commodore Building in Easton. She helped secure \$3 million in RACP funding for this project.



**7** Senator Boscola was honored to participate in the opening of the new environmentally conscious warehouse of C.F. Martin Guitar.



**7**

**8** Senator Boscola “steps up to the plate” to combat hunger in PA at the Capital All-Stars Game!



**9**

**9** Senator Boscola discusses the ongoing efforts to pass Christine’s Law, my Snow & Ice legislation, with the Lambert family at Palmer Community Days. *Call your State Representative & urge them to pass SB114.*



**8**

**1**





**State Senator**  
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## Boscola Co-Chairs Hearing to Highlight Sustainability in the Lehigh Valley

This past October, I had the pleasure to Co-Chair a bipartisan hearing of the Senate Economy, Business and Jobs Caucus at Lafayette College to highlight the sustainable business practices our local companies are implementing. A who's who of Lehigh Valley companies were eager to share their efforts to protect our environment, including PPL Electric, UGI Corporation, Martin Guitar, Crayola, Volvo, MCS Industries, LafargeHolcim and B. Braun Medical, Inc.

The message was clear. Our business community values our environment, especially here in the Lehigh Valley. They are actively working hard to protect it. For example, Crayola testified that they have been landfill free since 2012, which means all of the waste is recycled, reused or repurposed through different company initiatives.



Whether the practices were shifting fleets of trucks to electric motors, applying solar panels to roofs to power buildings or any number of other initiatives companies are working hard to protect our local environment. I am working with these companies and with colleagues on both sides of the aisle on some legislative initiatives that will help these companies reach their sustainability goals.

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