

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Office of Legislative Information  
G-05, South Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jim Barnes (717) 787-7895

HARRISBURG, Oct. 12 -- More than seven out of 10 persons who responded to a recent poll in Erie's 2nd Legislative District said they support a proposed Family and Medical Leave Act that is now pending before the state legislature, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca.

A total of 72.6 percent of the survey respondents said they favor the legislation, another 21.6 percent were opposed and the remainder were undecided, Cappabianca reports.

The bill, which was passed by the House late last month, would provide eligible employees with up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a newborn child or a close family member who is seriously ill or for a serious injury or illness to the employee.

Approved mainly along party lines, the bill is now lodged in the state Senate.

"I would hope many of the Senators who are in doubt about this legislation would read this poll, or polls in their own districts, as a sign of solid support for the idea," said Cappabianca who voted for the family leave bill. "It would greatly improve our chances of getting family and medical leave enacted this year."

Cappabianca's poll also tallied solid majorities who favor a \$200 million bond issue on the November ballot to improve and expand county prisons (66.8% in favor); who support Cappabianca's legislation that would give homeowners the right to reject gas meter reading devices that would connect to their home phone lines (68.2 percent support the bill); and who oppose any further delays in the construction of breakwalls at Presque Isle State Park in order to study the zebra mussel problem (58.6 percent oppose further delay).

Cappabianca, D-Erie, said his poll also disclosed a considerable amount of uncertainty about the benefits of the state's new auto insurance law.

When asked, "Based upon what you have read and heard about the new law, would you say it is generally of benefit to the public or not?,"

-more-

43 percent said it benefits the public, and 41 percent said it doesn't. Another 16 percent of the respondents had no opinion on the question.

"The answers to this question suggest that many people had not yet received their auto insurance renewals which list the savings motorists can obtain under the new law," Cappabianca observed.

"The fact that another 16 percent had no opinion also reinforces the belief that the benefits of the new law have not been made widely known to people."

Cappabianca said his office at 1216 W. 26th St. in Erie has informational brochures that will help explain the new law to interested persons. He asked that people write or visit the office or call 453-7639 to obtain copies of the material.

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R:10129001.02



ITALO S. CAPPABIANCA, MEMBER  
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#### COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES, CHAIRMAN  
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CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON SMALL BUSINESS  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
POLICY

## House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

June 12, 1990

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

I want to thank you for your interest in the newsletter I sent to you earlier this year. I hope it provided you with some useful and interesting information about issues and events in the current session of the state House of Representatives.

I especially want to thank those of you who responded to the questionnaire contained in the newsletter. Your responses were very helpful in providing me with a sense of the opinions the residents of the 2nd Legislative District have on the questions presented.

For your information, here is a summary of the questions and their responses:

1. Favor or oppose raising the speed limit on rural portions of the turnpike to 65 mph?  
Favor – 50.4%    Oppose – 46.8%    No opinion – 2.8%
2. Favor or oppose increasing term of state House members from two years to four?  
Favor – 51.4%    Oppose – 40.1%    No opinion – 8.5%
3. Which best describes your view?  
State should be more involved against drugs..... 65.7%  
State should be less involved against drugs..... 2.2%  
State's current efforts about what they should be ..... 21.4%  
No Opinion ..... 10.7%
4. Favor or oppose holding lottery drawings on Sunday?  
Favor – 41.1%    Oppose – 49.5%    No opinion – 9.4%
5. Favor or oppose a modest entrance fee to state parks?  
Favor – 26.7%    Oppose – 71.5%    No opinion – 1.8%
6. Favor or oppose state park user fees like swimming fees, etc.?  
Favor – 9.0%    Oppose – 89.1%    No opinion – 1.9%
7. Favor or oppose parking fees at state parks?  
Favor – 10.8%    Oppose – 87.4%    No opinion – 1.8%

If you have any questions regarding the newsletter or this survey – or any other matter where I can be helpful – please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Italo'.

Italo S. Cappabianca

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POLICY

## House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG  
August 2, 1990

Dear Friend and Neighbor:

I'm happy to report that after years of legislative effort, a bill I co-sponsored to save money for older persons on their medical bills has now become law.

The MOM bill, as it's called, means that you and others in your age group cannot be charged more than the reasonable cost established by Medicare for your visits to the doctor's office when they're covered by Medicare.

It's as simple as that. No ifs, ands, or buts.

When you consider that the average annual income for people over 65 years old is less than \$7,600 and that health care costs consume nearly one third of their income, you can see what a relief this will be to Medicare participants. Only about 35 percent of physicians always accept Medicare's reasonable allowed charge as payment in full. House Bill 700 will ensure that from now on all doctors in Pennsylvania will honor their part of the Medicare agreement.

In addition to physicians, the new law also applies to dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, pharmacists, physical therapists, professional nurses and psychologists, among others.

I'm proud to have been a co-sponsor of this legislation and to have helped get it through the legislature. Governor Casey deserves credit, too, for having put MOM at the top of his legislative priority list and working for its passage.

Not everybody gets the word, though, and that's where I can be of help. If you find that your doctor or other health care practitioner doesn't know about the law -- or continues to charge above Medicare rates -- let me know. The law provides for penalties ranging from public reprimand to stiff fines up to \$5,000 or more for non-compliance.

As Governor Casey said when he signed the bill, our concern for older Pennsylvanians stems from an ancient injunction that is part of our heritage: "Honor thy father and thy mother."

May Pennsylvania continue to lead the country in respecting the contributions earlier generations have made to our nation and our state.

Sincerely,

  
Italo S. Cappabianca  
State Representative

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Office of Legislative Information  
G-05, South Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jim Barnes (717) 787-7895

HARRISBURG, Sept. 16 -- Almost nine out of 10 women who responded to a recent poll in Erie's Second Legislative District said they support a family and medical leave law such as the one recently passed by Congress.

According to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca who conducted the mail survey in his legislative district, 89.3 percent said they favor a plan of limited unpaid employment leave for the birth or adoption of a child or to care for a close family member who is seriously ill. Only 5.4 percent were opposed to family leave.

More than 400 people responded to the survey which was contained in a newsletter on women's issues and sent to female voters of the district.

Congress has passed the family leave bill and sent it to President Bush. Its provisions for unpaid leave would apply to those who work for companies with 50 or fewer employees.

An almost identical bill, co-sponsored by the Erie legislator, was approved by the Pennsylvania House early last year but has seen no further action in the state Senate.

Cappabianca said his survey results on family leave match those of every other survey he has seen on the issue, leading him to conclude that a veto by President Bush would be politically costly.

Bush has threatened to veto the Congressional bill despite bipartisan support for the proposal among members of the Pennsylvania delegation.

"I think it would hurt him badly with Pennsylvania women voters in November," said Cappabianca, "and may even cost him the state. A veto would not only fly in the face of overwhelming public support, it would cripple the credibility of the president's claim on family values."

In other findings reported from Cappabianca's poll, 79.5 percent of respondents believe sexual harassment "is a problem today," and 80.3 percent report experiencing gender bias in the workplace.

-more-

Eight out of 10 respondents (82.2 percent) believe the state should make financial incentives available to women who want to start or expand their own businesses, and 87.9 percent believe child care is a problem for working families.

A nearly equal number (88.8 percent) say mothers of young children are combining work and motherhood for the simple reason that families need the income. In addition, other motivations for working mothers include "personal fulfillment" (31 percent) and "career needs" (23.6 percent).

Women of the Second Legislative District also have multiple concerns with problems affecting young people in the district. Among the issues considered to be problems affecting youth in the district, respondents included teen pregnancy (76.2 percent), drinking (75 percent), drug use (78.1 percent), crime (80.5 percent) and youth homelessness (31.9 percent).

###jb

R:women.002

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

July 16, 1991

Dear Constituent:

In response to my recent newsletter on state government issues, many constituents wrote to me asking what happened to a \$350 million surplus the Casey Administration inherited upon taking office in 1987.

The most concise answer I can give you is that the funds were returned to individuals and businesses in the form of tax cuts and were also used to create new programs meeting critical needs of Pennsylvania.

Here's a more detailed rundown on state revenue surpluses and how they are handled in the budget process -- one that I hope satisfies your very legitimate and timely concern with this matter:

The Constitution of Pennsylvania in Article VIII, Section 14, states: "All surplus of operating funds at the end of the fiscal year shall be appropriated during the ensuing fiscal year by the General Assembly."

Thus, Pennsylvania is constitutionally bound either to spend any surplus or return it to the public in the form of reduced taxes. The current governor has followed this requirement as did his predecessor and every governor since the founding of the Commonwealth.

In fact, with the exception of this year's deficit brought on by the national recession, the current administration and the General Assembly have posted surpluses in every fiscal year since the former administration left office in 1987.

How would a \$350 million surplus have been appropriated? Here are actual uses that would account for or exceed such an amount:

FY 1987-88:	*Tax cuts to individuals and businesses --	\$95 million
FY 1989-90:	*Launched Pennfree anti-drug program --	\$90 million
	*Payment of special education debt to local schools accrued during previous administration --	\$99 million
	*Second year of tax cut --	\$95 million

July 16, 1991

Page 2

Since it recurs each year, the 87-88 tax cut would by now total some \$380 million in tax savings to individuals and businesses over the past four years.

Another important point on state finances: Pennsylvania's taxes on businesses and individuals have been cut 13 times in the past seven years, and their rates are lower now than they were during the previous administration.

Our current difficulties arose from a steep plunge in the national economy during the six-month period from October 1990 to March 1991. Since last October, when the recession began, state tax revenues have fallen by more than \$800 million and expenditures jumped more than \$500 million, largely for medical assistance costs and other human service needs for the poor and the growing number of jobless and underemployed persons.

Economists now tell us the recession is coming to an end. If that is true, it certainly will help ease the budget problem in Pennsylvania and in the large number of other states and cities that have been hard hit by the dormant national economy.

I'm pleased that you've taken the time to express your concerns to me. As we proceed with this year's budget deliberations in an especially difficult period for the state's economy, it's very valuable to me to have a broad, representative range of information and opinions from my constituents.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information or be of further help to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Italo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Italo S. Cappabianca  
State Representative

ISC/mjp

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

August 1, 1991

!inside\_address!

Dear !name!:

The responses to the questionnaire that accompanied my recent newsletter have been tabulated.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to those of you who took the time to return the questionnaire with your thoughts on the issues it covered and on other state government matters.

I believe you and many other residents of the Second Legislative District who received the newsletter would be interested in the survey results. Here are the tabulations:

1. A bill has been proposed to permit riverboat gambling on Pennsylvania waterways as a means of raising revenue for municipal and state government services. There would be a maximum limit of \$5 per wager and a \$200 limit on the amount any individual could lose on a riverboat trip. Overall, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

**Good Idea (49.8%)      Bad Idea (46.1%)      No Opinion (4.1%)**

2. Legislation has been introduced to provide parents a broader choice of where to send their children to elementary and high schools. Under the so-called "Schools of Choice" plan, parents would be given tuition credits up to \$900 to send a child to the public or private school of their choosing. Overall, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

**Good Idea (59.3%)      Bad Idea (37.7%)      No Opinion (3.0%)**

August 1, 1991

Page 2

3. ANSWER ONLY IF YOU ANSWERED GOOD IDEA TO QUESTION 2 OTHERWISE GO TO QUESTION 4. Would you support this concept knowing it would cost the state approximately \$300 million and would not result in lower property taxes?

Yes (80.1%) No (15.9%) No Opinion (4.0%)

4. To raise an estimated \$40 million for the state budget, a one-time tax amnesty has been proposed. Under this plan, individuals who owe taxes to the state would be absolved of any fines or penalties for tax evasion if they paid the full amount owed during the declared amnesty period. Overall, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

Good Idea (61.0%) Bad Idea (32.3%) No Opinion (6.7%)

5. From what you've read or heard, do you think state government in Pennsylvania is managed better or managed worse than governments in most other states?

Better (12.7%) Worse (29.7%) About the Same (48.4%) No Opinion (9.3%)

Thank you once again for your interest. While mail surveys of this kind do not claim complete scientific accuracy, the information you've provided will certainly be helpful to me in evaluating the issues covered in the questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Italo S. Cappabianca  
State Representative

ISC/mjp



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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

March 16, 1992

Mr. Michael Mahler, Secretary  
League of Gay and Lesbian Voters, Erie Chapter  
P.O. Box 3063  
Erie, PA 16508-3063

Dear Mr. Mahler:

Thank you for your letter of February 27 and the opportunity to present the information you request to the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters. Following are the responses to the questions you presented:

1. Only as such activities reasonably relate to the general health and welfare of the community.
2. I do not support discrimination against any individual or group based upon race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.
3. Applicants for positions on my staff selected on the basis of their qualifications for that position. That is the sole consideration.
4. Appointments to government positions should be made solely on the basis of the individual's qualifications for the position.
5. The major determining factor in custody decisions should be the love and care the parent can provide for the child. Sexual orientation should be a lesser consideration.
6. See response to Question #5.
7. Typically in adoption cases the birth mother has the opportunity to specify her preferences with respect to the adopting parent or parents. I believe her wishes should be followed.
8. See response to Question #7.
9. The institution of marriage is historically recognized in our cultural and legal traditions as a bond between persons of the opposite gender.
10. I can find no reference in House Bill 1655 to the points raised in your question. I have voted for "hate crimes" legislation in the past.
11. I have no objection to the collecting of data on crimes of any kind.
12. I know of no situation in which sexual orientation alone should be reason for denying insurance to anyone.

Mr. Michael Mahler  
March 16, 1992  
page 2.

13. See response to Question #12.
14. More information is needed to provide a reasonable and informed response to this question.
- 15., 15A. See response to Question #12.
- 16., 17., 18., 19., 20., 21. More information is needed to provide a reasonable response to these questions.
22. I believe testing should be mandatory for health professionals who perform invasive procedures or assist in those procedures as well as for patients prior to undergoing invasive procedures.
23. Confidentiality for persons whose occupations pose no risk of transmitting the virus to others.

Again, thank you for sharing your questionnaire with me. I am hopeful that my responses are helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,



Italo S. Capobianca,  
State Representative

ISC/cmr

Call Vonne Simmeth 7-7895. Tell her to  
edit and send R: Poll. 002.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Office of Legislative Information  
G-05, South Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jim Barnes (717) 787-7895

HARRISBURG, April 10 -- Eight out of ten Erie residents who responded to a recent survey issued by Rep. Italo S. Cappabianca say they support mandatory AIDS testing for medical personnel who perform -- and patients who undergo -- surgery and other invasive procedures.

Cappabianca said the survey finding would be particularly significant if the Pennsylvania legislature takes up the issue of AIDS and health care workers this year.

According to Cappabianca, the states are facing a federal mandate for developing policies and procedures that deal with transmission of the AIDS virus from personal contact in the course of medical treatment.

So far, only five persons are known to have contracted AIDS in that way, and all of them were patients of the same Florida dentist. The issue was dramatized by one of the patients, Kimberly Bergalis, who died of the disease last year.

When asked, "Do you support mandatory testing for AIDS of health care practitioners (doctors, nurses, dentists, etc.) who perform surgical or other invasive procedures?", 82.2 percent of the respondents said yes, 14.7 percent said no, and 3.1 percent had no opinion.

On the follow-up question, "Do you support mandatory testing for AIDS of patients prior to undergoing surgery or other invasive procedures?", the results were almost identical: 82.4 percent yes, 13.1 percent no, and 4.5 percent no opinion.

"If this issue comes up as a result of a federal requirement, I'm going to give these findings a lot of weight in any legislative decisions," said Cappabianca. "It's still in the developing stage at the federal level, and we're waiting to see if we need to change Pennsylvania's law and what guidelines they come up with to tell us what we can do and what we can't do on testing."

-more-

Other majority responses to the poll were those in support of police roadblocks to enforce drunk driving laws (75.4 percent support); a return deposit on beverage containers, the so-called "bottle bill" (69.9 percent support); private ownership of state liquor stores (67 percent support); term limits for members of the state legislature (65.9 percent support); and an increase in the 55 mph speed limit on state highways (54 percent want the limit increased).

Respondents were closely divided on the so-called "schools of choice" issue that would provide tax-funded tuition vouchers for students to attend public, private and parochial schools.

In response to the question, "Do you support the use of state funds to provide financial assistance to the parents of students who attend private or parochial schools?", 48.2 percent said yes, 50 percent said no, and 1.8 percent had no opinion.

A question on support for local tax reform drew an inconclusive response when 42.8 percent answered "no opinion" to the question. An identical 42.8 percent gave a positive response to the question, "Would you support an effort to change local taxes similar to the local tax reform plan considered a few years ago?".

Three years ago voters rejected a local tax reform proposal developed by the legislature and placed on a statewide ballot referendum. The referendum was defeated by a margin of almost three to one, and the defeat was widely attributed to voter uncertainty about details of the plan.

###jb

R:poll.002

## Questionnaire

Name: Italo S. CappabiancaState: PA

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Office: ( ☒ ) Representative ( ☐ ) SenatorAffiliation: ( ☐ ) Republican ( ☒ ) Democrat

Mailing Address:

PA House of Representatives30 East Wing, Box 73Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028Telephone Number: ( 717 ) 787 - 43581) Year elected to legislature: 1978

2) Previous elected offices:

None

3) Other current occupation:

None

4) Legislative Priorities:

Economic DevelopmentJobsAffordable Health CareSufficient Funding for Education (Basic & Higher)

a) Committee Assignments:

Chairman, Federal-State Relations Committee

## b) Current pressing issues in areas of interest:

Economic DevelopmentHealth Care for Citizens of Pennsylvania

## c) Major accomplishments in areas of interest:

Created Small Business Advocate OfficeUnfair Competition of Nonprofits

## d) Health care priorities &amp; issues of interest (if not stated above):

Affordable Health CareFamily Medical Leave

## 5) Bills sponsored recently:

See attached.

## 6) Awards &amp; Recognitions:

PA Small Business Development Centers Recognition - June 2, 1988

## 7) Professional Memberships:

National Conference of State Legislators

## 8) Other Memberships (service, social, civic, etc.):

Professional Businessmen's Association

East Erie Turners

Cesare Battisti Club

B.P.O.E.

University Club

Sportsmen's Club

Erie Club

## 9) Military Service/Veteran's Activities:

Honorable Discharge from U.S. Army in 1958

## 10) Recreations &amp; Hobbies:

Travel

Hike

Jog

Bicycle

## Demographic Information

Place of birth: Erie, PennsylvaniaDate of birth: 12 / 19 / 36

Education: (Degree) (School)  
B.A. in Political Science Gannon University  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Married? No xYes      Name of spouse:                     

Children? Name Age:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation:  
Catholic