

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TOM TANGRETTI'S

2005 SPORTSMEN'S FAIR

Co-sponsored by Gander Mountain

A scenic photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, mossy rocks. In the foreground, several bright yellow flowers with green stems and leaves are in focus. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a clear sky.

Refreshments • Door prizes • Archery Shooting
Fishing Demonstrations • Pistol Shooting
Rifle & Trap Shooting • Paintball

REPRESENTATIVE T

2005 SPORTSMAN

Co-sponsored by C

Participating C

A & S Pistol Range

Appalachian
Whitetails

Bortot's Taxidermy

D & L Guns & Bows

DCNR State Parks

Whistling Wings of
Western Pa. Delta
Waterfowl

Ducks Unlimited

PA Fish & Boat
Commission

Friends of the NRA

Frye's Flies

Loyalhanna Bass
Masters

National Wild Turkey
Federation

On-Point Outfitters

PA Outdoor News

FROM TANGRETTI'S

WOMEN'S FAIR

Gander Mountain

Organizations

PA Bureau of Forestry

**PA Federation of
Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc**

PA State Police

**Rocky Mountain Elk
Foundation**

Something For You

**Westmoreland County
Sheriff's Office**

**Westmoreland County
Treasurer**

Wilderness Voyageurs

Keystone State Park

Beretta USA

Gander Mountain

PA Game Commission

**Edward Korinko
Wildlife Sculptures
Studio**

**Firearm Owners
Against Crime**

Learn more from state wildlife agencies and national and local sportsmen's groups; see the latest products from area hunting and fishing outfitters; try your hand at pistol, rifle and trap shooting; and much more!



**Compliments of
State Representative**

Thomas A. Tangretti

CAPITOL OFFICE:

328 Irvis Office Building • House Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020
(717) 783-5963 • Fax: (717) 772-9986

DISTRICT OFFICE:

105 Station Place • 101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400 • Fax: (724) 834-6799
Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SATELLITE OFFICES:

SALEM TOWNSHIP	YOUNGWOOD
Rt. 119 North and Citgo Plaza	17 S. Sixth St.
Crabtree, PA 15624	Youngwood, PA 15697
(724) 834-7180	(724) 925-6598
Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

WEB SITE: www.pahouse.com/tangretti

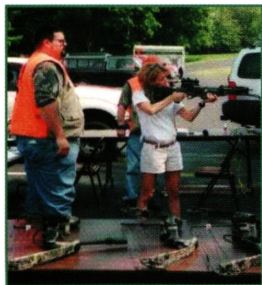
ATTENTION AREA OUTDOORS ENTHUSIASTS!

YOU'RE INVITED TO REPRESENTATIVE TOM TANGRETTI'S

2005 SPORTSMEN'S FAIR

Sunday, August 7, 2005 * Noon to 4 P.M.

Police Rod and Gun Club (*Off Fennelton Road, Slickville, Pa.*)

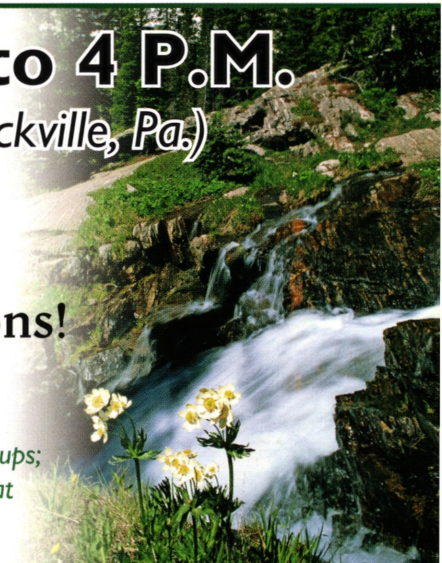


FREE Admission!
FREE Information!
FREE Demonstrations!
FREE Door Prizes!

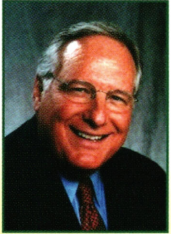
Learn more from state wildlife agencies and national and local sportsmen's groups; see the latest products from area hunting and fishing outfitters; try your hand at pistol, rifle and trap shooting; and much more!



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS, PLEASE CALL 724-834-6400



YOU'RE INVITED!



State Representative

Tom Tangretti

105 Station Place
101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400
Fax: (724) 834-6799



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**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 7!**

Co-sponsored by
Gander Mountain!

2005 SPORTSMEN'S FAIR



State Representative Tom Tangretti
Invites you to Attend the 3rd Annual

2006 SPORTSMEN'S FAIR
Sunday, June 11, 2006 * Noon to 4 P.M.
Police Rod and Gun Club (Off Fenneltown Road, Slickville, Pa.)

For more information:
Contact Barb Italiano
Call 724-834-6400

Co-Sponsored by Gander Mountain and Beretta, USA





STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TOM TANGRETTI'S

2006 SPORTSMEN'S FAIR

Co-sponsored by Gander Mountain and Beretta, USA

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest with many ferns and trees.

Refreshments • Door Prizes • Archery Shooting
Fishing Demonstrations • Pistol Shooting
Rifle & Trap Shooting • Paintball

2006

SPORTSMAN

Co-spons

Gander Mountain Participating C

D & L Guns & Bows
Unified Sportsman of
Pennsylvania
Westmoreland County
Sheriff's Office
Commonwealth of PA
Bureau of Unclaimed
Property
Bortot's Taxidermy
Something 4 You
Pennsylvania Game
Commission
Ruffed Grouse Society
DCNR Keystone State
Park
Beretta USA

Pennsylvania State
Police
Boat Fish & Fun Shop
Appalachian Whitetails
Wilderness Voyageurs
Pennsylvania Bureau of
Forestry
Loyalhanna Bassmasters
Pennsylvania Fish &
Boat Commission
1st Choice Taxidermy
Penns Woods Pointing
Dog Trainers
Gander Mountain
Barkley Motorsports

OM TANGRETTI'S

EN'S FAIR

sored by
and Beretta, USA
Organizations

**Pennsylvania Outdoor
News**

**Firearm Owners Against
Crime**

**United Bowhunters of
Pennsylvania**

**Governor's Advisory
on Hunting, Fishing &
Conservation**

**Ducks Unlimited, Forbes
Trail Chapter**

Old Westmoreland Rifles

**A & S Indoor Pistol
Range**

**Westmoreland
Conservation District**

**Westmoreland County
Treasurer's Office**

Wheelin' Sportsmen

**National Wild Turkey
Federation**

Ruben Johnson Lures

**Westmoreland County
Commissioners**

**Voting Machine
Demonstration**

DCNR State Parks

Frye's Flies

**Penn State Extension
Slickville 4H Club**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1:00 PM

OLD WESTMORELAND RIFLES

Demonstration of Primitive Flintlock Rifles *by Vince Elliott*
Located at the Rifle Range

2:00 PM

PENN'S WOODS POINTING DOG TRAINERS, INC.

Demonstrations of Pointing, Flushing, & Retrieving
with Various Bird Dogs
Located in Field Across from the Skeet Range

3:00 PM

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY ON

HUNTING, FISHING & CONSERVATION

Question & Answer Session *with Rob Miller*
Located in the Main Pavilion

Compliments of
State Representative

Thomas A. Tangretti

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2006 SPORTSMEN'S FAIR

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Police Rod and Gun Club *(Off Fenneltown Road, Slickville, Pa.)*



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FREE Door Prizes!

Learn more from state wildlife agencies and national and local sportsmen's groups; see the latest products from area hunting and fishing outfitters; try your hand at pistol, rifle and trap shooting; and much more!

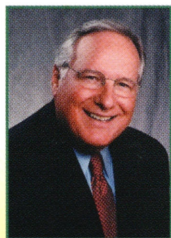


FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS, PLEASE CALL 724-834-6400

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State Representative

Tom Tangretti

105 Station Place
101 Ehalt St.
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Fax: (724) 834-6799

**SUNDAY,
JUNE 11!**

Co-sponsored by
Gander Mountain!

2006

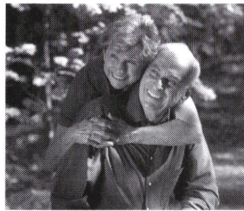
SPORTSMEN'S FAIR

YOU'RE INVITED!

Rep. Tom Tangretti's

2004 SENIOR FAIR

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2004 • 10 AM - 2 PM



**Kirk S. Nevin Recreation Center
at Lynch Field
Route 119 North
Greensburg**

**FREE Admission, FREE Exhibits
FREE Health Screenings
FREE Refreshments
...and DOOR PRIZES**

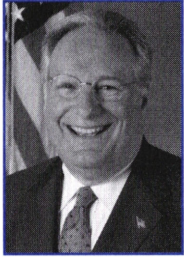


Guest Speaker:
Pennsylvania
PACE/PACENET Director
Tom Snedden

Featuring information
from various
organizations offering
services to area seniors

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 724-925-6598 OR 724-834-6400

YOU'RE INVITED!



State Representative

Tom Tangretti

105 Station Place
101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400
Fax: (724) 834-6799

**THURSDAY,
JULY 29!**



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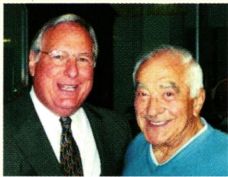
2004 SENIOR FAIR

YOU'RE INVITED!

Rep. Tom Tangretti's

2005 SENIOR FAIR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2005 • 10 AM - 2 PM



**Kirk S. Nevin Recreation Center
at Lynch Field
Route 119 North
Greensburg**

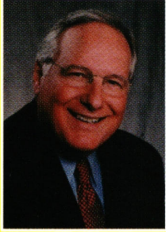
**FREE Admission, FREE Exhibits
FREE Health Screenings
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...and DOOR PRIZES**



**Featuring
information
from various
organizations
offering services
to area seniors**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 724-925-6598 OR 724-834-6400

YOU'RE INVITED!



State Representative

Tom Tangretti

105 Station Place
101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400
Fax: (724) 834-6799

**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 27!**

2005

SENIOR FAIR



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YOU'RE INVITED!

Rep. Tom Tangretti's

2006 SENIOR FAIR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2006 • 9 AM – 1 PM



**Kirk S. Nevin Recreation Center
at Lynch Field
Route 119 North
Greensburg**

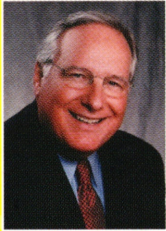
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**Featuring
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to area seniors**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 724-925-6598

YOU'RE INVITED!



State Representative

Tom Tangretti

105 Station Place
101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400
Fax: (724) 834-6799

**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 19!**

2006

SENIOR FAIR



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Rep. Tom Tangretti's

2007 SENIOR FAIR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2007 • 9 AM – 1 PM

**Kirk S. Nevin Recreation Center
at Lynch Field
Route 119 North
Greensburg**



**FREE Admission, FREE Exhibits
FREE Health Screenings
FREE Refreshments
...and DOOR PRIZES!**

**Featuring
information
from various
organizations
offering services
to area seniors**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 724-925-6598

YOU'RE INVITED!



State Representative

Tom Tangretti

105 Station Place
101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601

**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 18!**

2007 SENIOR FAIR



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**YOUNGWOOD
Constituent
Service Office**

17 S. Sixth St.
Youngwood, PA 15697
(724) 925-6598

*Mon. – Fri.
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.*

Web site:
www.pahouse.com/tangretti

*Mark
your calendars!*

You are invited!!

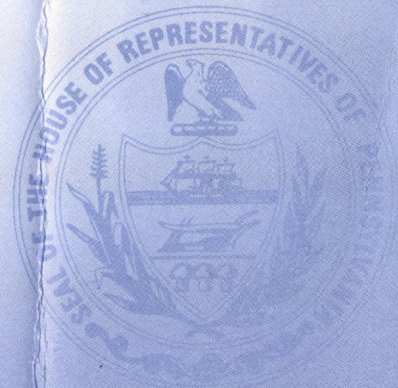
**to an
Open House at
state Rep. Tom Tangretti's
Youngwood
Constituent Service Office**

**Sat., Jan. 10
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

*C*ome see my full-service Youngwood office!



State Representative
TOM TANGRETTI
57th Legislative District





Thomas A. Tangretti

*State Representative
57th Legislative District*

www.pahouse.com/tangretti

DISTRICT OFFICE:

**105 Station Place • 101 Ehalt St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-6400
Fax: (724) 834-6799**

MON. - FRI., 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

OTHER CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICE:

**Salem Township
Rt. 119 North and Citgo Plaza
Crabtree, PA 15624
(724) 834-7180**

***MON., TUES., THURS., FRI., 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
WED., 1 P.M. - 7 P.M.***

My Office Can Help With...

- PACE/PACENET applications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- PennDOT paperwork and concerns
- Handicap plates and placards
- Birth certificates
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Pennsylvania's Tuition Account Program (TAP)
- Information about financial aid for higher education
- Pennsylvania income tax programs
- Hunting, fishing and boating information
- State travel and tourism information
- Consumer complaints

...ANY STATE-RELATED QUESTION OR CONCERN!

**COME SEE MY
FULL-SERVICE
YOUNGWOOD
OFFICE!!!**

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✓ Respond?
Stalnecker, Angela

From: Clory, Cynthia
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2006 9:21 AM
To: Stalnecker, Angela
Subject: FW: Pay Raise Repeal

Did TAT forward this to you? Not necessary until next week.

N. Cynthia Clory
PA House of Representatives
Legislative Assistant
Representative Thomas A. Tangretti
328 Irvis Bldg.
717/783-5963
cclory@pahouse.net

-----Original Message-----

From: Tangretti, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2006 9:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Pay Raise Repeal

Thank you for contacting me via e-mail. This is an automatic response to let you know that your message was received.

Your comments and concerns are important to me, but due to time constraints, I am unable to respond to each message personally. All responses will be made via the U.S. Postal Service. If you did not include a postal address with your original message and wish to receive a response, please resend your message with a postal address. Priority will go to residents in my district.

If your message was of a highly important and/or timely matter, you may contact my office at (724) 834-6400. For more information about my service in the State Capitol and upcoming events in our state government, please visit my web site at <http://pahouse/tangretti/index.htm>

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Tangretti
State Representative
57th Legislative District


-----Original Message-----

From: Roger Campbell <[REDACTED]>

To: Tangretti, Thomas
Sent: Sat Mar 18 20:57:32 2006
Subject: Pay Raise Repeal

Thank you for repealing the pay raise.

Roger and Janet Campbell


Greensburg, PA 15601

Stalnecker, Angela

From: Tangretti, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2006 11:18 AM
To: Stalnecker, Angela
Subject: Re: 50 Letters a Day

And a good one. Let's go for it.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stalnecker, Angela
To: Tangretti, Thomas
Sent: Tue Feb 28 11:12:41 2006
Subject: RE: 50 Letters a Day

My only fear is that we'd have to be very generic in terms of your efforts since we still don't know what the exact outcome will be or when it will happen. Seeing that we are now dealing with a conference committee, we may see something passed before the primary, which would outdate the letter immediately.

Perhaps you could do a letter targeting seniors where we can discuss the PACE efforts (additional people added, streamlined process, the new proposal to lower the age to 60, etc.), your vote to provide additional LIHEAP money in HB 1539 and then make mention of how you are working to ensure that property tax relief will definitely target seniors...first and foremost.

Just a suggestion.

Angela Stalnecker
Project Manager
Democratic Legislative Research Office
Room G-09, Speaker K. Leroy Irvis Office Building
(717) 787-9516
astalnec@pahouse.net

-----Original Message-----

From: Tangretti, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2006 10:57 AM
To: Stalnecker, Angela
Subject: Re: 50 Letters a Day

I think those are fine. Do you think a general update on property tax reform/slots revenue process is advisable?

-----Original Message-----

From: Stalnecker, Angela

THOMAS A. TANGRETTI, MEMBER

105 STATION PLACE
101 EHALT STREET
GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15601
PHONE: (724) 834-6400
FAX: (724) 834-6799

328 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 783-5963
FAX: (717) 772-9986



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CHAIRMAN – SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INSURANCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
POLICY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Dear Constituent:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the many services that are available through my constituent service offices. As your State Representative, I believe it is important to keep in touch with the residents of the 57th Legislative District and be of service whenever possible.

Specifically, my office continues to be ready to assist you with all of your state-related needs, including cutting through some of the red tape and long waits when dealing with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation motor vehicle and driver licensing services. My staff stocks nearly all PennDOT applications and will help you with completing the applications and will then forward them to PennDOT for processing. This assistance includes renewals, replacements, and corrections for vehicle registrations, titles, driver's licenses, applications for special and personalized license plates, and person with disability license plates and parking placards. My office also can help resolve problems with a suspended driver's license and provide requirement letters for restoration of a suspended driver's license.

For your information, my Greensburg office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. to serve my constituents. The office is located at 105 Station Place, 101 Ehalt Street in Greensburg and can be reached by calling 724-834-6400. My Youngwood Borough and Salem Township Constituent Service Offices are also open during the week for your convenience. You can contact my Youngwood Office at 724-925-6598 or my Salem Township Office at 724-834-7180 for their location and hours of operation.

Please know that your thoughts on state matters are important to me. For this reason, I invite you to keep me apprised of your views. Contact me at 724-834-6400 or visit my legislative Web page at www.pahouse.com/tangretti.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas A. Tangretti".

Thomas A. Tangretti
State Representative
57th Legislative District

Stalnecker, Angela

From: Brubaker, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 2:17 PM
To: DePalma, Sharon; Kraber, C.C; O'Connor, Kelly; Quinnan, Charles; Stalnecker, Angela
Subject: FW: PACE Plus Medicare (2).doc

Sorry, I just found this e-mail. This may prove useful to some of your issues.

I have about 3,500 e-mails that I am trying to go through to make sure things are being missed. Oy!

Jennifer K. Brubaker

Office Director, Legislative Research Office
House Democratic Caucus
Room G-09, Speaker K. Leroy Irvis Office Building
Phone: (717) 787-9516
Fax Line: (717) 787-6118
e-mail: jbrubake@pahouse.net

From: Smith, Lori
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2006 12:05 PM
To: Dem Members & Legis Assts; Republican House Members
Subject: PACE Plus Medicare (2).doc

Date: March 7, 2006
To: All House Members
From: Reps. Marc Gergely, Jake Wheatley, and Todd Eachus
Re: **Introduction of Gov. Rendell's PACE Plus Medicare**

Recently, the federal government implemented Medicare Part D to guarantee pharmaceutical coverage for all Medicare recipients. Part of this implementation required states to "wrap around" the pharmaceutical benefits that are provided in their state programs with those under Part D. To meet this requirement Governor Rendell has been meeting with individuals at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to guarantee that we comply with the federal law while maintaining the best program in the country. As a result, in his recent budget address, Governor Rendell proposed coupling our existing PACE/PACENET program with the new federal Medicare prescription program to create the most comprehensive pharmaceutical benefit program in the country.

The PACE and PACENET programs serve approximately 300,000 seniors. Under this new proposal, our state program shares the cost of the prescription drug coverage with the federal program. This cost sharing allows another 120,000 seniors to be enrolled in the program. These savings also assure seniors that they will not have to pay any additional co-payments or premiums for drugs they are already receiving.

We will therefore, be introducing the governor's PACE plus Medicare proposal within the next

week in order to begin discussing with all of the House members the needed improvements to preserve this program. This bill reflects the specific legislative language needed for the state to wrap around Medicare Part D and expands the services that Governor Rendell outlined in his budget address.

We all know this will be a very challenging issue to deal with this year. We are confident we will all do our best to strengthen and increase enrollment in the PACE/PACENET programs so it can continue to be a model for the rest of the country. If you would like to be a co-sponsor, please call Sue Gross at 783-1018 or sgross@pahouse.net.

Thank you.

Hg 2548



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative John T. Yudichak
From: C. C. Kraber, *LRO Project Manager* (7-9516)
CC: Joyce Martin
Date: October 27, 2005
Subject: Medicare Part D Drug Benefit Overview – Response to Anna Drabek

As requested, please find the following information regarding the new Medicare prescription drug benefit and draft response to Anna Drabek, a constituent who recently expressed her confusion as to whether she is required to participate in the new program.

Please note that I compiled the following information for another Member last month. However, the memorandum has been updated to reflect any recent updates.

In researching this request, I referenced the following: Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Medicare Rx Education Network, the National Council on the Aging, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, and the Pennsylvania Health Law Project.

In addition, I spoke with Metro Petrosky, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Aging.

The new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit coverage will commence on January 1, 2006. Insurance companies are authorized to begin marketing their prescription drug plans to the public on October 1, 2005. According to the Department of Aging, Pennsylvanians will be able to choose among 29 plans. Enrollment in the new plan is scheduled to begin on November 15, 2005.

According to the Department of Aging website, participants do not have to sign up for a plan, but may pay a penalty later if he or she changes his or her mind.

- The plans are not offering discount cards – they are offering insurance coverage for medications. Most plans will have a premium (about \$33/month). In addition, there will be a \$250 deductible, cost sharing, and co-pays for medications.
- Consumers are being advised that companies cannot enroll you into a drug plan over the phone or ask you to pay over the phone unless you are adding prescription drug coverage to a Medicare Advantage plan or other Medicare health plan you already have. Consumers are being urged to look for the Medicare-approved seal on all prescription plan marketing materials.
- **Medicare enrollees may contact Pennsylvania’s APPRISE insurance counseling service for free, unbiased advice about whether to enroll in the Medicare Part D benefit by calling their toll-free number at 1-800-783-7067. In addition, the APPRISE program has scheduled meetings throughout the state to inform consumers about the new Medicare prescription drug program. The following meetings have been scheduled for your area (Luzerne County):**
 - **Birchwood Nursing Center**
Nanticoke, PA 18634
November 3, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.
Contact: (570) 735-2973
 - **Albright Methodist Church**
Dana and Grove Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
November 15, 2005 at 2:15 p.m.
Contact: (570) 823-2954
 - **Geisinger Medical Center**
1000 East Mountain Drive
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
November 16, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.
Contact: (570) 819-5479
 - **White Haven Senior Center**
209 Main Street
White Haven, PA
December 1, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.
Contact: (570) 443-0700

- **American Red Cross Building**
 256 North Sherman
 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
 December 2, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
 Contact: (570) 822-1158
Reservations preferred.

Individuals may contact the federal Medicare program at 1-800-MEDICARE or visit their website at www.Medicare.gov to learn more about the new Medicare drug benefit. Services available on the website include the following:

- Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Cost Estimator
- *Your Medicare Prescription Drug Options*
- *Retiree Prescription Drug Coverage & the New Prescription Drug Coverage*
- *Extra Help for People with Limited Income and Resources*
- Frequently Asked Questions (and Answers)

* * *

According to the National Council on the Aging, the Medicare Rx Education Network launched a public education campaign in July. Under the direction of former U.S. Senator John Breaux, the network will share resources, coordinate activities, and disseminate information to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers about the new Medicare Part D drug coverage. For more information about these efforts, you may visit the network's website at <http://www.medicarerxeducation.org/>.

* * *

Clearly, many consumers are likely to have questions about the new Medicare Part D drug benefit, especially those currently enrolled in the state's PACE and PACENET programs.

According to Metro Petrosky, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Aging, the PACE program will continue to function as is. However, the PACE program will be the secondary payee and not the primary payee unless the drug the client is taking is not included on the Medicare Part D preferred drug formulary. Mr. Petrosky stated that PACE recipients will not be responsible for any co-pays.

Conversely, the PACENET program will be affected. According to Metro Petrosky, the Department's research suggests that clients will be charged additional expenses to continue coverage in the form of co-pays, enrollment fees, etc. If a PACENET client does not enroll in the Medicare Part D benefit, he or she may continue to receive the assistance they are getting through PACENET.

According to Mr. Petrosky, if a PACENET client does enroll in the new Medicare benefit, that individual would be responsible for the required co-pays under both the PACENET program and the Medicare Part D benefit program. In addition, the enrollee would pay a \$250 enrollment fee. Clearly, a decision to participate in both programs could be very costly for the beneficiary.

Mr. Petrosky noted that under the current law, the Department may not tell a client not to enroll in the new Medicare Part D program. Accordingly, Mr. Petrosky stated that the Department is *cautioning* consumers to “weigh their options carefully” before making a decision.

The Department has lobbied the federal government to obtain authorization to automatically enroll PACE and PACENET recipients in the new Medicare Part D drug benefit program. However, the request was denied. In response, Representative John Yudichak introduced House Resolution XXX to urge the federal government to reconsider this request. See below for more information.

Clearly, this information may cause some consumers additional confusion. As such, I would direct those constituents to contact the APPRISE program at the aforementioned telephone number. Moreover, I would strongly discourage your office from counseling consumers who will be making this decision.

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GOVERNOR RENDELL WARNS OF POTENTIAL FRAUD IN MARKETING OF THE NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

Consumers Need to Stop, Call, Confirm Before Choosing a Benefit Plan

HARRISBURG – Governor Edward G. Rendell today urged Pennsylvania seniors to be vigilant and to protect themselves against marketing scams designed as the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients.

At a time when older Pennsylvanians are at risk from fraudulent Medicare insurance programs, the Governor has directed the state Departments of Insurance and Aging to coordinate a consumer awareness campaign, “Stop, Call, Confirm.”

“We want to protect our seniors from potential fraud,” Governor Rendell said. “We want our seniors to call if they are concerned or need help. That’s why we are implementing an awareness campaign designed to inform them of marketing scams that could harm them.”

Companies may begin marketing the new Medicare Part D plans on Oct. 1. Medicare-eligible individuals can enroll beginning Nov. 15 and coverage will begin on Jan. 1, 2006. Most plans will have a premium of about \$33 per month. Enrollment is voluntary.

“We want older Pennsylvanians to understand their choices, as well as to educate them on ways to spot a potential scheme,” said Cindy Fillman, Director for the Pennsylvania Insurance Department’s Office of Consumer Liaison. “The message ‘Stop, Call, Confirm’ can be effective in protecting yourself from harm—as a reminder to use your state agencies as a source of information and assistance.”

The Department of Aging’s APPRISE insurance counseling program has conducted nearly 700 informational meetings across the state to educate older adults about Medicare Part D. More than 26,000 individuals have attended the meetings to date. Additional meetings are planned in communities across the state.

“Making decisions about health insurance can be confusing, especially when there are so many choices to consider,” said Karen Wood, APPRISE East Regional Coordinator. “Older adults should not be afraid to ask for assistance. The more informed you are, the less likely you will be the victim of a scam.”

Here are some ways in which consumers can protect themselves from being a victim of a potential scam:

- No one can enroll in any Medicare prescription drug plan prior to Nov. 15, 2005. If someone asks you to enroll prior to this date, it could be a scam.
- Never offer personal financial information, such as bank account numbers, to solicitors or telemarketers.
- Do not pay with cash. Always write a check.
- Call APPRISE for free, unbiased advice on which plan might be best for you.
- Call the state Insurance Department to confirm the person and/or business you are dealing with is a licensed insurance professional.

Consumers may contact APPRISE, toll-free, at 1-800-783-7067. To view a schedule of upcoming APPRISE meetings on Medicare Part D, visit the Department of Aging’s Web site at www.aging.state.pa.us. To verify if an entity or individual is licensed with the Insurance Department, consumers can log onto www.insurance.state.pa.us or call (717) 787-2317.

Yudichak Resolution to Urge Congress to Allow Automatic Enrollment in Medicare Part D

Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania – Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Northeast area legislator Representative John Yudichak (D, Luzerne) plans to introduce a House resolution urging the federal government to permit Pennsylvanians already enrolled in PACE and PACENET to be automatically enrolled in the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program. The resolution is in response to Medicare officials' recent denial of a request made by state officials to automatically enroll PACE and PACENET recipients. However, the same federal law authorizing Medicare Part D allows states to petition Medicare to allow innovative approaches for enrolling people in the new program. The resolution asks Congress, particularly the members of the Pennsylvania delegation, to contact Medicare administrators and encourage them to reverse their decision.

In Pennsylvania, two million Medicare beneficiaries will be impacted by the new Medicare Part D prescription benefit. Enrollment for the new benefit opens on November 15, with coverage beginning on Jan. 1, 2006. Yudichak believes that allowing automatic enrollment in the Medicare drug benefit would benefit the state's Lottery-funded prescription drug programs and the people they serve in two important ways.

First, PACE and PACENET, which have already collected enrollee information for their programs, would ease the Medicare enrollment process by providing the information to Medicare so the federal agency could avoid the time and expense of collecting the same information separately. Secondly, automatic enrollment in Medicare Part D would allow Pennsylvania and other states with successful drug benefit programs to make efficient use of federal resources while ensuring that people receive adequate coverage, boosting the state programs, and saving the states millions of dollars.

Yudichak said PACE and PACENET have a wider scope of coverage than Medicare, but some parts of the programs overlap. Allowing the entire roster of PACE and PACENET recipients to enroll in the Medicare drug benefit would mean that when an eligible person had a prescription filled, the Medicare coverage would be applicable first – anything not covered by the federal program would then be picked up by PACE or PACENET under the usual guidelines for those programs. Yudichak said this would save the state programs millions of dollars, potentially allowing them to add even more Pennsylvanians to their current enrollment.

Full details of the Part D program will not be known until after September, when officials from Medicare are expected to sign contracts with insurers. Prices, co-pays and covered drugs will vary by plan. Eligible seniors may begin enrolling this November, with the enrollment period running between November 15 and May 15, 2006.

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It is my understanding that Leadership staffers are preparing informational packets for members on this issue. However, I am uncertain as to when this information will be made available.

I hope the above information proves useful. Should you have any questions or concerns, of if I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you.

Stalnecker, Angela

From: Tangretti, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, April 08, 2006 10:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Help protect us from toxic mercury pollution

Thank you for contacting me via e-mail. This is an automatic response to let you know that your message was received.

Your comments and concerns are important to me, but due to time constraints, I am unable to respond to each message personally. All responses will be made via the U.S. Postal Service. If you did not include a postal address with your original message and wish to receive a response, please resend your message with a postal address. Priority will go to residents in my district.

If your message was of a highly important and/or timely matter, you may contact my office at (724) 834-6400. For more information about my service in the State Capitol and upcoming events in our state government, please visit my web site at <http://pahouse/tangretti/index.htm>

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Tangretti
State Representative
57th Legislative District

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank X. Kleshinski [REDACTED]
To: Tangretti, Thomas
Sent: Sat Apr 08 02:11:51 2006
Subject: Help protect us from toxic mercury pollution

Frank X. Kleshinski
[REDACTED]
Jeannette, PA 15644-9629

April 8, 2006

The Honorable Thomas A. Tangretti
328 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Tangretti:

I urge you to continue your work to put our children's health first by refusing to co-sponsor the so-called Clean Air Mercury Compliance Act, which would kill the Pennsylvania Mercury Rule. Such legislation will put Pennsylvania babies, and our critical sport fishing industry, at serious risk.

Pennsylvania power plants are the third largest mercury polluters in the country, and are responsible for 83 percent of mercury emissions to air in the Commonwealth. The health effects of mercury are well known. New data from an Environmental Protection Agency-funded study shows that 70 percent of local mercury contamination comes from local power plants. Other studies demonstrate clearly that cutting mercury from local sources results in huge reductions in mercury contamination in nearby fish and wildlife.

The Environmental Quality Board voted in 2005 to allow the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to move ahead with drafting a state-specific rule. Federal regulation will not go far enough fast enough, and it will result in dangerous local "hot spots" of mercury contamination. Technology for cleaning up is affordable and available now.

Please do NOT co-sponsor any legislation that hinders a Pennsylvania Mercury Rule. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Frank X. Kleshinski

Stalnecker, Angela

From: Tangretti, Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2006 10:11 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Stand Up for Pennsylvania's Kids - Tax Smokeless Tobacco!

Thank you for contacting me via e-mail. This is an automatic response to let you know that your message was received.

Your comments and concerns are important to me, but due to time constraints, I am unable to respond to each message personally. All responses will be made via the U.S. Postal Service. If you did not include a postal address with your original message and wish to receive a response, please resend your message with a postal address. Priority will go to residents in my district.

If your message was of a highly important and/or timely matter, you may contact my office at (724) 834-6400. For more information about my service in the State Capitol and upcoming events in our state government, please visit my web site at <http://pahouse/tangretti/index.htm>

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Tangretti
State Representative
57th Legislative District

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2006 11:48 PM
To: Tangretti, Thomas
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Stand Up for Pennsylvania's Kids - Tax Smokeless Tobacco!

Dear Mr. Tangretti,

I strongly urge you to stand up for Pennsylvania's kids and co-sponsor the bill to tax smokeless tobacco products at 20 percent of their purchase price. Pennsylvania is the only state without a smokeless tobacco products tax and this is unacceptable.

Using smokeless tobacco products causes cancer of the mouth, esophagus, stomach and pancreas - to name a few - as well as heart disease and other serious illnesses. Tobacco taxes are proven to reduce the terrible toll of tobacco by keeping kids from using tobacco and helping current tobacco users quit.

A 20 percent tax on smokeless tobacco products will save lives and reduce the deadly toll tobacco takes on our state. It's time for Pennsylvania to join the rest of the country and tax smokeless tobacco products. Please take action today by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Frank X. Kleshinski
[REDACTED]
Jeannette, PA 15644

Stalnecker, Angela

From: Clory, Cynthia
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2006 8:05 AM
To: Stalnecker, Angela
Subject: FW: PA- Invest In Prevention (2) Support CVD Amendment 6519

Angela can we combine the subjects

N. Cynthia Clory
PA House of Representatives
Legislative Assistant
Representative Thomas A. Tangretti
328 Irvis Bldg.
717/783-5963
cclory@pahouse.net

1)
From: Frank X. Kleshinski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 4:06 AM
To: Tangretti, Thomas
Subject: I support the proposed amendments to the rules governing the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program

Frank X. Kleshinski
[REDACTED]
Jeannette, PA 15644-9629

March 22, 2006

The Honorable Thomas A. Tangretti
328 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Tangretti:

As a concerned citizen of Pennsylvania, I support the proposed amendments to the rules governing the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program. I also support full implementation of the Clean Vehicles Program, as recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The federal Clean Air Act requires Pennsylvania to cut pollution from cars and trucks, and the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program are necessary to do that.

Federal standards pertaining to low emission vehicles don't go far enough to improve Pennsylvania's ability to comply with the Clean Air Act.

There are 37 counties in Pennsylvania with smog pollution that is higher than allowed by health-based federal standards. Unless we reduce vehicle emissions, there will be no room for industry to expand in those counties.

Vehicles that would be certified as acceptable under the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program are not more

expensive than vehicles that meet the federal low emission vehicle standards.

Clean cars are more fuel-efficient than heavy polluters, and gasoline is expensive.

Cleaner vehicles will benefit the more than 1,000,000 Pennsylvanians who suffer from breathing problems that are made worse by air pollution.

Ten other states have already adopted California low emission vehicle standards, the same standards the Pennsylvania program has.

Action is required to combat global warming – and reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a critical part of that.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this program that is critical to cleaning our air, safeguarding our health, keeping our economy strong, and providing consumers with better vehicle options.

Sincerely,

Frank X. Kleshinski

2)

-----Original Message-----

From: Tangretti, Thomas

Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2006 7:25 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: PA- Invest In Prevention (2) Support CVD Amendment 6519

Thank you for contacting me via e-mail. This is an automatic response to let you know that your message was received.

Your comments and concerns are important to me, but due to time constraints, I am unable to respond to each message personally. All responses will be made via the U.S. Postal Service. If you did not include a postal address with your original message and wish to receive a response, please resend your message with a postal address. Priority will go to residents in my district.

If your message was of a highly important and/or timely matter, you may contact my office at (724) 834-6400. For more information about my service in the State Capitol and upcoming events in our state government, please visit my web site at <http://pahouse/tangretti/index.htm>

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Tangretti
State Representative
57th Legislative District

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank X. Kleshinski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2006 9:23 PM
To: Tangretti, Thomas
Subject: PA- Invest In Prevention (2) Support CVD Amendment 6519

Dear Representative Thomas Tangretti:

On behalf of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, I urge you to support Amendment 6519 which will be offered by Representative Kathy Watson to House Bill 2499. This amendment will provide one million dollars for the PA Department of Health to increase their current efforts to prevent the #1 and #3 killers of Pennsylvanians - heart disease and stroke.

Every year, nearly 39,000 Pennsylvanians die from heart disease and almost 9,000 lives are claimed by stroke. This accounts for 45% of the major causes of death in our Commonwealth. Currently the Department's efforts are funded entirely by federal funds - funds which have been greatly reduced in recent years and which are threatened to be entirely eliminated. We urge your support for supplementing the current federal funds to insure that the Department's efforts - including staff at the Department and in 6 community health centers providing outreach, education and training for health care professionals and the public - are not eliminated and can, in fact, be enhanced.

Please continue Pennsylvania's tradition of investing in prevention - please support Amendment 6519 and additional funding to prevent the #1 and #3 killers in our Commonwealth!

Sincerely,
Frank X.Kleshinski
Jeannette
Sincerely,

Frank X. Kleshinski
[REDACTED]
Jeannette, PA 15644-9629