

H. WILLIAM DeWEESE
THE MAJORITY LEADER



APR 07 1992

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 6, 1992

Subject: "Perks" for Capitol News Room Reporters
To: Members of the House Democratic Caucus
From: H. William DeWeese
Majority Leader

You may find the information in the attached memo useful in talking with the editors and publishers in your districts on the issue of legislative "perks."

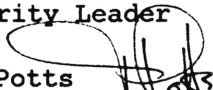
HWD:tp

TIMOTHY W. POTTS
PRESS SECRETARY TO H. WILLIAM DeWEESE
ROOM 527, MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 783-4267



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 2, 1992

Subject: News Room Perks
To: Hon. H. William DeWeese
Majority Leader
From: Tim Potts 

The Department of General Services has provided the following information about News Room costs and contributions.

Phones

Media outlets pay their own phone bills. There is no state subsidy.

Space

Reporters occupy 3,540 square feet of space in the News Room. The fair market value of the space is \$19,200 annually. This includes the space, heat and air conditioning, electricity, janitorial service, copier and paper.

Media outlets who have reporters in the News Room can voluntarily pay \$47.50 per month. For the 32 reporters who have desks, this would equal \$18,240 annually, if they all paid. In fact, the Department of General Services last year received \$9,120 in rental payments -- exactly half of the voluntary contribution amount and less than half of fair market value.

(a) Fair Market Value.....	\$ 19,200.00
(b) Maximum Voluntary Rental.....	18,240.00
(c) Actual Voluntary Rental.....	9,120.00
State Subsidy (a-c).....	10,080.00

Parking

General Services provides 34 parking spaces. A fair market value for these spaces is \$30,600 annually at \$75 per month per space. This is an undiluted subsidy because the Commonwealth must rent parking spaces for Commonwealth employees at private garages in Harrisburg.

State Subsidy.....	30,600.00
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News Room Supervisor

Jack Nagel is an employee of the Department of General Services. He supervises the News Room, takes phone calls for reporters when they are not there, distributes news releases, and other things. According to General Services, we can "safely say \$50,000" as the annual cost of his service, including salary and benefits.

State Subsidy.....	<u>50,000.00</u>
Total State Subsidy.....	\$ 90,680.00
Total State Subsidy Per Reporter (32)....	2,833.75

Notes

1. There is one additional "perk" associated with having the News Room in the Capitol. That is providing reporters with immediate and open access to 99 percent of the legislative deliberations that transpire here, a benefit whose value is beyond calculation. Of course, this benefit accrues not only to reporters but to the public that both reporters and legislators serve.

2. According to General Services, our Capitol News Room is the oldest in the United States. There is, therefore, a matter of tradition at work here. It is difficult to understand, however, why the tradition of providing \$14.29 per person per year worth of potato chips and soda to Harrisburg Democratic House members and staff should be the subject of criticism when the tradition of providing \$2,833.75 per reporter per year worth of in-kind services to media outlets is not.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

MEMO

June 10, 1992

JUN 11 1992

SUBJECT: Writing Assignment

TO: Rep. Tom Scrimenti

FROM: Timothy Potts *T Potts up*
Press Secretary to the Majority Leader

As you know, your current writer in the Information Office, Pam Landis, will be leaving June 18 to take a new job in Washington, D.C. As we were interviewing candidates for other vacancies on staff, we were able to fill Pam's position immediately.

Accordingly, on June 11, the writer assigned to you will be William Hunter. Because William's arrival and Pam's departure overlap, the two will work together to ensure the transition goes smoothly.

William holds degrees in journalism from Lock Haven University and secondary education from Point Park College as well as a master's in international communications from Macquarie University in Australia. He most recently wrote for Tri-State Sports and News Service, which involved extensive writing for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He previously served as the outdoors editor for an Ohio newspaper and has written for the Centre Daily Times, Pittsburgh Press and the AP. He's also interned in the Pittsburgh Public Schools' public relations office and at the Pennsylvania Film Bureau.

William will be contacting you shortly after his arrival to discuss how he can best meet your media needs.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

ALLEN KUKOVICH, MEMBER
P.O. BOX 30
528E MAIN CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 787-1157



HAUGER PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
10526 OLD TRAIL ROAD
NORTH HUNTINGDON, PENNSYLVANIA 15642
PHONE: (412) 863-0605

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

SEP 21 1993

September 20, 1993

Honorable Tom Scrimenti
P. O. Box 96

Dear Tom:

On August 11th I forwarded a preliminary concept paper concerning local tax reform. To date, I have not heard from you about this issue. Next Monday, September 27th, at 11:30 A.M., in Room #22 Capitol Annex, several members and staff will meet to further discuss tax reform. It is our goal to draft and introduce legislation based on the concept paper.

Since you have expressed interest in this matter, I would like to receive your comments and/or invite you to attend the meeting next Monday. Please contact my office if you need another copy of the concept paper. I would also like to hear from you if you have any comments, suggestions or if you would like to co-sponsor the proposed legislative package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'AGK'.

Allen G. Kukovich
State Legislator

AGK/th

*called
9-21-93*

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

September 22, 1993

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

Honorable Allen Kukovich
House of Representatives
528-E Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Allen:

Thank you for soliciting, once again, my comments on local tax reform from the concept paper you sent to me. I can only applaud your initiative to address tax reform in both a comprehensive and equitable fashion. Indeed this will stimulate real dialogue from a substantive starting point. Specifically, the shift from a property tax to an income tax is long overdue and one that I favor.

Secondly, the provision regarding periodic reviews of tax-exempt properties to ascertain their tax-exempt status is something that I also favor because an organizations' mission can change and their tax status should change accordingly.

Additionally, charging a municipal services fee for tax-exempt property is a necessary revenue source for local government to access especially for municipalities with a disproportionate share of tax-exempt properties.

Thank you again for soliciting my input on this matter.

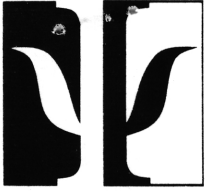
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js

MAR 17 1997



An affiliate of the
American Psychological
Association

PENNSYLVANIA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

416 Forster Street • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102-1714 • Telephone 717-232-3817 • FAX 717-232-7294

March 13, 1997

Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
PA House of Representatives
25B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti: *Tom*

Representative Tracy Seyfert has agreed to introduce legislation (House Bill 2560 of the 1995-1996 Legislative Session) that would permit, but not require, hospitals to modify their bylaws to place psychologists on their professional staffs. The existing regulations would be modified to allow patients to select which mental health professional will provide treatment for them within hospitals.

Hospitalizations usually occur at a time of crisis for patients. It is precisely at this time that the patients want to maintain their relationships with their chosen mental health provider. Instead, hospitalizations now impose a painful disruption on the patients of psychologists, as a referral to a physician is required. The patient's treatment plan becomes the physician's responsibility.

You were a co-sponsor of House Bill 2560 and we respectfully request that you sign on to Representative Tracy Seyfert's bill. Thank you for considering our request. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (717) 232-3817.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. DeWall
Executive Officer

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

March 24, 1997

Thomas H. DeWall
Executive Officer
Pennsylvania Psychological Association
416 Forster Street
Harrisburg, pa 17102-1714

Dear Mr. DeWall: - Tom

I am in receipt of your letter of March 13th, wherein you requested that I co-sponsor legislation being introduced by Representative Tracy Seyfert, previously H.B. 2560.

Please know that I signed on as a co-sponsor of Representative Seyfert's legislation, Psychologists Continuity of Care Act, on March 17, 1997.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/dje

COPY

LEONARD Q. GRUPPO, MEMBER
47E EAST WING
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 783-6437

15 SOUTH MAIN STREET, UNIT #1
NAZARETH, PENNSYLVANIA 18064
PHONE: (610) 759-1470



MAR 14 1997

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH
MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
GAME AND FISHERIES

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 14, 1997

Representative Thomas Scrimenti
25B East Wing

Dear Representative Scrimenti.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Tom".

As a follow-up to our conversation of the other day, I have been informed that Representative Al Pettit is preparing legislation to be introduced in the near future that would require the unannounced inspections of facilities that care for the elderly. You may wish to contact him to make sure you are a co-sponsor of this legislation.

I trust this information addresses your concerns. If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Len".

Leonard Q. Gruppo, Member
House of Representatives
137th Legislative District

LQG:jf



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Nursing home inspections

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

- AGING AND YOUTH
- DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
- PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
- AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

March 24, 1997

Representative Leonard Q. Gruppo
47E, East Wing

Dear Representative Gruppo: - Len

Thank you for your letter of March 14th in response to my interests in nursing home inspections. I am very interested in Rep. Pettit's legislation to require the unannounced inspections of facilities that care for the elderly.

Perhaps this bill could serve as an impetus to raise the discussion on the nursing home inspection process and to collect information on same. I believe it is important to ensure that the inspection process is making the care of residents at these facilities the best it can be. With over 85,000 people in nursing homes it becomes even more urgent to hold public hearings.

Thank you once again for bringing this legislation to my attention and your consideration of my request for public hearings.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/dje

COPY

APR 24 1997

MIKE VEON, CHAIRMAN
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE



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BEAVER FALLS, PENNSYLVANIA 15010
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

DATE: April 22, 1997

TO: All Policy Committee Members

FROM: Rep. Mike Veon, Chairman
Democratic Policy Committee

RE: Managed Care Prime Sponsorship and Press Conference

Managed Care is an issue which is important to our constituents and, therefore, should be important to us. We need to make certain that the House Democrats are recognized as leaders in the pro-consumer managed care movement. I know some members of our caucus have been working on these issues for several years. Larry Curry, Tony DeLuca, Dick Olsasz and Nick Colafella have been particularly active on managed care issues and we want to continue to work with them to give our caucus the highest possible legislative and public profile as we begin to seriously debate this issue in the House.

Senator Tim Murphy has introduced a bill in the Senate which seems to be getting some attention and may move to the House this session. They are holding hearings on the bill in the Senate now. We want to be prepared with our bills and amendments if and when it gets to the House.

Prime Sponsorship

As per our discussions during recent policy committee meetings, I have divided up the comprehensive pro-consumer, managed care legislation into several pieces. It is my intent to offer four components of the legislation to members of the policy committee for prime sponsorship. We will, however, introduce an omnibus bill as well.

The four components are as follows:

Availability and Accessibility Bill of Rights
Consumer Freedom of Information
Managed Care Consumer Advocate
Grievance Procedure with Independent Peer Review

I have attached a copy of the highlights of each component for your review. Please contact my office if you would like to prime sponsor any of the above components.

Press Conference

I would like all members of the Policy Committee who are interested in the issue of managed care to join me at a press conference on Thursday, May 1, 1997, at 11 a.m. in the media center.

Not only will we be highlighting the four pieces of legislation mentioned above and the omnibus legislation, we will be advocating other like-minded managed care proposals introduced by Democrats in the House this session. If you have introduced such legislation, please convey the bill number to my office. Moreover, if you will be able to participate in the press conference, please advise my office ASAP at 7-1290.

OCT 22 1998



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 21, 1998

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
House of Representatives
25B East Wing

Dear Tom:

As a member of the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) Board, I have been informed that the cost of health insurance for school retirees is going to increase dramatically in 1999. PSERS is currently notifying retirees in preparation for their open enrollment period. These increases affect retirees that participate in the voluntary health options program at PSERS. Unlike state retirees, a fully subsidized health insurance benefit is still unavailable to school retirees.

Aware of the pending increases in the cost of health care insurance, Representative Steven Nickol and I drafted House Bill 2186 in 1997. The bill creates an independent health insurance program for school retirees and provides the funding needed to reduce premium costs and to increase the health insurance subsidy. It requires the state and other employers to share the cost and phases the increased cost in over several years. Unfortunately, the health care legislation has not been considered in time to reduce the extraordinary price increases scheduled for 1999.

Unlike past years, PSERS has no options left. Health insurance reserves built up in prior years are no longer available to prevent substantial price increases. The bottom line is that the 1999 premiums that participants pay under this program will substantially increase but the \$55 state subsidy remains capped. The result is that many retirees will pay hundreds of dollars in monthly premiums, a cost that the paltry \$55 subsidy only marginally offsets.

I expect that you will receive letters from retirees deeply concerned over these trends. Their concerns are well substantiated and must be addressed. In the meantime, PSERS is preparing factual information that will further educate you about this issue. My office will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight".

DWIGHT EVANS
Democratic Chairman

cc: District Office

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 6, 1998

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Ms. Sylvia Carlburg

Union City, PA 16438

Dear Ms. Carlburg:

If you haven't already, you will be receiving notification from the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) that the cost of health insurance for school retirees is going to increase dramatically in 1999. These increases affect retirees that participate in PSERS' voluntary health options program. Unlike state retirees, a fully subsidized health insurance benefit is still unavailable to school retirees.

Aware of the pending increases in the cost of health care insurance, one of my colleagues introduced House Bill 2186, which I co-sponsored, this legislative session. The bill would create an independent health insurance program for school retirees and provides the funding needed to reduce premium costs and to increase the health insurance subsidy. It would require the state and other employers to share the cost and phase the increased cost in over several years. Unfortunately, House Bill 2186 has not been considered in time to reduce the extraordinary price increase scheduled for 1999.

Unlike past years, PSERS has no options left. Health insurance reserves built up in prior years are no longer available to prevent substantial price increases. The bottom line is the 1999 premiums that participants pay under this program will substantially increase but the \$55 state subsidy remains capped. The result is that many retirees will pay hundreds of dollars in monthly premiums, a cost that the subsidy only marginally offsets.

It is unfortunate that the cost of health insurance for school retirees who participate in PSERS' voluntary health options program will increase. Many retirees live on a fixed income and may be overwhelmed, financially, by this added burden. I can certainly understand your frustration and am truly sorry.

I hope this information provides further clarification. Feel free to contact PSERS directly at (717) 787-8540 for additional information. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS/mtf

COPY

SEP 25 2000

MIKE VEON
DEMOCRATIC WHIP



ROOM 428, MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

September 24, 2000

The Honorable Thomas Scrimenti
25 B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Rep. Scrimenti:

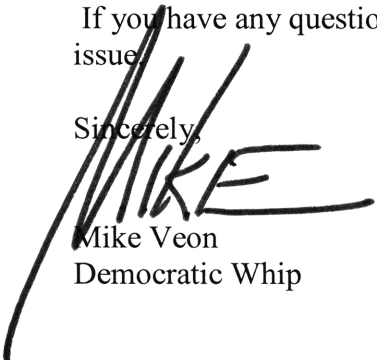
You may have recently received a copy of Pennsylvania Association for School Retiree's newsletter *Capitol Hill Update*. In the September 7th edition, which I have attached, you will find your name listed as targeted by the Association to request that each ask their Leadership for the opportunity to vote upon before the October recess.

I wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware that I was contacted by the Dick Rowland, Executive Director of PASR to discuss which of our incumbents would benefit from the support of their membership. In an effort to assist you reach out to constituencies that may otherwise be overlooked, I provided your name to association, with the understanding that the PASR members in your district would be urged by the association to contact you either in person or by mail. The overall goal of this effort is to help you build and strengthen your relationship with a very active constituency group.

I urge you to respond in writing to any letters or phone calls which you may receive from this constituency. It is our caucus' position that we address HB1401 which would increase the maximum level of health insurance premium assistance from \$55 to \$150 per month and expand the eligibility to include all individuals who retired from Pennsylvania schools with between 15 and 24.5 years of service at age 65.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff on this issue.

Sincerely,


Mike Veon
Democratic Whip