

MAR 23 1989

5203 Robinhood Lane
Erie, PA 16509
March 22, 1989

Rep. Thomas J. Scrimenti
9 W. Main Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Scrimenti:

It was disturbing to learn that funding for Pennsylvanians Aware was eliminated from Governor Casey's proposed budget. Pennsylvanians Aware has provided valuable support for our volunteer organization, The Chemical People, and this support and encouragement are needed by those willing to give their time free. Another example of the value of Pennsylvanians Aware is that their conference provided the initial impetus for a school youth volunteer prevention program in at least a couple of the school districts in Erie county, and the conference has only been held twice.

It is important to have a state organization specifically in support of volunteer groups and not to have all funds controlled by one local government channel. While coordinated efforts in some areas are useful, there is also a need to encourage independent initiative. Volunteers do not want to spend so much time attending meetings of others, and they want to work on prevention programs that they judge to be effective. Pennsylvanians Aware enables this.

Please give your support in restoring the funding for Pennsylvanians Aware.

Sincerely,

Nancy Starr

Nancy Starr - President
Erie County Council of
The Chemical People, Inc.

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI, MEMBER
9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS
GAME & FISHERIES

April 6, 1989

Ms. Nancy Starr, President
Erie County Council of
The Chemical People, Inc.
5203 Robinhood Lane
Erie, PA 16509

Dear Ms. Starr:

Thanks for your letter regarding "Pennsylvanians Aware." As you are no doubt aware, our drug abuse legislation and appropriations are currently undergoing a thorough review, and I will be sure to keep your views uppermost as that process continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas J. Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS/ldn

RESEARCH AND SERVICES
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

ROBERT J. HOLLIS, DIRECTOR
215 SOUTH OFFICE BUILDING



MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 250
MAIN CAPITOL BLDG.
HARRISBURG, PA 17120

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMO

April 6, 1989

SUBJECT: "Pennsylvanians Aware"

TO: Rep. Thomas J. Scrimenti
25B, East Wing - Main Capitol

FROM: Phil Murphy, Research Analyst
Democratic Research & Services

Box 416
THRU: Robert J. Hollis, Director
Democratic Research and Services

I've drafted the enclosed response as though this were a normal appropriations inquiry. In fact, "Pennsylvanians Aware" is a Republican WAM and Mrs. McLatchy sits on the Board. You may want to keep this in mind for any further or more detailed inquiries.

PM/lm

Enclosure

KARL W. BOYES, MEMBER
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 147
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 783-6433

5071 PEACH STREET
ERIE, PA 16509
PHONE: (814) 868-5489



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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
MINORITY VICE CHAIRMAN

APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 18, 1989

MEMO

RE: Lyme Disease Legislation

TO: Erie County Legislative Delegation

FROM: Representative Karl Boyes *Karl Boyes*

In keeping with your request, a meeting is scheduled for the entire Erie County Legislative Delegation at the Presque Isle State Park Administration Building on Friday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. Ed Donn, Chairman of the Presque Isle Advisory Committee will be in attendance, along with John Toth of the Erie County Health Department.

The purpose of the meeting is for representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Health to make a special presentation to those present concerning the extent of the problem in the area, its seriousness and recommendations.

The media has been invited.

I am enclosing herewith, a copy of HR 62, along with a copy of our letter to John Toth and a copy of House Bill 1204.

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 6, 1991

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

!title! !first! !last!
/If Not Empty,address1!/!address1!
/End If//If Not Empty,address2!/!address2!
/End If!/city!, !state! !zip!

Dear !sal!:

I am writing to you today as I sit in a closed party caucus in Harrisburg, discussing what has become clearly the most important state issue this year: budget problems. As you may know, I have taken a strong stand against any new taxes and adamantly push for further cost-cutting measures.

In fact, I have asked my colleagues in the legislature to do several things to address the problem.

1. I have publicly called on House leaders to turn the legislative surplus back to the state's General Fund. These funds total tens of millions of dollars (about \$80 million at the start of the budget year), and while it won't solve the problem it sends the important signal that the legislature is willing to cut back, too, in hard times.
2. I have asked the House Speaker, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House, to immediately cut off approval for all out-of-state travel both by legislators and legislative staff. My request is that this expenditure prohibition continue until the fiscal crisis is solved.
3. I have also called on my colleagues to adopt other legislative reforms to save dollars, including cut backs in the size of the legislature, and reductions in reimbursable expenses and other perks. I also support a reduction in legislative salaries (as you know, in my three years in the legislature, I have never taken the full legislative salary).
4. Even without the support of other legislators I have voluntarily decided to cut my own legislative budget by five (5) percent. I will still maintain my two district offices and all constituent services, but I have cut back on mailings and I have redoubled my efforts to save every possible penny in district office operations.

!title! !first! !last!
May 6, 1991
Page 2

5. I am doing everything I can to apply these same standards to other state government operations. From the huge Welfare Department to the smallest state board or commission they have got to be held to the standards of efficiency and productivity each taxpayer would require of them if they could personally review their operation.

As you can imagine, not all my ideas and standards have been widely accepted in Harrisburg. I am confident, though, that they reflect the views of the great majority of the people of Erie County. What's more, as the long budget process goes on, I think more and more legislators will come to realize that if some of these proposals seem like "tough medicine to swallow" it will prove to help make us better.

I would like to ask for your input. You've been a good and valued supporter in the past and I would certainly appreciate your advice now. If you have any ideas or concerns about the state budget, please let me know. As always, I will do my best to be just as responsive as I can.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

TS:js

P.S. Let me take this opportunity to also give you a family update: my wife, Pam's, doctor has slightly changed the date of arrival of our first born to early June. With this being our first, you can imagine we are both ecstatic about it. We can hardly wait for our little new lawmaker!



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

M E M O

February 26, 1991

SUBJECT: Draft Letter to Supporters

TO: Rep. Tom Scrimenti
25B, East Wing

FROM: Jeff Foreman, Director *JF*
Research & Legislative Services Office

As you requested, I've drafted a letter for your review intended to replace your Harrisburg Report to the People, with a more personalized mailing to a more select group. In addition to the attached letter I would suggest a post script.

I am, of course, less familiar with the group you're sending this to than you are, but if it were appropriate I would suggest the post script might be of a personal nature. For example:

X P.S. - Let me take this opportunity to also give you a family update: my wife, Pam, ^{is doctor} and I are expecting a child this summer. It will be our first, and as you can imagine we are both ecstatic about it. *(1)*

If that is too personal, perhaps you could use something like:

< P.S. - Let me also share my outlook for the budget deadline. Although many legislators, both Republican and Democrats, have been working long hours to resolve budget problems I frankly think we'll have difficulty meeting the time deadline. You can count on my continued work to make that deadline, and a future update to report what happens.

JF/lh

Attachment

changed the date of arrival
my wife, Pam's doctor has slightly ~~the~~
of our 1st born to early June ^{insert}
With this being our 1st you *(1)*
We can hardly wait for our new lawmaker!
fax.

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
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INSURANCE
POLICY

June 5, 1991

Mr. Marshall Dragosavac

[REDACTED]
Erie, PA 16511

Dear Marshall:

I wanted to thank you for your recent letter and the ideas it contained regarding the Pennsylvania State Lottery. Your views, and those of all senior citizens, are extremely valuable to me and I appreciate you taking the time write.

Let me begin by saying that I fully understand how difficult it is for older people to make ends meet. I know that living on a fixed income is a constant struggle, and I feel obligated to protect seniors from the burden of higher taxes. At the same time, I think that it's important to defend existing senior citizen programs, especially those provided by the lottery.

In keeping with my commitment to do all I can to protect the needs of senior citizens, I have sponsored legislation that would help protect the integrity of the lottery fund. Often referred to as the "Lottery Fund Preservation Plan," House Bill 1470 contains provisions that would increase PACE income limits to federal Social Security cost-of-living adjustments. This change would increase PACE income limits from \$12,000 to \$13,000 for singles, and \$15,000 to \$16,200 for couples. For your review, I have enclosed a copy of H.B. 1470, which was recently re-committed to the Rules Committee.

Again, thank you for writing to me. If I can be of further assistance to you with this, or any other issue, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

TS:rm
Enclosures

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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POLICY

May 31, 1991

Mr. William A. Dean

[REDACTED]
Corry, PA 16407

Dear Mr. Dean: - 6/22/91

I want to tell you how much I appreciated your recent letter and its kind words. The points you make and advice you offer are very valuable to me. Please know that your comments and suggestions will be remembered and respected throughout the upcoming budget votes and during my public service.

Mr. Dean, be assured that I will continue my dedication and hard work to see to it that our state government behaves responsibly, mindful of waste and sensitive to excess and extravagance.

These are challenging times for our Commonwealth; but I believe that these are also times of opportunity. In our state's response to our current budget crises must be the foundation for the future good works of our state. By correcting the present problems in our spending and prudently planning for the programs of tomorrow, these days of adversity can make Pennsylvania better and stronger.

With that in mind, please know how much I sincerely welcome your letter and comments. In the future, if I can be of any assistance to you in any matter, do not hesitate to continue to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards.

Sincerely,

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

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/sam

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

June 11, 1991

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cornell

[REDACTED]
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Carl and Regena:

Thank you for your response to my letter of May 6, 1991. I appreciate you taking the time to answer and I would like to say that my wife and son are doing fine. Our latest addition to the family is named Mark Thomas and he is off to a good healthy start on the road to becoming a lawmaker.

As far as your proposals are concerned, they are very good ideas. The idea about having welfare recipients work for the state is something that would be a little difficult to accomplish but the use of inmates is a very good possibility. I spoke with the people within the Department of Corrections and they have informed me that they are pursuing the very idea you proposed. Commissioner Lehman has agreed to let the state use inmates for roadside clean-up crews and park maintenance crews. The only thing left for them to iron out is the impact that non-paid work will have on the paid employees. More than likely the inmates will be used to supplement the work force which would, in effect, create a hiring freeze. This would definitely lead to a savings for the state as far as the payroll expenditures go.

To bring you up to date on the budget, the House passed a preliminary proposal last week which offered an increase in spending on health care and education. Along with this, my colleagues and I have proposed a 5 day furlough for all state employees and legislators creating a savings of \$23.4 million. As I have stated in the past, I will pursue a cost effective budget throughout the upcoming deliberations and would appreciate any additional ideas you may have in creating a balanced budget.

Thank you again for your letter and please stop by my district office sometime so that I can show you pictures of the area's newest lawmaker!

Sincerely,

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/mk

DAVID J. BILLINGSLEY
Insurance Services
10 Wattsburg St.
Union City, PA 16438
Tel: (814) 438-3145

NOV 07 1991



11-2-91
Rep. Thomas Scrimenti
Main Capital Building Ofc.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Legislator,

I am writting to ask that you vote to repeal part of the 1991 Budget which imposes a 2% tax on certain annuities. Although I know that the state is hungry for money, the legislature did not think this one through. Look at what this is going to do to your constituents:

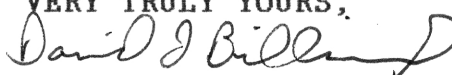
* Most annuities are sold to senior citizens. This tax hits them when they can least afford it.

* If an individuals spouse dies and is left with an insurance settlement which is reinvested in an annuity, the 2% tax is really a "widdows tax".

* Annuities are considered conservative investments. The 2% tax now makes them non-competitive. The investing public may chose other, more risky investment vehicles such as real estate or junk bonds. If this happens, our state risks a replay of the 80's, overextension into these areas.

* This tax is discriminatory in that it singles out one type of investment yet leaves other such as Cd's etc., alone. Was this done on purpose? I feel in all fairness that if you are going to tax on an investment, all investments should be taxed. One should not be singled out.

I think it is obvious that this tax was proposed at the last minute after a long budget battle in order to hide from full public disclosure. There was no real time when the people could help legislators think the consequences through of a hasty vote. Given the above, I expect you to sponser repeal of the 2% tax on annuities. The amount the Governor seeks to raise can be taken car of with a 1 or 2% across the board cut in state spending. I assure you that my client base is going to be informed of the way this unfair and unnecessary tax is going to burden them further. You don't raise taxes on the back of those who are trying to help themselves with retirement planning. CUT SPENDING INSTEAD!

VERY TRULY YOURS,

DAVID J BILLINGSLEY

JRW:MR

PS: If you expect my suport in your up-comming campaign, an appropriate responce would be appreciated.

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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INSURANCE
POLICY

November 8, 1991

Mr. David J. Billingsley
Time Insurance Services
10 Wattsburg Street
Union City, Pennsylvania 16438

Dear Mr. Billingsley:

Thank you for writing to me with concerns about the two percent premium tax now being charged on the purchase of non-qualified annuities.

Before deciding to support the tax measure in its entirety, I listened carefully to the debate both for and against the plan. While there were several sections I disagreed with, the overall tax plan was one that I thought was fair and equitable.

As the 1991-92 session continues, I am sure that there will be sentiment in both chambers to fine tune different aspects of the revenue package; if the non-qualified annuity tax is part of that reconsideration, you can be sure I will come to the debate with an open mind, armed with the arguments you have made so ably.

On a related point, I want to tell you that I was less than impressed with what took place here in Harrisburg during the budget negotiations. In order to attempt to break this cycle, which has delayed six of the last nineteen budgets, I have joined with thirty-nine other House members in co-sponsoring House Resolution 184. If passed, House Resolution 184 would establish a select committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the budgetary process and make recommendations for improvements (see enclosure). Your support of this measure, which would bring a greater number of rank and file members into the budgetary process, would be greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you for making me aware of your position, and please don't hesitate to contact me in the future if you have additional concerns about this or any other issue.

Sincerely,
Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Scrimenti in cursive.
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js
enclosure