

ITALO S. CAPPABIANCA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MAR 11 1998

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN

CAUCUSES

NORTHWEST CAUCUS

STAFF

STEVEN CRAWFORD
SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE CAUCUS/COMMITTEE
LYNN SLABICKI
RESEARCH ANALYST



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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- DISTRICT OFFICE:
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E-MAIL: ITALO@MOOSE.ERIE.NET
HOME PAGE: MOOSE.ERIE.NET/~ITALO

March 11, 1998

Representative John M. Perzel
House Majority Leader
110 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Representative John E. Barley
House Appropriations Committee Chairman
245 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Representatives Perzel and Barley:

It has come to the attention of the Erie Delegation that the State Grant Appropriation to the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority for the 1998-1999 budget is equivalent to \$1.5 million dollars.

This appropriation is **\$500,000 less** than received in the 1997-1998 budget for the Erie-Western Port Authority. What is even more disturbing is the fact that this \$500,000 reduction was taken solely from the Erie-Western Port Authority's allocation-- leaving Pittsburgh and Philadelphia's line items unaffected. **We the Erie Delegation cannot stress the importance of this money enough.** Last year the additional monies were used for capital improvements which enabled Metro Machines Ship Yard (a tenant of the Port Authority) to secure a \$15 million dollar ship-building contract with the United States Navy.

The continuation of funding for further capital improvements will further help to ensure the viability and continued success of the Erie-Western Port Authority. We the undersigned urge you to maintain the \$2 million dollar funding for the Port Authority.

Sincerely,

Karl W. Boyes

Linda Bebeko Jones

Italo S. Cappabianca

Thomas J. Scrimenti

Tracy Seyfert

Jane M. Earll

cc: Representative Bill DeWeese
Representative Dwight Evans

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

□ 9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
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□ 202 NORTH CENTER STREET
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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 25, 1997

Donald Brumagin
Municipal Authority of Union City
12 South Main St.
Union City Pennsylvania 16408

Dear Mr. Brumagin: — *Tom*

I am writing in response to your letter in which you requested my support in opposing Governor Ridge's plan to phase out Act 339 sewage treatment plant operating subsidies over three years, starting with a \$10 million reduction in his 1997-98 budget proposal.

I am in complete agreement with you that these grants are essential funding for sewage authorities, and that the elimination of this grant funding would necessarily result in considerable rate increases for residents. Please know that I will continue to support your position on this issue and will endeavor to express my opposition to the elimination of these grants as the state budget is undertaken over the next several months. As you may recall, this grant program was also scheduled for elimination last year in the 1996-97 budget process but was reinstated before the budget was passed in final form.

Thank you for writing to me concerning this important issue and if I can be of any further assistance please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Tom

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

Municipal Authority of Borough of Union City

12 South Main Street • Union City, Pennsylvania 16438

Donald R. Brumagin, Manager

Phone (814) 438-3721 • Fax (814) 438-3495

March 5, 1997

Representative Thomas Scrimenti
House Post Office
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

This letter will serve to express our Authority's deep concern and opposition to the eventual elimination of funding for Act 339 Sewage Treatment Plant Operation Grants for municipal authorities, municipalities and school districts.

The prior funding of \$40 million dollars was critical to the operation of many sewage treatment facilities in Pennsylvania. Many authorities have already done long range budgeting which anticipate the receipt fo Act 339 monies.

This funding is not inconsequential! In an era of numerous unfunded mandates impacting authority operations, an Authority can ill-afford the effect of yet another financial blow to municipal services.

We vigorously urge you to press for the full reinstatement of the Act 339 Grant monies in the 1997-1998 Commonwealth budget; and do not allow further future reductions in this essential grant program.

Sincerely,

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY



Donald R. Brumagin
Manager

DRB:psh

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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AGING AND YOUTH
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

May 4, 1998

Paul V. Carpenedo
Executive Director
Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.
226 East 27th Street
Erie, PA 16504

Dear Mr. Carpenedo: - Paul,

Thank you for your letter concerning allocations for line items regarding mental retardation services.


As you may know, the state budget was passed on April 21, 1998. I reviewed your proposal for increased funding and compared that with the version of the budget that was passed and signed by Governor Ridge. The following is the result of my comparison.

	PAR (3.5%)	HB 2281
Community MR Services	\$ 508,622,000	\$ 497,360,000
Intermediate Care Facilities/MR	\$ 114,552,000	\$ 111,345,000
Early Intervention	\$ 45,146,750	\$ 44,483,000
Pennhurst	\$ 2,976,500	\$ 2,933,000
Lansdowne	\$ 383,250	\$ 378,000

Unfortunately, the line items with which you were most concerned did not receive the 3.5% increase you requested; rather they only received a 2% increase. Even though the budget for 1998-99 has been passed, please be assured that your concerns and suggestions for monetary increases have been heard and noted.

Please feel free to provide me with budgetary recommendations regarding mental retardation services for the 1999-2000 budget. If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative



APR 2 1 1998

Residential and Community Services

Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.

226 East 27th Street Erie, Pennsylvania 16504 (814) 454-1534 Fax (814) 452-6723

Officers

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President

Darcel H. Steber
President Elect

Joan H. Mainzer
Vice President

Constance C. Brereton
Secretary

James A. Steber
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Laurie M. Tredway
Janice D. Underhill

Executive Director

Paul V. Carpenedo

April 16, 1998

The Honorable Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative
25-B Capitol Building
East Wing - Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: 1998-99 State Budget

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I am writing regarding the proposed State Budget and specifically the line items regarding mental retardation services. During the last several years there have been significant increases in funding for mental retardation services. However, the majority of these increases was to expand services to those who were un-served or under served. Significant progress has been made in this area through the cooperation of private providers of mental retardation services and the Office of Mental Retardation. However, existing services have been limited to increases ranging from 0-2% over approximately the last eight years. These increase have not kept pace with inflation and the increased cost of providing the services. Thus, while programs have been expanded, existing services have been short changed. Turnover among employees has remained high. Mental retardation services are a very people or labor intensive business, and the quality of mental retardation services is significantly affected by the quality of the people providing those services. I believe that an increased appropriation for existing mental retardation services is very important in order to attract and retain qualified personnel. Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc. is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Resources for People with Mental Retardation (and I have been an active member of that organization serving on the Board of Directors). Attached is the proposal we are recommending for funding for mental retardation services for fiscal year 1998-99. All of the increases over the Governor's Proposed Budget are to go to existing services so these services will be granted a 3.5% increase rather than a 2% increase as proposed. Both the Community Mental Retardation Line Item and the private ICF/MR Line Item directly affect Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc. We ask for your support for this position and also ask that you

1998-99 State Budget

Page 2

contact the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee to encourage their support. We are certainly appreciative of the moneys the Legislature has appropriated for new services and supports but also need more funds to sustain the supports and services that are already in place.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We are also appreciative of the past support you have shown for services for people with mental retardation.

Sincerely yours,



Paul Carpenedo
Executive Director

PC/wlm
enclosure

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

April 7, 1999

Thomas C. Heard, President
Edinboro University APSCUF
105 White Hall
Edinboro, PA 16444


Dear Mr. Heard: - Tom

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for writing to me about the concerns you have about the funding for the State System of Higher Education proposed by Governor Ridge. Education has been a topic of great importance throughout the Commonwealth and I welcome your input.

As you have written, the current proposal made by Governor Ridge is only a 2.5% increase from the previous fiscal year for the State System of Higher Education. As you have also noted in your letter, the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education has requested a 5.5% increase in state appropriations just to maintain the current programs. Recently, the State Legislature has held meetings to configure its own budget that will be presented to the entire House of Representatives for discussion and approval. The budget appropriation that will be presented to the House for discussion will closely mirror the proposal made by the Governor. As we move forward through the budget process to a final vote, I will keep your comments and concerns in mind. The State System of Higher Education funds the Commonwealth's public universities, which provide a great service to those who live in Pennsylvania. Therefore, it is important that the Legislature show its support of this institution as well.

Again, thank you for your letter of concern about the budget appropriation for the State System of Higher Education. If I can be of any further assistance to you on this matter, or any other matter in the future, please contact me at my office.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

Mailed 4-15 NE



Edinboro
UNIVERSITY

MAR 25 1999
APSCUF

ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY FACULTIES

105 White Hall / Edinboro, Pennsylvania 16444 / (814) 732-2918
Fax (814) 732-2286 / Internet APSCUF@edinboro.EDU

March 22, 1999

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

Dear Representative Scrimenti,

This communication is to voice my concern, and solicit your support for increasing the budget appropriation for the State System of Higher Education.

Governor Ridge's 1999-2000 budget proposal provides for a 2.5% increase for the State System of Higher Education, while the overall budget increase is 2.9%. The Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education estimates that it will require a 5.5% increase in state appropriations just to maintain the current programs.

Pennsylvania's budget priorities have changed dramatically over the past decade. In 1982, at the beginning of the State System, the state appropriations covered 64.4% of the System's budget. The percentage dropped to 47.4% of the budget in fiscal year 1996-97. The lack of state appropriations was partially made up by increasing tuition and fees. This has caused the tuition and fees at Pennsylvania's public colleges to be the second highest in the nation.

The primary mission of the State System of Higher Education is to provide citizens with a high quality education at the lowest possible cost. The shift in Pennsylvania's funding emphasis seriously affects the ability of the State System to meet its mission.

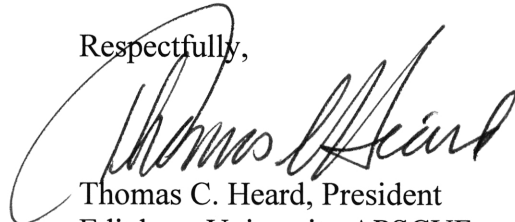
The average annual increase for the Department of Corrections over the past 12 budgets was 25.3%, while the State universities averaged 3.3%. The state is in good economic condition with a projected budget surplus expected to be at least \$300 million. Now is the time to reverse Pennsylvania's budget priorities and make additional funds available to public higher education.

If we expect technologically based education to be the "key to success" in the next century, and prepare Pennsylvanian's to be competitive in the job market, we must increase the state appropriations now.

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
March 22, 1999
Page 2

As you interact with your caucus leadership and colleagues in the legislature, I ask you to actively support the 5.5% increase in state appropriations requested by the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education.

Respectfully,



Thomas C. Heard, President
Edinboro University APSCUF

FEB 25 2000

City of Erie

Joyce A. Savocchio, Mayor

Jeffrey E. Spaulding
Director of Economic & Community Development

February 21, 2000

Representative Thomas Scrimenti
P.O. Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

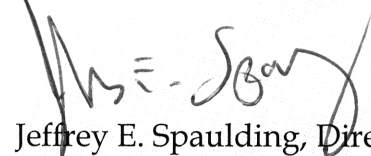
As you deliberate Governor Ridge's proposed FY2000-01 Budget, I am very hopeful that you will give strong consideration to increasing the Governor's recommendation for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts from \$13 million to \$15 million. This level of funding is necessary to place Pennsylvania at a per-capita competitive level that would move us into the top seventeen states nationwide.

It is vital that we close the gap in funding to the Arts as compared to our neighboring states in order that we can remain a strong and competitive state when offering incentives to employers and employees considering moving into our communities.

The Arts provide a solid foundation in a community, not only through the visual and performing arts, but by enhancing the educational quality of our youth through the school systems where our children will be educated and grow up.

The Arts must remain strong and grow if we are to remain strong and grow as communities.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey E. Spaulding, Director
Department of Economic and
Community Development

JES:smd

Office of the Director

626 State Street • Room 404 • Erie Pennsylvania 16501-1128 • (814) 870-1270 • Fax (814) 870-1443

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 10, 2000

Jeffrey E. Spaulding, Director
Erie Department of Economic and Community Development
Room 404, 626 State Street
Erie PA 16501-1128

Dear Mr. Spaulding: - *Jeff*

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Erie's desire to see an increase in the Council of the Arts appropriation in the state budget from \$13 million to \$15 million.

I, too, am a firm believer in that the arts are an integral part of a community and deserve the financial support from government. Through the study of music, painting, theater or some other creative outlet, the people and community in which they live are enriched as they learn to appreciate new experiences.

I have prepared letters to Governor Thomas Ridge^{or}, Chairman Dwight Evans of the House Democratic Appropriations Committee, and Chairman John Barley of the House Republican Appropriations Committee asking for their support. Enclosed find copies of the letters for your perusal.

Again, thank you for writing. If I may be of future assistance with any state-related matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

*Good letter to
use on this issue.
J.G.d*

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

April 6, 2000

Jeffrey E. Spaulding, Director
Erie Department of Economic and Community Development
Room 404, 626 State Street
Erie PA 16501-1128

Dear Mr. Spaulding:—

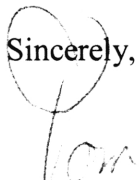
Thank you for your recent letter regarding Erie's desire to see an increase in the Council of the Arts appropriation in the state budget from \$13 million to \$15 million.

I, too, am a firm believer in that the arts are an integral part of a community and deserve the financial support from government. Through the study of music, painting, theater or some other creative outlet, the people and community in which they live are enriched as they learn to appreciate new experiences.

I have prepared a letter to Chairman Dwight Evans of the House Democratic Appropriations Committee asking for support. Enclosed please find a copy of this letter for your perusal.

Again, thank you for writing. If I may be of future assistance with any state-related matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS/dr

Enclosure

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

May 31, 2000

Ms. Mary Ellen Camp
Project Coordinator
New Choices/New Options
Career Development Services
5 West 10th Street
Suite 309
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

Dear Ms. Camp:

Thank you for writing to express your gratitude for the passage of \$3.7 million line item amount in the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year Budget, and for my support for sustaining this same funding amount as was approved in last year's budget.

Clearly, these valuable New Choices/New Options programs have been duly recognized by the state legislature as being worthy of our continued support. I am certainly pleased that your clients will now have the proper assurance that you will continue to be available to help them become more self-sufficient and re-enter the workplace.

You have also requested my support for House Bill 2255, known as the Displaced Homeowner and Single Parent Self Sufficiency Act. In particular, you have stated that this legislation is strongly needed so that the New Choices/New Options programs do not have to be dependent on the state budget line item next year.

You may know that House Bill 2255 was referred to the House Education Committee on February 10, 2000. This bill was subsequently reported from the committee without having been amended on April 11, 2000, and was then tabled on the same day. To date, no further formal action has been taken regarding House Bill 2255 by the legislature.

I appreciate your views regarding this important legislation and assure you that I will continue to support the passage of this bill during the remainder of the 1999-2000 Legislative Session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti

State Representative

MAY 23 2000

NEW CHOICES NEW OPTIONS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

5 W. 10th Street • Suite 309 • Erie, Pennsylvania 16501 • Phone 814/480-8792

May 18, 2000

Honorable Tom Scrimenti
PA House of Representatives
25B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti,

Thank you very much for supporting the New Choices/New Options line item in the 2000-2001 State Budget. I am very pleased that we will be able to continue services to our clients without interruption as well as be able to prepare for next year. Our clients can now be confident that we will be here to support them with their career goals, thanks to you.

I would also like to ask for your assistance in passing the pending legislation, House Bill 2255, known as the Displaced Homemaker and Single Parent Self Sufficiency Act. Your past support of this bill has been truly appreciated. However, it is imperative that this legislation is passed so the New Choices/New Options programs throughout Pennsylvania do not have to be dependent on the state budget line item next year. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Once again, thank you for your support of the line item, for passing the budget, and for keeping me informed.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Camp
Project Director

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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COMMITTEES

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 30, 2001

Ms. Karen Herrmann, Secretary
Ms. Carol C. Herrmann, Treasurer
North East Arts Council
Post Office Box 662
North East, PA 16482

Dear Ms. Karen & Carol Herrmann:

I would like to thank you for your correspondence requesting an increase in state funding for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

You will be pleased to know that the Governor's Budget Proposal for 2001-2002 proposes a 13% increase in state funds for the Council on the Arts. I sincerely appreciate your contributions to the community and will support an increase in state allocation when the proposed budget is brought before the General Assembly for legislative action.

I encourage you to forward this correspondence regarding the proposed increase to supporters of the Northeast Arts Council.

Thank you again for taking the time to express your views regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

cc: Ms. Wendy Foxwell Boldy
Ms. Melina Haynes
Mr. Alan C. Koch
Ms. Mary Larsen



MAR 23 2001

Post Office Box 662
North East, PA 16428
(814) 725-9089

March 8, 2001

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
Pennsylvania State Capitol
Rm. 25B, East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

It has come to our attention that there is a proposal to increase funding allocated to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. This increase would bring spending on arts programs more into line with states neighboring ours. We are told that there is some support for a \$17 million dollar appropriation. The purpose of our letter is to request the fullest possible increase in funding.

Our organization has benefited directly from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Grant Program. We were able to implement a summer program for children offering experience in all aspects of theater. Last summer, you may remember touring our new facility, the North East Cultural Center on Vine Street. At the time of your tour, we were in the middle of this two week program. We would not have been able to offer this program at a cost accessible to most families without help from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Thank you for your continued support of the North East Arts Council and our joint venture with the North East Historical Society, the North East Cultural Center.

Sincerely,

Karen Hermark, Sec.
Carl C. Hermark, Treasurer

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 30, 2001

Ms. Terri Fleck
[REDACTED]
North East, PA 16428

Dear Ms. Fleck:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your letter regarding your support for the New Choices/New Options program. I appreciate the time and effort taken to contact my office and include me in your thoughts.

As you are aware, the New Choices/New Options program provides vital career training and development for displaced homemakers and single parents, as well as community assistance in new job creation. The centers provide more than counseling and training. They help people discover new talents and strengths and the ability to take care of themselves and their families financially. As a supporter of programs that benefit our families and our community, I will urge for continued funding for the New Choices/New Options program during the upcoming budget process.

In addition, I commend you on your participation in the program. You are a shining example that this program truly works. Also, the essence of democracy is exemplified when citizens voice their concerns to their elected officials. It is people, such as you, who allow us in Harrisburg to see the benefits this program provides for many Pennsylvanians.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your concerns. As always, your input is welcomed and appreciated. If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 2, 2001

John R. Fuhrmann
Chief Executive Officer
American Red Cross
4961 Pittsburgh Avenue
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509

Dear Mr. Fuhrmann:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your support for the continued state funding of the Statewide Extended Care program. I appreciate the time and effort you have taken to contact my office.

I would personally like to thank you for the service your chapter provides to victims of natural disasters. You should be proud to be part of such a fine organization. I, too, agree that local Red Cross Chapters, such as the Erie County Chapter, need the funding provided by the Statewide Extended Care program in order to accelerate the process by which victims of natural disasters can return to self-sufficiency.

Unfortunately, funding for the Red Cross Extended Care Program was not included in the governor's proposed 2001-2002 fiscal budget or in Senate Bill 1 (the legislative budget proposal). However, there is still an opportunity for a line item appropriation to be made for these funds when the Conference Committee meets. I assure you that as an advocate for the American Red Cross, I will continue to support legislation that funds this vital program.

Once again, thank you for your letter. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative