

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Mailed from
D.E. office

March 27, 2001

Richard and Shirley Chase

████████████████████
Corry, Pennsylvania 16407

Dear Richard and Shirley:

I would like to thank you for your recent correspondence concerning funding for Type 1 diabetes research.

I concur with you that an increase in funding for diabetes research is necessary to bring significant advances and hopefully, in the near future, a cure for this debilitating, chronic disease. I will be certain to take your concerns and recommendations into consideration as the General Assembly further allocates tobacco settlement monies for future purposes.

In an attempt to collect input from Pennsylvania residents, we are encouraging constituents and interested groups to send their questions and comments directly to the email address tobacco@pahouse.net in order to gather the necessary feedback we need to strengthen any tobacco proposal. Also, I invite you to log on to www.pahouse.com and visit the Democratic Caucus' tobacco page, where you will find details of our plan and an abundance of information regarding the tobacco settlement funds.

Again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to express your concern and views regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

MAR 21 2001

██████████
Corry, PA 16407
March 15, 2001

Hon. Tom Scrimenti
25B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Mr. Scrimenti,

I am writing to ask for your support for specific legislation to fund Type 1 diabetes research at Pennsylvania institutions from tobacco funds: A bill has already passed the Pennsylvania House (House Bill 2) including a provision that originally allocated \$12 million for juvenile diabetes research using existing tobacco settlement money. The Pennsylvania Senate introduced Senate Bill 501 that establishes a research advisory committee to oversee funding of biomedical research with allocated tobacco funds to Pennsylvania research institutions, but not specifically for diabetes research. Highly acclaimed juvenile diabetes research is currently conducted at some of our leading Pennsylvania biomedical research institutions including the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Children's Hospital, the University of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania State University.

- ◆ Diabetes is the single most costly chronic disease in the U.S. Diabetes costs the nation \$105 **BILLION** annually and accounts for 25% of all Medicare expenditures.
- ◆ Each year, diabetes costs the people of Pennsylvania \$6.6 **BILLION** in lost productivity and direct medical care.
- ◆ 550,000 Pennsylvanians suffer from diabetes (6% of the adult population).
- ◆ Nationally, a 13% rise in new cases is reported annually, 13,000 of whom are children. That's 35 children each and every day!
- ◆ In 1997, 12,352 Pennsylvania residents DIED from diabetes and its complications.
- ◆ Diabetes is the world's leading cause of blindness (862 new cases in PA).
- ◆ Diabetes is the leading cause of end-stage kidney disease (1575 new cases in PA) and non-traumatic amputation (5028 new cases in PA).
- ◆ Insulin is not a cure...it is merely life support! It is a myth that people with diabetes develop complications because they don't take care of themselves. Despite the most stringent and technically current management of blood sugar levels, 30%-50% of all diabetic patients experience serious, life-threatening complications.

This funding would build a leadership role for Pennsylvania in using tobacco settlement funds for its already pre-eminent biomedical research programs. If a significant advance or cure for diabetes were developed in Pennsylvania, the monetary rewards and prestige it would bring would be extraordinary. Your legislative support of this allocation would make a large investment in the Pennsylvania biomedical research community and help to cure this deadly disease.

This funding of diabetic research could be the beginning of the end to the waiting and suffering of millions of men, women and children worldwide. Please support the allocation of funding to find a cure! Our only hope is research!

Yours truly,

Richard Chase
Shirley Chase
Richard and Shirley Chase

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

January 29, 1995

Valarie J. Dill, R.D., President
Northwest Pennsylvania Dietetic Association
P.O. Box 10322
Erie, PA 16514

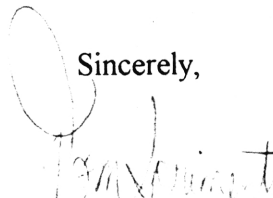
Dear Ms. Dill:

Thank you for your letter alerting me to action on HB 226, providing for the training and licensing of registered dietitians.

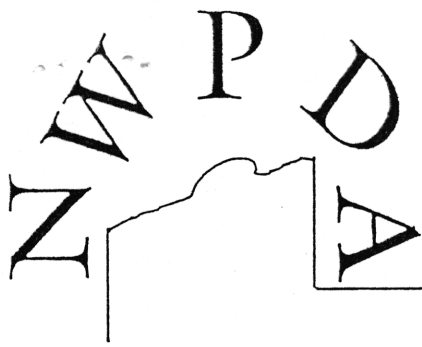
I was present at the January 16th hearing on the bill and found the testimony to be thorough and persuasive. However, as of this date, no further action has been planned for the bill.

Please be assured that when the bill comes up for discussion in Committee, full consideration will be given to your viewpoints. Do not hesitate to contact me about this or any other state issue of concern to you.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS/hfn



JAN 11 1996

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

Representative Tom Scrimenti
House, P.O. Box 96
House of Representatives
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 226

Representative Scrimenti,

On January 16th, 1996 hearings will be held regarding H.B. 226. On behalf of all members of the Northwest Pennsylvania Dietetic Association, I urge you to support this bill proposing the licensure of registered dietitians.

Northwest Pennsylvania's constituents have alarmingly high statistical rates of infant mortality, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, lung disease and breast cancer. All of these health conditions are greatly influenced by lifestyle choices. Nutrition is a vital factor in maintaining health and medical nutrition therapy is a vital link in restoring health. Your constituents must be able to choose qualified, licensed practitioners who can provide needed nutritional services.

Registered dietitians are specifically trained in nutrition, dietetics, and food safety meeting continuing education requirements to maintain their voluntary credential.

Thirty-eight states have already acknowledged the need to legally recognize registered dietitians as qualified nutrition practitioners. Pennsylvania cannot continue to have no licensed nutrition practitioners for members of its Commonwealth. Citizens have a right to receive and have confidence in the nutrition therapy, information and education as being appropriate, credible and scientifically supported. Licensed dietitians need to be included in formulation and implementation health policies and regulations in Pennsylvania.

I urge you to consider the impact of this issue and support H.B. 226. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional discussion of this issue.

Respectfully,

Valarie J. Dill, R.D.

VALARIE J. DILL, R.D.

President, Northwest Pennsylvania Dietetic Association

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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

May 1, 1997

Theresa Kuzma Toft

████████████████████
Erie, PA 16504

Dear Ms. Toft:


Thank you for sharing your support of HB 115, the Dietitian-Nutritionist Licensure Law.

As you may know, HB 226 of 1995 was also legislation that would have provided for the licensure of professional dietitians and nutritionists. It was referred to the Professional Licensure Committee in January of 1995 and remained there until its demise at the end of the 1995-96 legislative session. HB 115, similar legislation regarding the licensure of professional dietitians and nutritionists, has been introduced to the House of Representatives and referred to the Professional Licensure Committee, where it remains today.

As a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, I have a responsibility to try to provide a safe environment for Commonwealth residents to live and work. In order to furnish a secure climate, the acknowledgment of issues regarding the licensure of professionals is important, especially the health-care field. It is unfortunate that some of the fine citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must turn to practitioners who retain inadequate qualifications. Hopefully, with the introduction of legislation, licensure protections will lessen the possibility of persons being treated by unqualified practitioners.

Please be assured that your concerns have been duly noted. Should HB 115 be brought before the House of Representatives for deliberations, your thoughts will certainly be remembered. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

COPY

APR 23 1997

April 17, 1997

The Honorable *Thomas J. Scrimanti*
PA House of Representatives
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative *Scrimanti*

Please support HB115, the bill to license dietitians/nutritionists. Passage of this important legislation will enable Pennsylvania to join the 38 other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico in establishing a statute to define the practice of dietetics/nutrition.

This legislation will protect the citizens of the Commonwealth by helping them to identify qualified nutrition professionals. It is an established fact that nutrition plays a vital role in the prevention and treatment of disease. This is particularly true of such chronic diseases as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, and statistics indicate that Pennsylvanians have a high incidence of all of these. It is projected that by the turn of the century, 15.8% of Pennsylvania's citizens will be 65 years or older, and that by 2030, 21% will have attained that age. Eighty-five percent of older adults have one or more chronic conditions which have been documented to benefit from nutrition intervention. We have collected data from around the Commonwealth that show the success of medical nutrition therapy in preventing serious illness, in keeping people from having to be hospitalized in many cases, in helping to treat individuals in acute and long term care facilities, and in saving health care costs. There is evidence that professional nutrition care saves an average of 42% on every health care dollar.

I join the more than 3300 other dietitians in Pennsylvania in urging you and the other members of the Professional Licensure Committee to act promptly on this legislation. If I can provide you with information on this or other nutrition-related issues, please let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Theresa Kuzma Taft

[REDACTED]

Erie, PA 16504

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

March 15, 1995

The Honorable Mary Jane Fuller
District Justice
Court 06-3-04
29 South Main St.
Union City, PA 16438-1388

Dear District Justice Fuller:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding several proposals which would affect the District Justice system. I certainly understand your concern about these critical bills and hope that you will continue to contact me with your opinions and viewpoints.

As you may know, Special Session House Bills 19 and 31 came before the House for final debate and consideration on February 13, 1995. Both of these proposals were approved and sent to the Senate for additional study and review. I supported these bills because I believe that we must get serious about fighting and preventing crime. While the Senate has not yet acted on these bills, it is my understanding that they enjoy widespread support and should be enacted during the Special Session.

In addition, you expressed your opposition to regular session House Bills 79 and 573. At this time, neither of these bills have been scheduled for committee review. Therefore, it is still uncertain whether either of these proposals will come before the House for final passage. Nevertheless, you may be sure that I will keep your cogent arguments bill in mind should I be called upon to vote on these bills.

Thank you again for your letter. If I can be of any further assistance on this or other issues in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS:kf



MAR - 8 1995

DISTRICT JUSTICE COURT 06-3-04
ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

MARY JANE FULLER
DISTRICT JUSTICE

March 6, 1995

29 S. MAIN ST.
UNION CITY, PA. 16438-1388
(814) 438-3855

Honorable Thomas Scrimenti
Box 96
Main Capitol Bldg.
25 E. Wing
Harrisburg, PA 16120-0028

Dear Mr. Scrimenti:

During this session there are several bills that affect the District Justice system.

We would like you to consider a positive vote on the following;

- S.S.H.B.19 - Dangerous weapons in Court facility.
- S.S.H.B.31 - Consolidating misdemeanors, felonies, and summary offense charges on a juvenile to be sent to Juvenile Court.

We would appreciate a no vote on

H.B.573 - Eliminating cross-filing.

As you know, since District Justices cannot be politically active and do not have tenure our advantage when in office is cross-filing.

H.B.79 - Sunshine Act - A matter not within our jurisdiction.

We would appreciate and thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Yours very truly,

Mary Jane Fuller
District Justice
Executive Committee
Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania

MJF:eld

cc:file

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AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS
DEMOCRATIC VICE CHAIRMAN

August 29, 2003

David E. Mitchell
Erie County Councilman
Erie County Courthouse
140 West Sixth Street, Room 116
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501-1081

Dear Mr. Mitchell: *- Dave*

Thank you for your recent letter detailing your concerns over pending legislation in the General Assembly which addresses Pennsylvania's Driving Under the Influence (DUI) laws. As a state representative, I appreciate learning about those issues that are important to the residents of Erie County.

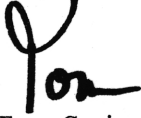
As you may know, House Bill 4 is the likely vehicle that will be utilized to pass legislation complying with the Federal law that requires all states to enact a .08 minimum blood alcohol content (BAC) standard for DUI's. House Bill 4 was unanimously passed by the House of Representatives on July 7, 2003 and is now awaiting further review and consideration in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Although I understand your valid concerns regarding the potential increase in costs incurred by Erie County as a result of this legislative initiative, please keep in mind that House Bill 4 is a virtual rewrite of the current DUI law. For that reason, the bill outlines new categories for offenses, penalties and grading. Specifically, penalties can range from an ungraded misdemeanor, six months maximum probation and a \$300 fine to a 1st degree misdemeanor, one year minimum imprisonment and a \$2,500 minimum fine. The increase in these fines will provide more funding on a county level. In particular, if prosecuted under the Vehicle Code, 50% of the imposed fines will be payable to the county. Once the county receives those funds, 50% will be appropriated to the county authority which implements programs promoting drug abuse and alcoholism prevention, education, treatment and research and 50% will be used for expenditures incurred for county jails, prisons, workhouses and detention centers. Therefore, the number of DUI arrests and the needs of those individuals directly correlates with the funding received on a county level.

August 29, 2003
Page 2

With that in mind, please know that I recognize and respect your views. When I am presented with this legislation in the future, I will certainly keep your thoughts close in mind. In addition, if you have any further questions regarding this issue or require assistance with any other state related matter, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "T" and a cursive "om".

Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

JUL 07 2003

David E. Mitchell
Erie County Councilman



Erie County Courthouse
140 West Sixth Street, Room 116
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501-1081
Telephone: (814) 451-6303
Fax: (814) 451-6350

COUNTY OF ERIE

July 3, 2003

The Honorable Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative - Fourth District

Dear Mr. Scrimenti:

I am greatly concerned about an unfunded mandate which is currently looming in the Pennsylvania House. The need for the State of Pennsylvania to conform to the new federal DUI blood alcohol level of .08 in order to preserve transportation funding is understandable. I do, however, question the sweeping changes being made to DUI statutes in H.B. 4. Counties are already being asked to bear a greater burden with fewer resources. The changes in this bill will bring additional medical, treatment, and incarceration costs to Erie County at a time when state dollars are shrinking. Drug and alcohol programs face deep cuts and yet this bill seeks to create more clients.

I respectfully ask that you tell your leadership, as they draft this bill, to do no more than the minimum to meet federal requirements. The House Appropriations Committee needs to do a detailed fiscal analysis on H.B. 4 before its passage in its current form is considered.

The original DUI legislation was responsible for a 1400% increase in alcohol-related incarcerations in less than 10 years, which led to a \$600 million increase in county prison costs. Erie County already is facing overcrowding in its prisons and a lack of capacity in our intermediate punishment and/or treatment programs. Many of the individuals in our system cannot pay costs for treatment or incarceration, as they are indigent or lack the necessary financial resources. This new legislation will only exacerbate those problems. It does not address prison or aftercare costs which will be borne by taxpayers.

While I do not object to the Commonwealth meeting its federal obligations, I do reject the creation of policy in a vacuum where costs go unconsidered, or even worse, they are passed on to counties with a wave of a pen. Please shape H.B. 4 to meet the minimum requirements of federal law only until more detailed fiscal impact work is completed. Counties simply cannot absorb more costs.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Very truly yours,

David E. Mitchell
Erie County Councilman

Copy

[Sample]

Farmers

COMMITTEES 381

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

June 27, 2000

Kathleen L Jaquith
[Redacted]
Corry, PA 16407

Dear Kathleen:

Greetings, I write to you today to call your attention to Senate Bill 1417, which recently passed the General Assembly, and will benefit many of your fellow Farm Bureau members. Senate Bill 1417 if signed into law by Governor Ridge would remove the 75% formula restriction of the earlier drought bill (Act 57 of 1999).

As you may be aware under Act 57, state assistance could be no more than 75% of federal assistance received, this language prevented the state from using the entire \$60 million appropriated. With the passage of this bill eligible farmers will be able to recoup additional monies through the drought assistance program. Its passage will allow the full use of the \$60 million as intended by the legislative body.

As a supporter and cosponsor of the House version of this bill, I realized the significance of this bill and the need to address this issue immediately. Pennsylvania farmers deserve the support of state government and that is what this bill does- gives back to the farmers. I am thankful we were able to accomplish this task prior to the summer break and anxiously await the governor signature so we can move towards getting our farmers the assistance they deserve and need now.

I hope this information is helpful to you and if I can provide any additional information about SB 1417 please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/dje