

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664
TOLL FREE: 1 (800) 962-2304

9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96
25B, EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

March 23, 1992

Charlene L. Meerhoff

[REDACTED]
Corry, PA 16407

Dear Mrs. Meerhoff:

Thanks very much for your letter of March 12, 1992 and your expression of concern about our current revenue and expenditure situation in Pennsylvania. Though I share your apprehensions, I think we need a context in which to set your observations. As you are aware, we are still at the center of what President Bush called an economic "freefall". For us in Pennsylvania, this has meant an unemployment rate stubbornly hanging in at seven percent, real estate sales slowing to a crawl and consequent drops in the sales and income tax. This translates today into an 800 million dollar gap between programs and income to buy them. The federal government is in the habit of printing money to cover those differences; we have to raise taxes or cut programs. In good times, we make choices; in bad times, choices are imposed.

One of those choices was an increase in the Corporate Net Income tax, the basic increase which affected small business. Aside from the Sales Tax, our two basic sources are the CNI and the Personal Income Tax, and an attempt to balance the two was at the heart of the debate. Part of that tax contains the provision for its partial repeal as the economy improves, but if we want programs, we have to be willing to pay for them. And, I should add, state government is down to the bare bones. We are now fiftieth out of fifty states in workers, and dropping rapidly.

As to education, we have not made cuts. In fiscal 1991/1992, we took the revenues I've just described and funded the basic subsidy system at a level of \$2.946 billion dollars, an increase of \$200 million dollars. This was the largest increase in the history of the basic education subsidy system. We were scheduled this year for another increase of \$125 million dollars; when the economy went into an acute tailspin, it was cancelled. The system will thus be flat funded at last year's three billion dollar level, but there will not be cuts. You can

get a sense of just how serious things are by noting that as we flat funded the subsidy system, funding was eliminated for most of our medical schools and for our school of veterinary medicine. Medical schools and the veterinary school may well be going out of business. Do any of us want to raise sufficient new taxes to stop that from taking place? I don't think we can, but it's a painful choice.

As to Welfare, I am looking as I write at a newspaper headline which reads "Demonstrators Oppose Casey Welfare Freeze". We have frozen funding everywhere we could; in some medical areas we are simply functionaries of the Federal Government, a situation most of us are none too happy with. And, though I'd agree with you that the system needs a housecleaning (community service would be fine), it is the persistent and debilitating social situation at the base of the system which disturbs me for the long run.

My apologies for taking up so much of your time, but you raise thoughtful questions which need serious responses. And, as in our own lives, most of the choices are not between good and evil, but between good and less good or bad and less bad. I try to make those difficult choices as honestly and as well as I can.

Sincerely,



Tom Scrimenti

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664
TOLL FREE: 1 (800) 962-2304

9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96
25B, EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

January 23, 1991

Mr. Thornton C. Barnes

██████████
██████████
North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Thank you for your letter and your continued correspondence with me about your concerns and ideas. Although you mentioned that no reply was necessary, I want you to know that I do appreciate hearing from you.

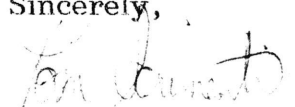
Mr. Barnes, again, please know that I am not misleading you or am I mistaken. The personal income tax rate now in Pennsylvania is 3.1%. According to current law, on July 1 of this year your rate will drop to 2.8%.

As for the business taxes, your comments are being echoed throughout the state. There is a very real fear that businesses are turning away from Pennsylvania due to the sluggish state and federal economy. You can be assured that this problem will be given much attention during the upcoming budget talks for next year's fiscal plan. However, there are many qualities here in the Commonwealth that are attractive to new businesses, and there has been new industry in the state. During a recession which some describe as a depression, any business growth and relocation becomes rare. With that in mind, I know the General Assembly will continue to work to find the best for business even in the present bad economic situation.

Again, thank you for you writing me. If your tax statements seem in error, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be more than happy to lend my assistance in correcting any problems.

Best Regards.

Sincerely,


Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/sam

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664
TOLL FREE: 1 (800) 962-2304

9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96
25B, EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SECRETARY
AGING & YOUTH
INSURANCE
POLICY

January 8, 1991

Mr. Thornton C. Barnes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I have received your letter of December 29 and appreciate the time and effort you took in writing me. A major motive in the preparation and distribution of my newsletter is to encourage input and advice from its recipients. Your letter is welcomed as are your insights and questions. I sincerely invite you to continue to contact me with your concerns and ideas. Your opinions are valuable tools in my decision-making process; your comments will certainly be remembered and respected.

On January 1, 1992, your personal income tax was cut. Before that date, you were paying 3.5% of your income to the state government. Today, due to the tax cut, you are paying 3.1%. On July 1, 1992, another tax cut will occur. From that day in July until the end of 1992, you will pay a 2.8% tax. These tax rollbacks are law, they have been and will continue to be enforced and put into practice.

As for your description of the growth of the state staff, I have enclosed a copy of the Workforce Report which gives detailed description of not only the numbers and makeup of the current state workers but also offers a historic perspective. There have been increases in staff to some elements of our government, where need dictated. But given the recent furloughs and retirements, the population of stateworkers has remained relatively constant. I believe it deserves mentioning that tax dollars sent to Harrisburg are invested in the people and businesses of Pennsylvania. The state trimmed its administrative costs so that for the last 10 years Pennsylvania has been among the states with the fewest number of state employees, generally ranking 49th or 50th. Only 3.9% of the budget is spent on administration, leaving 96.1% of the General Fund to be spent on direct services and programs for the taxpayers, like public schools and higher education.

I appreciate your suggestions regarding our schools and their funding. I agree with your call for testing and teacher performance reforms as well with your disapproval of throwing good money after bad in allocating dollars to an ineffective or outdated system. However, the increase in funding found in this year's budget was targeted, aimed at improving those schools most in need and smaller districts, and supported all districts during this time of recession, greatly lessening the need for increased local taxes.

Mr. Thornton C. Barnes
January 6, 1991
Page 2

Mr. Barnes, never before has the call for changes in our education system been louder or more accurate. I believe that we will see real change in the way our children are educated and the way our teachers conduct their business dealings with their districts. Teacher strike legislation, school choice legislation, and Washington's program for reform throughout the nation, Project 2000, are all signs that the government is finally listening and real changes in education are now not only possible but inevitable.

I hope that my reply to your letter has answered your questions and will prove helpful to you. Again, I want to thank you for writing me to let me know of your thoughts. Please continue to do so.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards.

Sincerely,



Tom Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/sam

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

□ 9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664

□ 9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

□ 25B, EAST WING
HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

June 9, 1995

Mr. Clifford Hammer
P.O. Box 332
North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Hammer:

Thank you for your recent correspondence in support of reductions in Pennsylvania's business taxes. I certainly understand and share your concern about these proposals and hope that you will continue to contact me on issues of importance.

Specifically, you expressed your support for immediately decreasing the rate of the Corporate Net Income (CNI) tax to 9.99% (provided for in House Bill 1317), increasing the Net Operating Loss (NOL) cap (House Bill 1343) and increasing the Capital Stock and Franchise (CS&F) tax exemption to \$100,000 and decreasing the minimum CS&F payment. I certainly agree that we must continue to enact legislation which improves Pennsylvania's business climate not only for firms considering re-locating to the Commonwealth, but also for our numerous "home-grown" businesses, which are the backbone of our economy.

As you may know, I enthusiastically supported the package of business tax reductions contained in last year's budget, including the CNI cut, the increase in the CS&F exemption and the restoration of the NOL provision at \$500,000. I believe that this represents a good start and will certainly work to make further improvements to our business climate. While none of the specific tax reductions that you highlighted have come before the entire House for final debate and consideration, you may be sure that I will certainly keep your cogent arguments 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

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

□ 9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664

□ 9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

□ 25B, EAST WING
HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

September 18, 1995

Thomas J. Blair, Human Resources Manager
Corry Rubber Company

████████████████████
Corry, PA 16407

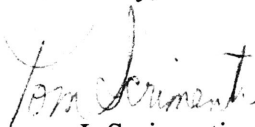
Dear Mr. Blair:

Thank you for your letter urging legislation to give immunity to employers sharing information on past employees with potential employers. The problem of safely passing along adequate warning in cases of egregious employee behavior while avoiding carelessly harming an adequate worker's chances in the workplace is a complex one.

As I am sponsor and cosponsor of many, many bills in the current session, it is unlikely that I will draft legislation in this particular area. Please be assured, however, that I will be informed by your comments and experiences should SB 579, or similar legislation that may arise in the House, come before me.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns with me. Don't hesitate to contact my office at any time to discuss legislative issues of interest to you.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Legislator

TJS/hfn

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

- 9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664
- 202 NORTH CENTER STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9126
- 25B, EAST WING
HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



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
NE 4-27-01

April 25, 2001

Ms. Marianne Dunham
H. Dunham
[REDACTED]
Erie, PA 16509

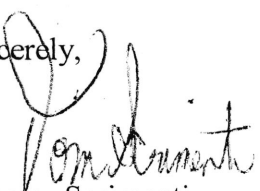
Dear Marianne & H. Dunham:

I have received and read your letter concerning inmates' rights and would like to thank you for sharing your concerns with me about this very important matter. I can truly sympathize with the effects incarceration has on an inmate's friends and family.

As a state representative, I remain committed to the belief that prison is intended to be an institution of rehabilitation. It should not be a place where prisoners feel like they are less than human or just a "number." It should be a place where inmates pay their debt to society and move on to become productive citizens of the Commonwealth. Rest assured, I will seriously consider addressing this matter with my colleagues if the opportunity presents itself.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact my office. If you have any questions or if I can provide any assistance with any state related issue in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office. As always, your input is welcomed and appreciated.

Sincerely,


Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

□ 9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664

□ 202 NORTH CENTER STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

□ 25B, EAST WING
HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

February 26, 1997

Msgr. David A. Rubino, Ph.D.
President
Gannon University
University Square
Erie, Pennsylvania 16541-0001

Dear Msgr. Rubino:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding House Bill 55, the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act. I share your concern about this matter and hope that you will continue to candidly assess House Bill 55 as it proceeds through the House.

Currently, House Bill 55 is in the House Finance Committee and is scheduled to be reported out of Committee on March 12, 1997. The committee already held a number of public hearings on the measure during the last session, and there is every indication that a vote will be forthcoming in this session.

In the meantime I appreciate your effort to apprise me of your concerns about House Bill 55, and any impact it will have on colleges and universities. Accordingly, you may be sure that I will remember and respect your views when this bill is before the full House for consideration. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Tom".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

COPY

February 20, 1997

Representative Thomas Scrimenti
House P.O. Box 202020
256 E. Wing Building
Harrisburg, Pa 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I am writing to ask your support of The Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act (House Bill 55). I wish to also share four points regarding House Bill 55 demonstrating the rationale for your support.

First, House Bill 55 will not cause local governments to lose legitimate tax resources, nor will it limit their ability to challenge questionable property usage by any institution. The standards in this bill are more stringent than the current regulations used by the Revenue Department in granting sales and use tax exemptions. The bill will make it harder for questionable organizations to gain tax exemption and it will put statewide, quantifiable and clear standards in place.

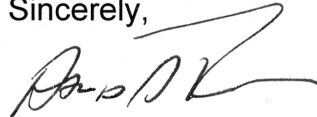
Second, the Supreme Court, failing action by the Legislature, should not set public policy regarding property tax exemption for colleges and universities. The Legislature is the appropriate venue for setting public policy on property tax. The General Assembly speaks for the people of Pennsylvania and we need the voice of the legislature to be heard on this issue.

Third, I wish you to know that House Bill 55 is a top priority for colleges and universities. Pennsylvania must preserve its tax exemption for our higher education institutions if they are to remain competitive with other states. Pennsylvania should not become the first in the nation to tax its colleges and universities. Outside foundations are already refusing to support Pennsylvania colleges due to the uncertainty over their tax exemption status. Thus, money is leaving Pennsylvania. The president of the F.W. Olin Foundation, a foundation that provides grants of up to \$15 million for the complete construction of campus buildings, recently stated he will urge his board to oppose indefinitely the financing of college facilities in Pennsylvania because "...if we support a Pennsylvania college that has to pay taxes, we're supporting local governments" Chronicle of Higher Education, May 5, 1995).

Fourth and finally, the bill discourages litigation over tax exemption, thus, avoiding the waste of both precious tax dollars and dollars donated to charities for performing those institutions' missions.

I hope these reasons help solidify your endorsement of House Bill 55. I trust I and my colleagues can count on your support of House Bill 55.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Rubino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "R".

Msgr. David A. Rubino, Ph.D.
President

DAR/csc

cc: Bishop Trautman
Don Francis

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

- THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664
- 9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9128
- HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96
25B, EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 787-9475

April 3, 1995

Honorable Roger M. Fischer
Court of Common Pleas
Sixth Judicial District of Pennsylvania
Erie County Courthouse
140 West Sixth Street
Erie, PA 16501-1011

Dear Judge Fischer:

I want to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to provide your thoughts and comments on House Bills 215 and 2995 from the 1993-94 Legislative Session. I sincerely appreciate your insight and proposed suggestions regarding involuntary termination of parental rights legislation.

During the 1995-96 Legislative Session, similar legislative proposals have been introduced which deal with this issue. Representative Anthony DeLuca has introduced HB446, identical to HB215 of last session, which amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to define involuntary termination of parental rights. This proposal is presently in the House Judiciary Committee.

Representative Kevin Blaum has also introduced similar legislation this session. Parts of HB2995 are incorporated into HB428 and HB429. HB428 amends Title 23 to provide for the establishment of the Pennsylvania Adoption Information Retrieval System which shall submit information within 30 days of a court's granting of a petition. This information shall include, among other things, whether parental rights were terminated voluntarily or involuntarily. HB429 amends Title 23 to provide for definitions and grounds for involuntary termination. HB428 and HB429 have been referred to the House Aging and Youth Committee.

I am a cosponsor to all three of these bills. With that in mind, you can be assured that your points will be remembered as these bills are discussed by my colleagues. As a member of the House Aging and Youth Committee, I will be sure to bring your concerns to the attention of members of the committee. Furthermore, I have taken the liberty of sharing your views with Representative Kevin Blaum, Democratic Chairman of the House Aging and Youth Committee. A copy of my correspondence is enclosed herein for your review.

Honorable Roger M. Fisher

April 3, 1995

Page 2

Again, thank you for your letter. Any additional comments or questions are greatly appreciated and welcomed. In addition, if I may be of any assistance to you or your family on any other item of interest or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative
4th Legislative District

TJS:klc

enclosure

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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

9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 864-9128

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96
25B, EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 787-9475

April 3, 1995

Honorable Kevin Blaum
House of Representatives
Democratic Chairman
House Aging and Youth Committee
Room 38A, East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Blaum:

In recent months, I have solicited comments and suggestions regarding involuntary termination of parental rights legislation (House Bills 215 and 2995 of last session) to legal experts in the Erie area. As a result of this query, I have received comments from the Honorable Roger M. Fischer, Judge, Erie County Court of Common Pleas, who primarily deals with adoption matters. I have enclosed a copy of his correspondence for your review.

I thought Judge Fischer's informative points would be helpful as the House Aging and Youth Committee reviews legislation dealing with involuntary termination of parental rights, specifically, HB428 and HB429 which you have sponsored this session. As you may recall, portions of HB2995 of last session are now found in HB428 and HB429.

I sincerely hope this information is useful as the House Aging and Youth Committee considers HB428 and HB429 as well as other any other amendment to Title 23 dealing with involuntary termination of parental rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you should have any questions or would like to further discuss Judge Fischer's letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS:klc

cc: Honorable Roger M. Fischer
enclosure