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HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

June 4, 1996

Donald R. Harmon, General Manager
Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
P.O. Box 2057
Erie, PA 16512

Dear Mr. Harmon:

I have been contacted by the Erie County Council regarding a matter of great importance. It is my understanding that your office has already been made aware of the situation regarding a senior citizen who was stranded in a neighboring town without transportation.

While I realize full well that rules and guidelines must apply with regard to this program, it appears that flatly refusing transportation to an elderly person who simply misunderstood the hours is alarming. If there was no family member available to provide the necessary transit, then this senior citizen might have been forced to remain in the town without money or lodging. It is a frightening thought as to what might have occurred in this situation.

I concur with Councilwoman Seyfert that compassion and kindness should have prevailed in this matter. If you have any questions regarding my interest in this issue, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

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

Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/sd
cc: Dr. Tracy Seyfert, Chairperson

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

9 WEST MAIN 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

May 21, 1996

Honorable Bradley L. Mallory, Secretary
Department of Transportation
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
1200 Transportation & Safety Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Mallory:

I have been contacted by the Erie County Council regarding a matter of great injustice. A copy of Councilwoman Seyfert's letter is enclosed for your review.

As you will note from this correspondence, a senior citizen was stranded in a neighboring town without transportation. While I realize full well that rules and guidelines must apply with regard to this program, it appears that flatly refusing transportation to an elderly person who simply misunderstood the hours is callous and mean-spirited. If there was no family member available to provide the necessary transit, then this senior citizen might have been forced to remain in the town without money or lodging. It is a frightening thought as to what might have occurred in this situation.

I concur with Councilwoman Seyfert that compassion and kindness should have prevailed in this matter, and I further agree with her assessment that regulations need to be reviewed for rural transportation which is not as widely used as Philadelphia or Pittsburgh.

Thank you very much for your kind review, and I look forward to your commentary on this matter. If you have any questions regarding my interest in this issue, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/sd
enclosure
cc: Dr. Tracy Seyfert, Chairperson



MAY - 2 1996

COUNTY OF ERIE

Office of County Council

Erie County Court House
140 West Sixth Street, Room 116
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501-1081
Telephone 814-451-6303
Fax 814-451-6350
Florindo J. Fabrizio, County Clerk

Tracy Seyfert, Ph.D., Chair
Joy Greco, Vice Chair
Gary L. Bukowski

Joseph F. Giles
Fiore Leone
David E. Mitchell
Robert L. Okicki

April 29, 1996

The Honorable Tom Scrimenti
House of Representatives
25-B Capitol Building, East Wing
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Scrimenti:

I am writing in regard to a situation that was recently brought to my attention involving a senior citizen who was denied free bus service from Albion to Erie.

The woman had taken the bus from Erie to Albion to visit her sister-in-law for the day. This particular route to Albion is run only one day a week. Upon catching the last bus back to Erie at 4:00 p.m., she was told that the ride would cost \$3.00 because her senior citizen's card was not valid after 3:30 p.m. Since she did not have \$3.00 with her, she had to exit the bus and call a family member in Erie to drive to Albion to pick her up.

While I understand the need to discourage free bus service during specified peak hours (3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday), common sense and extraordinary consideration should prevail under certain circumstances. If no bus service back to Erie was going to be available until the following week, certainly some consideration should have been extended to this senior citizen.

Given that the routes in the rural areas are run only on a very limited basis, I am requesting that the policy be reviewed and changed in these rural areas. In addition, please ensure that the rules and regulations governing the use of the senior citizens' cards are clearly explained to every person possessing such a card. Finally, I would hope that EMTA bus drivers will be instructed to use their common sense and their best judgment in regard to such situations.

Sincerely,

Tracy Seyfert, Ph.D.
Chair

STATEREPT.S/sms

cc: Donald R. Harmon, General Manager
Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

September 12, 1996

Ms. Terry Ellen Roth
PA Protection & Advocacy/Disability Budget Coalition
116 Pine Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Ms. Roth:

I write to you today to ask for any information you could provide to my office on the ensuing matter. I have a constituent in need of construction of a wheelchair-accessible ramp for their residence.

My concern is finding sources of funding, not only for the constituent in this most recent and particular circumstance, but also on a larger scale. While this issue has been previously addressed with regard to public buildings, it is my belief that the time has come to reach out to those in need and seek remedies to assist those in need at their own private domiciles.

This may be a matter of simply matching those in need with those who have the wherewithal and resources to provide such accommodations. It is my hope that I may participate in whatever capacity necessary to be the liaison or catalyst in this endeavor. We must attempt to break down the walls that currently exist between the community, business, and government. This is, of course, not to make such a serious and complex issue sound easy. However, it may give those in the private sector, i.e. business, an opportunity to improve their own locale and communities through mere coordination of cooperation.

At your earliest convenience, I would most appreciate your thoughts, insights, and creative input on this issue. I thank you in advance for your efforts.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/dje

cc: Brenda J. Bennett, LIFT Administrator
Mr. & Mrs. Gayle Milligan

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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

September 12, 1996

Ms. Brenda J. Bennett
LIFT Administrator
LIFT/emta
1218 French Street
Suite 20
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Ms. Bennett: - *Brenda*

I write this letter to you to mention my appreciation for your response regarding the LIFT Rules & Regulations. Too often we are concerned with "getting the job done" and simple, but meaningful, acknowledgments go unsaid.

I simply wanted to thank you for the information you kindly forwarded to my office concerning the aforementioned regulations. You not only took the time to see that we received this valuable information, but you also clearly illustrated much of the reasoning and rationale behind these rules and regulations. Also, for your perusal, I enclosed a copy of a letter I forwarded to the PA Protection & Advocacy/Disability Budget Coalition. This is in response to the letter originally initiated by the Milligans.

It is most important that an organization such as LIFT/emta, has access to the necessary government entities. The communication between all those involved certainly provides our citizens with the quality of service they so well deserve. Again, I thank you for the outstanding service you provide to our locale and want you to know that my door is open to your needs.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

enclosure

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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

November 8, 1999

Lorraine Matzack, Administrator
LIFT Transportation Program
825 West 18th street
Erie, PA 16502-1663

Dear Ms. Matzack:

I want to thank you for your letter requesting my support for Senate Bill 1066. I appreciate you taking the time to contact me on behalf of the residents of Erie County who are in need of transportation assistance.

I am well aware that the amount of money needed to enjoy the benefits of the LIFT Program is often beyond the ability of many of my disabled constituents to afford. Many of these constituents are ineligible, by reason of age or some other factor, for programs that defray these costs for other elderly or disabled persons. Senate Bill 1066 may provide a remedy for that situation. At this time, the bill remains in the Senate's Transportation Committee, however, I assure you that the measure will have my support should it reach the floor of the House for a vote, barring any substantive amendments.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss this or any other legislation of interest to you.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/dje



SEP 24 A.M.

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority/LIFT Transportation Program

825 West 18th Street • Erie, PA 16502-1663

Phone: 814-455-3330 • 800-323-5579 • Fax: 814-455-3530 • TDD: 814-453-3472

September 17, 1999

Representative Tom Scrimenti
Box 96
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I am writing on behalf of the persons with disabilities in Erie County, who lack adequate funding to allow them to utilize the available transportation. Erie County is fortunate to have the LIFT Transportation Program. Unfortunately, there are many members of the county who do not utilize the LIFT because they can not afford it.

Senior citizens over the age of sixty-five have the benefit of the Lottery Program which subsidizes 85% of the cost of their rides on the LIFT. Persons with disabilities who live within the EMTA bus routes have the availability of using EMTA transit services or LIFT paratransit services under the ADA complimentary paratransit program. Those with Medical ACCESS cards have the availability of free transportation to medical appointments via the Medical Assistance Transportation Program.

These programs all are very beneficial to those who qualify but unfortunately, there are many in our county that "fall through the cracks." They do not meet the criteria for any of these programs and thus don't have access to affordable transportation. For a customer in Corry to use LIFT into Erie who has no subsidy, the trip could cost them as much as \$40.00 each way or more. If a subsidy program was available to them such as the Lottery Program is available to senior citizens, this trip would cost the customer only \$6.00 each way.

We urge you to please support SB1066 when it comes to the House and pass the Affordable Shared Ride Bill for People with Disabilities by May 2000. There are many persons with disabilities who have the ability and the desire to be more active productive members of our community. They need affordable access to transportation to enable them to do this. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Matczak
Administrator
LIFT Transportation Program

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 29, 1995

Wendell W. Young, III
President
U.F.C.W. ABC State Council No. 1
3031 A Walton Road, Suite 201
Norristown, PA 19401

Dear Mr. Young:

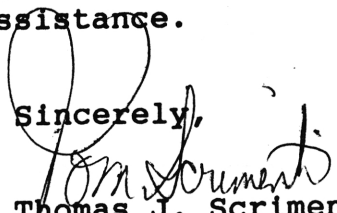
Thank you for taking the time to write to me regarding the roll call vote on the Cohen Amendment in House Resolution 2. I appreciate your taking the time to communicate with me on this important legislation.

The reason my support for the amendment did not show on the record is because on that particular vote my voting switch malfunctioned. I have supported the United Food and Commercial Workers position on this matter in the past and continue to presently.

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's current system generates a tremendous contribution to the Commonwealth. In addition to contributing nearly \$250 million to the State Treasury, the gains in reducing alcoholic related fatalities and crimes while at the same time providing a wide selection of spirits to Pennsylvania citizens is, in my judgment, a most effective system.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me regarding my voting record on the Cohen Amendment. Please feel free to contact me if I can ever be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

HR 375
PA LCB Employees COMMITTEES

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

June 22, 2000

Mr. Gary Surovic

Waterford, PA 16441

Dear Mr. Surovic:

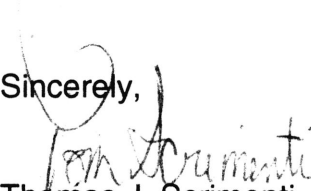
I have written this letter to respond to your concern regarding House Resolution 375. I appreciate the fact that you have taken the time to contact me about this very important matter.

Please know I am very concerned about the fact that approximately 3,000 employees of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board who serve as retail clerks have been working under the extension of a collective bargaining agreement that expired on June 30, 1996. I am also concerned about the fact that a reasonable settlement has not yet been reached in this matter.

With this in mind, I am pleased to inform you that I am a co-sponsor of House Resolution 375, which would urge Governor Ridge and his administration to immediately enter into binding arbitration with the collective bargaining representatives of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board retail clerks for the purpose of adopting an employment contract before the end of this fiscal year. If and when this resolution, which was referred to the House Rules Committee on February 16, 2000, comes before the entire House for a vote, please know I will support it in its present form.

Thank you very much for bringing your concern regarding this issue to my attention. If you have further concerns about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

August 15, 2000

Charles E. Rosequist
North East Police Department
58 East Main Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Rosequist: *C. Scrimenti*

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to your concerns regarding retirement benefits for North East Borough Police. I appreciate the fact that you have taken the time to contact my office about this important issue.

As a state representative who recognizes North East Borough Police Department's dedication and commitment to public service, I am pleased to inform you that there is pending legislation pertaining to the Municipal Police Pension Law (Act 600 of 1955), which governs the establishment of the police officer pension in North East Borough. Please know that I will certainly keep your concerns regarding this issue in mind if and when this legislation comes before the entire House for debate and a vote.

Moreover, I am pleased to announce that I have co-sponsored House Bill 1426, which was referred to the House Local Government Committee on May 4, 1999. This bill would amend Act 600 of 1955 by allowing borough, town, or township police officers under this act to count the service they accumulated in another borough, town, or township toward their total service. If and when this bill comes before the entire House for debate and a vote, please know I will support it in its present form.

Thank you for alerting me to your concerns regarding this important matter. If you have further concerns regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

April 4, 1994

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bowersox
[REDACTED]
Erie, PA 16506

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bowersox:

Thank you very much for taking the time to contact me regarding your interest in long-term care coverage as health care reform plans are discussed in the State Legislature.

Currently, the House Health and Welfare Committee and the House Appropriations Committee are considering and debating the managed care plan, the "pay or play" plan, the universal access proposal, the small business health insurance plan, plus numerous other amendments to Pennsylvania's laws which affect our health care system. Of course, providing for adequate and responsible long-term care is a crucial discussion point of all of these plans.

In addition, the House is looking at measures to nursing home care, including community care programs that allow older persons to stay in their homes longer while saving the state money.

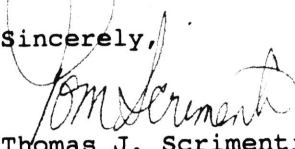
There are many different views on the proper scope of government involvement in health care. Many of the proposed changes to the system can be complicated in their scope and detail. However, everyone does agree that the health care system, specifically the long-term care is facing a crisis situation and something must be done to correct this problem.

It is worth noting that Senator Raphael Musto recently introduced legislation which would give senior citizens a voice on health care issues by creating the Commission on Health Care for the Aging. The Commission would have the responsibility of reviewing nursing home care and long-term care policy. Also, the Commission would examine universal health care coverage to determine if seniors already covered by Medicare should be included in universal health care coverage proposals.

Presently, I am reviewing all health care proposals. You can be assured that I will remember the needs of long-term care as health care reform plans are deliberated in the House.

Again, thank you for your inquiry. Please know that your comments, ideas and recommendations are welcomed at any time. If you should have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/js

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

June 14, 1996

Lavonne Lee Teemley

████████████████████
Erie, PA 16509

Dear Ms. Teemley:

Thank you very much for your recent correspondence regarding the case-mix reimbursement system for long-term care facilities.

I can assure you that I wholeheartedly support nursing homes and the individuals they serve. The formula for case-mix has been the subject of much debate and, unfortunately, as the federal and state budgets continue to limit funding to vital services, the concerns you raise in your letter are certainly legitimate. To reiterate my position on this matter, you may be sure that I will support funding for long-term care facilities as well as legislative efforts to review the case-mix formula.

Again, thank you for notifying me of your specific concerns regarding the case-mix system. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

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

Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/sd

May 31, 1996

Lavonne Lee Teemley
[REDACTED]
Erie PA 16509

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti
House Post Office
The Capitol
Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I am writing you to warn you of an important problem, that if not fixed could severely affect nursing home residents and nursing home associates like myself.

The state Department of Public Welfare, this year, has changed the way it pays nursing homes that care for residents in the Medicaid program. As an associate of Western Reserve Health and Rehabilitation Center, I can tell you that the greatest part of our residents were either already in the Medicaid program when they arrived at our facility or are in the Medicaid program now.


Under the way that payments are made now, called case-mix reimbursement, facilities like ours will receive less money from the state. You certainly know what has happened to the hospitals after they started getting less money to provide for good patient care! Many jobs went out the window and I am worried that the same thing will happen to nursing homes.

I also know that if facilities like ours are compelled to make due with less, the quality of the care we provide for our residents could suffer.

As an elected official, if there is anything you can do to correct this problem so nobody suffers, I would urge you do it immediately. If your parents were in a nursing home I am sure you would want that facility to be able to provide the best care possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Lavonne Lee Teemley
Executive Secretary