

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

March 31, 2000

Mr. Robert V. McGinley, Ed. D.  
Superintendent  
Union City Area School District  
107 Concord Street  
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Dr. McGinley:

Thank you for writing to me and expressing your views concerning the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). I very much appreciate your input on such a crucial matter. Nothing is more important to me in my role as a state legislator than the safety and well being of our children.

It has certainly been a long time since there has been an increase in the Commonwealth's contribution to the school lunch program. It is alarming to learn that it has, in fact, been ten years. I am confident that we can agree that there are few expenditures that remain static for such a long period of time. The school lunch program is one of the most valuable and cost-effective programs we have for our children. It provides them with the most fundamental of needs. It is time for Pennsylvania to increase its share in this partnership between local, state, and federal entities.

I am please to report to you that House Bill 1085 unanimously passed the House of Representatives on March 14<sup>th</sup>. It is currently under review in the Senate Education Committee. It would appear that this effort is well on its way to a favorable outcome.

Again, thank you for expressing your support on this most important endeavor. Should there be anything else that I may do for you with this, or any other matter, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

FEB 22 2000

# Union City Area School District

107 Concord Street

Union City, Pennsylvania 16438

(814) 438-3804

Dr. Robert V. McGinley  
Superintendent  
rmcginley@ucasd.iu5.org

Kenneth E. Voss  
Assistant Superintendent  
kvoss@ucasd.iu5.org

Shawn G. Sampson  
Business Manager  
ssampson@ucasd.iu5.org

February 16, 2000

Representative Thomas J. Scrimenti  
PA House of Representatives  
25B East Wing - Seat 96  
House Box 202020  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

SUBJECT: TWO CENTS FOR SCHOOL LUNCH

The number of students participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) has increased for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row - 26.6 million meals served every school day. School meals have always been a great value for students in terms of the overall cost and the nutrition they provide.

School districts have committed significant funds for school lunches - more than \$229 million per year. The federal government provides in excess of \$180 million annually. State funds (about \$16.3 million in 1998-99) are restricted receipts and cannot be used by districts for any purpose other than the school lunch program.

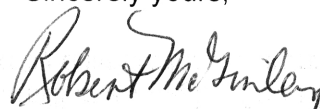
The support of the school lunch program is a local-state-federal partnership. In order to keep a balanced commitment to the school lunch program we are calling for a two cent increase in the state appropriation for the school lunch program. There has not been an increase in the current funding of 6¢ per lunch for ten years. The cost to the Commonwealth is about \$3 million.

There are three pieces of legislation pending in the House and Senate in support of increasing the school lunch subsidy. HB 1085, which was introduced by Representative Bob Flick, has been in the Appropriations Committee since June 8, 1999. Both SB 853 and SB 955 are in the Senate Education Committee since their introduction in the spring. Please make these bills a priority. Passage will only happen with your help as well as your support.

Schools have made significant effort to reduce expenditures including joint management structures, employee incentive programs, off-site catering and cooperative purchasing. The State needs to recognize their important role in the funding of the school lunch program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (814) 438-3804 for additional information about this issue.

Sincerely yours,



Robert V. McGinley, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

RVM/als

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

February 20, 1998

Carolyn A. Carlson

Erie, PA 16428

Dear Ms. Carlson

Thank you for your recent letter and supplementary information regarding newborn health screenings. Your thoughts are welcomed and valued. I hope you will continue to contact me with your insights.

Newborn screenings are vital in diagnosing and treating many serious health conditions that may affect a child. I agree, the Pennsylvania Department of Health should consider increasing the number of conditions that are presently screened. After all, these screenings are in the best interest of every child in the Commonwealth.

The Newborn Child Testing Act (Act 251 of 1965) requires physicians, hospitals and other institutions to administer tests for phenylketonuria (PKU) and other metabolic diseases upon infants. Currently, the department requires testing for the following conditions:

- (1) **PKU:** A disease that affects the way the body processes food. Children with PKU cannot process a part of protein called phenylalanine. As a result, phenylalanine builds up in the bloodstream and causes brain damage and mental retardation.
- (2) **Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD):** An inherited metabolic disorder that, if untreated, causes mental retardation, physical disabilities, and death. The disorder affects the way the body metabolizes certain components of protein. The protein accumulates in the blood, having a toxic effect on brain function.
- (3) **Hemoglobinopathies:** Disorders or diseases (i.e. Sickle Cell Disease) caused by abnormalities in the structure or production of hemoglobins. These abnormalities impair circulation and shortens red blood cell life span. Affected children are highly susceptible to infections that can rapidly lead to sepsis and death. Hemoglobins are molecules in red blood cells that carry oxygen.
- (4) **Hypothyroidism:** A congenital condition that if not identified and treated can cause mental retardation and impede body development. Infants may be born without a thyroid gland or be born with a partial or misplaced gland. The thyroid gland produces hormones that regulate metabolism.

According to the department, they are currently evaluating the methodology used to screen newborns and are considering making additions to the health conditions that are presently being screened. This process will take several months. Enclosed is a copy of Act 251 for your perusal.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. If you have questions or comments, 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/mtf  
enclosure

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December 1, 2000

Mary Ellen Camp  
Regional Career & Technical Center  
8500 Oliver Road  
Erie, PA 16509

Dear Ms. Camp:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your letter supporting 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, Senate Bill 1262 would authorize the maintenance and operation of multi-purpose service centers known as New Choices/New Options Career Development Centers for displaced homemakers and single parents. Unfortunately, our legislative session ended without final consideration being given to SB 1262. As a supporter of programs that benefit our community and families, I will certainly give this issue my utmost attention in the 2001-2002 legislative session.

Again, thank you for sharing with me your interest in Senate Bill 1262. As always, your input is welcomed and appreciated. Should you require any further assistance with this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative



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HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

October 13, 1993

Mr. Joseph Rush



Erie, PA 16509

Dear Mr. Rush:

I want to thank you for contacting my office in regard to the North American Free Trade Agreement. I always appreciate hearing what is on the minds of those in my district.

I shared your views with the Honorable Tom Ridge and have enclosed a copy of the letter for your perusal. This open line of communication must continue to exist so that every opportunity available to exchange ideas, information, and viewpoints with those whom legislation affects--the constituency.

I also appreciate your kind comments in regard to my running for a higher office. I thank you for the support and treasure the flattery. At this time, however, I must confess, I am quite pleased to be able to do my duties as a Representative for my present district. I am proud to serve you.

Should there be anything at all in which I may do for you, please know that I would be happy to offer my help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/js

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

October 13, 1993

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

The Honorable Tom Ridge  
United States House of Representatives  
108 Federal Building  
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Congressman Ridge:

I write this missive to you today to share with you a phone call I received from a constituent of mine, Joseph Rush of Erie. It concerns the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

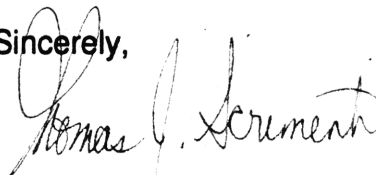
My constituent believe that passing such legislation would not only be bad for Pennsylvania, but bad for the United States. As I am sure you are well aware, this is a common opinion expressed by many in my district.

I ask that you keep these thoughts and perspectives in mind as the North American Free Trade Agreement and its peripheral issues come before you.

I thank you for the time and the opportunity to offer a parcel of the public's view on this significant matter.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/js

cc: Mr. Joseph Rush