

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

June 5, 1995

Diana Englund

[REDACTED]  
Erie, PA 16511

Dear Ms. Englund:

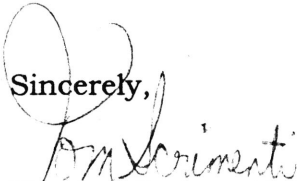
I received and read your letter about Representative Durham's legislation regarding nudity in public and similar bills. Your input was appreciated and insightful. I can certainly understand your opposition to this controversial bill. As you can imagine, the legislation has centered much debate and discussion. Your letter and its comments are a welcome addition to that effort.

House Bill 940 was considered by the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee on February 28th. From that committee the bill past to the Appropriations Committee, where it is at this date. If it is reviewed and approved in the Appropriations Committee and passes to the House of Representatives for consideration by all members, please know that your comments will be remembered and respected.

Ms. Englund, I think you will agree that whenever anyone or any political party attempts to legislate a view on morality, caution is needed. However, illicit behavior's contribution to illegal acts must not be ignored because of the controversy and debate caused by legislative action. I want to assure you that I will abide by that belief when I am asked to vote upon House Bill 940 or any other similar legislation.

Again, thank you for making your feelings known on this important piece of legislation. I need to hear from you. As the issue develops, or any others of interest to you, please feel free to continue our communication. It was a pleasure to hear from you.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Scrimenti  
State Representative

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

November 28, 1995

Mr. William A. Landau  
President  
Lakeport Distributors, Inc.  
139 West 18th Street  
Eric, Pennsylvania 16512

Dear Mr. Landau:

I want to express my thanks for your recent correspondence regarding House Bill 881, the legislation dealing with community obscenity standards. As an individual who would certainly be personally affected by the passage of this bill, I appreciate you sharing your concerns and insight.

Admittedly, I do feel that some attention should be paid to the freedom of access to offensive materials. In concern over the spread of offensive materials in our communities, I believe that there should, to a certain degree, be some control over the circulation and publication of various items of a questionable nature. By maintaining some control, therefore, steps can be taken to prevent obscene materials from getting into the wrong hands.

In light of these arguments, however, I must admit that I am troubled by the scope of House Bill 881. I fear that by allowing all 67 Commonwealth counties to adopt different obscenity standards, this legislation could severely hamper the business community. The undue stress and confusion these separate standards would evoke could surely have a negative effect on publishing companies, publication distributors, advertisers, and retail outlets with business interests in differing counties. In addition, by upgrading a violation of the obscenity law from a misdemeanor to a felony, this legislation could provide for severe penalties for those unfortunate individuals who misinterpret the law.

Needless to say, the decision making process, on my behalf, regarding this legislation will involve careful consideration. While on one hand, I am worried about the pervasiveness of obscene materials in our communities, I also share your concerns about the confusion created by this bill.

Again, I thank you for sharing your views and insights on this sensitive issue. Please be assured that I will keep your comments and concerns in mind should this legislation be brought up for a vote. If I may be of any further assistance on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Scrimenti", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Tom Scrimenti  
State Representative

# LAKEPORT DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

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139 West 18th Street (16501) • P. O. Box 6195 • Erie, Pennsylvania 16512  
Telephone (814) 455-4461 • FAX (814) 453-4479

November 7, 1995

NOV 13 1995

Hon. Thomas J. Scrimenti  
House Post Office  
Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: HB 881-Community Standard Legislation

Dear Tom:

As the wholesale distributor of Magazines, Books, and Newspapers servicing the many counties of Northwestern Pennsylvania, I have been following with great interest the path of HB 881. It has been reported to me that HB 881 may be considered for a vote on or around November 14, 1995.

My understanding is that this bill, if it passes, will allow Pennsylvania to adopt local rather than statewide community standards. If this is so, than a jury in roughly each county would be permitted to determine what constitutes obscenity. The result is, that there could possibly be 62 standards across the Commonwealth.

Passage of this bill would wreak havoc in the publishing and distribution industry. It would make it impossible to deal with so many potentially different standards in our marketing area. The bill may certainly have a chilling effect on the distribution of even non-obscene materials around the state.

---

**WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS OF:**

Magazines – Newspapers – Comics – Trading Cards – Books: Hardbacks, Paperbacks, Childrens

Passage of this bill certainly will restrict the availability of Constitutionally protected materials. Periodical retailers in one community could be convicted of obscenity for selling works that may be protected in the next town. Retailers may remove non-obscene materials with sexual content rather than risk making a mistake in judging local standards. It is conceivable, that my suppliers may decline to provide me with product that they feel may be challenged, if some of the Northwestern Pennsylvania communities become very restrictive.

One result of the passage of HB 881 would probably be, that the ability of Pennsylvanians to purchase magazines and books that should be readily available, and Constitutionally protected, will be terribly impeded. Passage of this bill will not only be a blow to freedom, but most certainly will have a negative impact on the Pennsylvania economy.

I urge you to oppose HB 881. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Landau", written in a cursive style.

William A. Landau  
President / C.O.O.

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DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE  
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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

December 1, 2000

Marvin W. Tubbs

[REDACTED]  
Union City, PA 16438-1470

Dear Mr. Tubbs: - *Marvin*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for contacting my office regarding House Bill 2324. As your state representative, one of my primary aims is to cultivate and solidify close lines of communications with our community so that I may more effectively fulfill my duties.

As you may know, HB 2324 intends to protect the welfare of the Commonwealth's children. The bill provides for the protection of children from obscene material, child pornography, and other unsuitable material on the Internet in public schools and public libraries.

According to the bill, both public schools and public libraries must establish their own Internet policies, following minimum state mandated guidelines, which guard young people from explicit sexual material on the World Wide Web. Nonetheless, the formation, implementation, and enforcement of the Internet use policy lies with local school boards and public libraries. The state plays only a supervisory role in establishing minimum standards to be followed by public schools and libraries.

House Bill 2324 was passed by the House of Representatives November 14, 2000 and was referred to the Senate Education Committee November 21, 2000 where no further action took place to advance the bill. It will be necessary for this bill to be reintroduced next session, thereby beginning the legislative process all over.

Once again, I would like to thank you for writing to me. If you have any further questions or comments about this matter or any other, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,  
SECRETARY  
AGING & YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
POLICY

February 18, 1993

Mr. Don Smith

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing in response to your recent expression over the State Board of Education's proposed regulation revisions. Specifically, I wish to update you on the House of Representatives' recent action on the issue of outcomes based education (OBE).

First, I think it is important to point out that the State Board has always held control over educational regulatory changes such as this one. The Public School Code requires that the State Board submit master plans for basic and higher education every five years. In compliance with this mandate, therefore, the Board's bylaws require it to review all of its regulations every four years. This particular review process (began in 1989 on Chapters 3, 5, and 6) was undertaken as a matter of course, the four year period for those chapters having expired. Three years later, having met with school officials, educators, parents, and other generally concerned parties on myriad occasions, the Board arrived at the threshold of a major reform of public education. Any new changes would accordingly be reviewed every four years to evaluate their effectiveness after implementation.

As I am sure you can imagine, I have received numerous letters and telephone calls from constituents who oppose the concept of outcomes based education; unfortunately, many of them have simply expressed philosophical opposition, with little or no understanding of the current system...or of the effect the changes would actually have on students in Pennsylvania. Please be assured that I have had extensive contact with the State Board of Education over the past year. I have also had numerous opportunities to review testimony, study research, and discuss the successes enjoyed by schools already operating under a system of outcomes based education. Hearings have been held in Harrisburg and throughout the Commonwealth, providing venues for citizens to become better informed about those issues which concern them. I am confident that the votes I cast on OBE have resulted from a well-informed understanding of the overall issue.

Some people have expressed the belief that outcomes based education is "too controversial". I would like to point out that outcomes based education was never intended to remove important fundamental skills from the curriculum. Rather, it would provide flexibility to educators who may wish to use more creative methods of teaching those vital subject areas. Students would still have to show their teachers that they have learned such important skills as reading, writing and arithmetic. To ensure preparedness for the increasing challenges of life in the 21st century, they will also need to develop more broad based knowledge. This, in my opinion, is the ultimate goal of outcomes based education.

Mr. Don Smith  
February 18, 1993  
Page 2

Last November, Governor Casey requested a delay until January 1993 for the final vote by the State Board for implementation of outcomes based education. On January 14, 1993, the Board adopted the measure with some revisions. On February 8, the House of Representatives held considerable debate on OBE. As you may have learned, the issue was brought to the floor by Representative Ron Gamble, who introduced an amendment to House Bill 129 (dealing with special education funding). This amendment declared the regulations approved on January 14 null and void, and prohibited the State Board of Education from promulgating goals or outcomes which deal with values, morals, or other affective or nonacademic subjects. "Affective subjects" are those which deal with emotions, feelings, moods, opinions, or sentiments. Representative Gamble's amendment passed by a vote of 139-61.

As you may have heard, I opposed the Gamble amendment. While I recognize that this move may appear to have gone against the wishes of my constituency, I must reassert the overriding need to reform Pennsylvania's education system. I believe this need supersedes politics; I simply could not, in good conscience, vote to completely negate an entire system of reform because of a few (four) sensitive points.

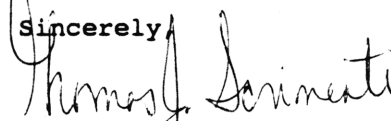
Toward this end, then, I was pleased to support an amendment offered by Representative Mike Veon. The Veon amendment would not have rejected the concept of goal oriented, outcomes based, education reform. Rather, it would have statutorily rejected those same controversial "affective" parts of the student learning outcomes adopted by the State Board in January. The deletion of these four sections would not prove harmful to the central purpose of academic achievement by all students. By supporting the Veon amendment, I voted to leave the reform process intact. I voted for moderate, compromise position which I believe makes sense. Like most compromises, it cannot satisfy the most intense advocates on either side. It does, however, address the most vehement objections that have been raised, while allowing us to proceed with much needed reform in the education system that our children's future requires.

Representative Veon's amendment failed to pass the House of Representatives (74-125). I am extremely disappointed that others have not yet looked at the education reform for its true purpose. Instead, too many Pennsylvanians (legislators included) remain caught up in the sensationalized misinformation being dispelled by a few very narrowly minded individuals.

Outcomes based education was designed to try to address the very different world our students find themselves in today. True, it represents change, but that change is in response to an ever changing social climate. To ignore our movement toward the 21st century would be to do a great disservice to those who will inherit that century.

As the OBE debate continues in the Senate, I remain hopeful that those who continue to oppose reform will one day look beyond their blinders and personal biases and see the big picture. That picture is a mosaic of our youth; it is a canvas painted in broad strokes and minute detail. It represents their needs, their hopes and dreams, their similarities AND their differences. Most of all, it represents their futures. This is the reality.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

August 23, 1993

Mr. Mark P. Bachman

Union City, PA 16438

Dear Mr. Bachman:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about Outcomes Based Education (OBE). I have reviewed the most current set of regulations and feel comfortable that they expressly attempt to improve education and academics, without intruding upon the role of the parent. In fact, the parent will have more of an influence on what is taught in schools than what our current system allows. Any regulations that had allowed the teaching or instruction of alternative lifestyles have been removed.

As you may know, the regulations went into effect on July 24, 1993, after many revisions and recommendations by the State Board of Education, the General Assembly, Governor Casey and the House and Senate Education Committees. I have enclosed a copy of the regulations as printed in the July 24, 1993, issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin. I have gathered information on the status of the regulations, as well as the most current action of the General Assembly. This may be of some help to you in understanding the changes that schools will encounter in the upcoming years.

The underlying focus for the Outcomes Based Education regulations is to reform education so that it is adaptable to the changes in our society. The regulations are expected to prepare our young people to compete nationally and internationally while incorporating local control, parental involvement and community involvement into our schools. Educators and parents would be able to decide the specific curriculum will no longer be based on the amount of time a student spends in a particular class, but rather on abilities developed students at the student's own pace.

The State Board of Education is required to submit revisionary plans for basic and higher education every five years. Those schools that are in the required time period to change their goals are preparing to implement OBE. These schools will be used as models for other schools in Pennsylvania to follow when they begin to implement OBE. Consultants from the State Department of Education will assist in their efforts and eventually other school districts will start to develop strategic plans.

The Attorney General approved the current OBE proposal (dated April 14, 1993) on July 1, 1993, after reviewing the regulations for form and legality. The Pennsylvania Legislature's final action on the regulations occurred on June 23, 1993, when an amendment to House Bill 1706, proposed by Representative Gamble, had passed the House. This bill, which is now in the Senate Education Committee, attempts to keep the current regulations in place for each school district, unless that district's school board adopts a resolution stating that they wish to switch OBE. Phase I of the switch has begun, though, and the strategic planning process has been initiated in the pilot schools throughout Pennsylvania. As noted above, the regulations became effective in Pennsylvania upon publication in the July 24, 1993, issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.



A concern of many with these new regulations has been the teaching of values in schools. When the State Board of Education unanimously approved revised OBE goals on April 14, 1993, the section entitled "Understanding and Appreciating Others" was removed. With this, public schools will only be able to test students on academic skills that can be objectively measured. According to section 5.202, particular attitudes, values, or beliefs are not required for students to achieve the outcomes. The academic outcomes are outlined in section 5.202 of the Rules and Regulations and fall under nine categories including communications, mathematics, science and technology, environment and ecology, citizenship, arts and humanities, career education and work, wellness and fitness and home economics.

Existing in the regulation is a listing of common core goals established by the State Board, which attempt to impress upon parents and students the need to realize the importance of continuing to learn throughout life. These included: self worth; information and thinking skills; learning independently and collaboratively; adaptability to change; ethical judgement; and honesty, responsibility and tolerance. These are not part of the state assessment system, but are to be used as a part of what is considered to be a quality education.

The Rules and Regulations provide guidelines for the "curriculum and instruction" in elementary, middle and secondary education, which include sections that allow the school district (with parental input) to modify these according to the students' needs.

There are additional sections which provide guidelines for language, physical education, vocational-technical education and special education. The regulations provide an explanation on HIV/Aids instruction, which stresses avoidance of drug use and abstinence. The regulations involve parents and call for the determination of what instruction is appropriate depending on the age of students.

The changes to Chapter 5 include the need for a strategic plan by each school district. Along with this, the regulations list ways of individual student achievement of OBE that can be incorporated in to the plans determined by the individual school district. These include, course completion, assessment, independent study and such things as community service, educational travel and summer employment. Higher education courses are looked at as a potential way of helping students to achieve their goals.

The purpose of State assessment and individual school district assessment is outlined. The assessments will be used to furnish the General Assembly, as well as the general public, with the achievements of the various school districts and the successes of the implementation of the outcomes. The assessment systems will be used to improve curriculum and instructional practices and to better the strategic plans of the future. The state assessment system (executed by the Department of Education) requires evaluations in a number of categories in the schools and requires that the results be submitted the State Board of Education.

Mr. Mark P. Bachman  
August 23, 1993  
Page 3

The Rules and Regulations put out by the State Board of Education also identify required courses and provide an implementation schedule, which includes the times requirements by year for the strategic plan.

The Outcomes Based Education Regulations are subject to change if the Legislature and Executive Branch agree to this. The system allows for this in that the evaluations are set up so that results must be submitted to the General Assembly as well as the public. The State Board of Education, the General Assembly, and the people of Pennsylvania will be involved in determining any changes that need to be made in order to better our educational system.

I am aware of the hesitation that many people feel as OBE enters into our schools. Fortunately, parents will be able to contribute more into the education of their children. It is my hope that this will add to the future success of students and the work force that awaits them. If I can be of additional assistance with this or any other issue please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/js  
enclosure

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



# House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

April 13, 1994

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Mr. Tom Yadeski

[REDACTED]  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Yadeski:

Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding Outcome Based Education and the Governor's Health Care plan. The Governor's Health Care plan does not deal with "rationing," but with what is termed "managed competition." The "managed competition" concept seeks to combine centralized cost-containment and quality assurance with market competition and consumer choice. Under the proposed plan, every Pennsylvanian would be guaranteed a basic package of health care services. These services would be delivered through managed care networks that would compete to offer the basic package of services within prescribed regions of the state.

In response to your questions regarding OBE, the State Board of Education is required to submit revisionary plans for basic and secondary education every five years. Those schools that are in the required time period to change their goals are preparing to implement OBE. These schools will be used as models for other schools in Pennsylvania to follow when they begin to implement OBE.

The Attorney General approved the current OBE proposal (dated April 14, 1993) on July 1, 1993. The Pennsylvania Legislature's final action on the regulations occurred on June 23, 1993 when an amendment to House Bill 1706, proposed by Representative Gamble, had passed the House. This bill, which is now in the Senate Education Committee, attempts to keep the current regulations in place for each school district, unless the school board adopts a resolution stating that they wish to switch to OBE. On July 24, 1993, implementation of the OBE regulations began, and the strategic planning process was initiated in the pilot schools in Pennsylvania.

In addition to House Bill 1706, Senator Fisher introduced Senate Bill 1094, which enables a school district to choose the OBE regulations or to continue with the curriculum that had been in place. This bill is currently in the Senate Education Committee. I have enclosed a copy of the new regulations, along with a copy of House Bill 1706. Should you have any additional questions regarding OBE or the Governor's Health Care Proposal, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative  
4th District

TJS:cm  
Enclosures.

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

November 8, 1996

Nathan M. Foote

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mount Dora, FL 32757-3470

Dear Mr. Foote:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending me your letter concerning the problems of water in the troposphere and the creation of nitric acid.

Your concerns regarding the depletion of the ozone and pursuit of probable causes is admirable. It is not often a person of such diligence is found. I was very impressed that you forwarded correspondence to such institutions as the Carter Administration and Senator Bradley; and I appreciate your thoughtfulness of including me in your mailings.

I agree that ozone depletion, as well as all environmental issues, are serious problems. The research which addresses the origins of and solutions to the environmental questions needs to be completed through cooperation of both industrial and developing nations. Blaming the developing nations for the problems is not the solution. The past is the past, but now is when we need to address the desecration of the earth in order for the children of the future to be assured a healthy life. It is my hope, as I am sure it is yours, that we preserve our earth as it looks now and protect it from disastrous climatic changes.

Please be assured that as a Representative for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I will support efforts to protect the environment. If I can be of 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

COPY




**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

April 25, 1995

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 1166

**TO:** Representative Thomas Scrimenti  
25B East Wing

**FROM:** Sharon DePalma, Research Analyst  
Legislative Research Office 

As requested, enclosed is a re-drafted letter to Dr. William Kline, an optometrist, regarding House Bill 1166. The draft included the very recent information that public hearings have been scheduled for July 18th and 19th in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

As you may know, this is an extremely volatile issue for both Republicans and Democrats alike. Lobbying for each camp of the optometrists and the ophthalmologists is extremely fierce. According to Barbara Harr, Executive Director of the Democratic Professional Licensure Committee, Representative Ryan is sympathetic toward physicians and the ophthalmologists. Representative Piccola is the prime sponsor and Representative Veon is the first co-sponsor.

Since you are not a co-sponsor of House Bill 1166, but a member of the Professional Licensure Committee, I authored a letter which is neutral on position and generous on information.

I hope this draft and background information proves useful. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

enclosure

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COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

April 28, 1995

Dr. William R. Kline  
[REDACTED]  
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Dr. Kline: - Bill,

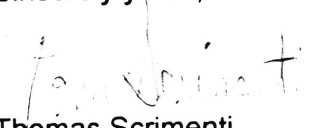
Thank you very much for alerting me of your position regarding House Bill 1166.

I am pleased to inform you that House Bill 1166 will be the subject of two legislative public hearings to be hosted by House Professional Licensure Committee this summer. The tentative schedule is for July 18th and 19th in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

In years past, the chairman of that committee was adamantly opposed to granting optometrists the right to dispense any medical treatment. A new chair now sits at the helm and, therefore, a new course may indeed be charted for House Bill 1166. Clearly, the fact that public hearings have been tentatively scheduled certainly verifies that assumption. Since I am a member of the Professional Licensure Committee, you may be sure that I will give all discussions on this bill my thorough review and consideration.

Again, thank you for alerting me of your position on this important piece of legislation. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

  
Thomas Scrimenti  
State Representative

TS/sd

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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  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

May 12, 1995

Mr. Joseph Trzybinski  
Director  
Erie County Department of Health  
606 West Second Street  
Erie, PA 16507

Dear Mr. Trzybinski:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding House Bill 1045. I certainly understand your concern about this critical issue and hope that you will continue to contact me with your ideas and opinions.

Specifically, HB 1045 would allow local county health departments to administer and enforce the provisions of the Clean Streams Act (Act 394 of 1937). I certainly understand the need to bring this law into conformity with many of the more recent environmental laws. This is especially true when other water quality programs, such as the Local Health Administration Law, are already enforced at the local level.

As you may know, House Bill 1045 was introduced on March 6, 1995 and was subsequently referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for review. Although this legislation has not yet been scheduled for review, I will certainly keep your concerns in mind should HB 1045 or any similar proposal come before the entire House for final debate and consideration.

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,  
Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Scrimenti in cursive.

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative



MAY - 1 1995

COUNTY OF ERIE  
Department of Health

606 West Second Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16507  
814 / 451-6700  
Fax: 814 / 451-6767

Judith M. Lynch  
County Executive

Joseph Trzybinski  
Director

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April 25, 1995

The Honorable Thomas Scrimenti  
State Representative - 4th District  
Box 96  
Main Capitol Bldg., 25 E. Wing  
Harrisburg PA 17120-0028

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I am asking you to support House Bill 1045, which amends the Act of June 22, 1937, known as the Clean Streams Law of Pennsylvania (CSL). The Erie County Department of Health has been actively implementing the provisions of the CSL since our Department was formed, but our enforcement activities have been tenuous because there has never been a specific provision in the law authorizing these activities.

Many of the more recently enacted environmental laws include specific provisions for local health department participation and implementation, such as The Safe Drinking Water Act, The Food Act, The Agricultural Code, The Sewage Facilities Act and others. This proposed amendment will bring the 1937 CSL into conformity with language in more recent legislation.

We have consistently exceeded the minimum water quality program activities mandated by the Local Health Administration Law, and our activities frequently result in enforcement actions and substantial penalties being collected by the Department of Environmental Resources (DER). Our field staff is trained to competently administer the provisions of The Clean Streams Law and has immediate access to legal support.

Since water quality is an integral part of our environmental program, the proposed amendment will reduce our unnecessary reliance on DER for program support, legitimize our enforcement posture and equitably fund our program. This amendment will also improve our ability to react to spills, illegal discharges and emergencies and allow DER to redirect its manpower and resources to areas not under local health department jurisdiction.

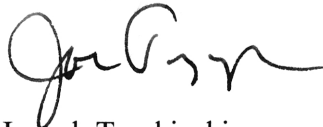


April 25, 1995

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As you can see, this amendment to the Clean Streams Law is obviously long overdue and, again, I urge you to give it your complete support. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information on the importance of this bill to local health departments such as ours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Trzybinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Joseph Trzybinski,  
Director

JT/sfa

cc Joseph Vogel, Erie Co. Health Dept.  
Ronald Chleboski, Allegheny Co. Health Dept.  
Lee Thomas, Bucks Co. Health Dept.  
David Jackson, Chester Co. Health Dept.  
Robert Gage, Montgomery Co. Health Dept.  
Randall Hirschorn, Philadelphia Dept. of Health