

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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□ 202 NORTH CENTER STREET  
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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

November 30, 1999

Fredrick H. Bender, R. Ph., Pharm. D.  
Team Leader, Pharmacy Services  
Saint Vincent Health Center  
232 West 25 Street  
Erie, PA 16544

Dear Mr. Bender:

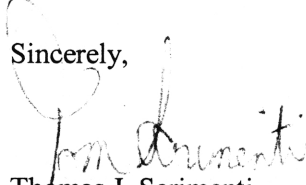
Thank you for your recent letter concerning House Bill 1946. I very much appreciate your input and insight on this issue. As a professional in the industry, your contribution is highly respected and regarded. This is a most important issue and requires much consideration and reflection.

As you well know, the field of health care is undergoing rapid and significant changes. The changes that will take place and the changes that have already occurred, yield major ramifications to those who work within the industry as well as those served by the industry. For this very reason, we, in government, must proceed with the greatest of caution and deference when we propose any changes.

With the advent of new technologies, pharmacology has entered a new era in how it is practiced. With the Internet and mail order prescription services available, many would argue that the integrity of the profession itself is in question. One of the most positive tenets of House Bill 1946 is its attempt to induce the collaboration of pharmacists, physicians, and health care providers to work in concert with each other. This would serve to improve the efficiency within the provider community as well as enhance the quality of care for the customer/patient.

Again, I thank you for sharing your views on this matter. Please know that your thoughts are always welcome on this or any other issue. I can assure you that I will keep your thoughts and concerns in mind as this bill progresses through the House. Should there be anything else that I may do for you, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

SAINT VINCENT HEALTH CENTER

232 West 25 Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16544  
814/452-5000



NOV 19 1999

November 15, 1999

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti  
25B East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA. 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I am writing to request your support for the proposed Pharmacy Practice Act, House Bill No. 1946 (Printer's No. 2434). This act was referred to the House Committee on Professional Licensure on October 12, 1999. The primary sponsor of the Bill is Representative Bob Allen. This proposed Bill contains important changes necessary for pharmacists to continue to provide high quality, cost-effective health care to the citizens of our Commonwealth.

As you may be aware, medication-related problems have a tremendous negative impact on the quality and cost of health care in our country and state. Examples of such problems include adverse drug reactions, treatment failures, additional physician office visits, emergency room visits, hospital admissions and even deaths. Yet, many of these adverse events could be avoided through improved patient monitoring and follow up. Pharmacists are the most accessible and trusted health care providers in today's complex health care delivery system and are best prepared to identify, resolve and prevent many of these adverse drug-related events.

The current Pharmacy Practice Act was written in 1961 and last amended in 1985. It must be replaced with a new act that more accurately reflects current health care practice guidelines in order to better serve and protect our patients. The proposed Act contains many important changes, two of the most important of which are:

- Recognition of pharmacists as health care providers
- The ability for *willing* pharmacists and physicians to enter into written agreements whereby pharmacists may participate *collaboratively* with physicians in managing drug therapy prospectively through treatment plans or protocols.

NOV 19 1999

The Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti  
November 15, 1999  
Page 2 of 2

It is important to point out that the Bill has no provisions for independent prescribing authority for pharmacists and does not infringe on the practice of medicine. Rather, this Bill encourages the collaboration of pharmacists, physicians and other health care providers to plan and deliver high quality, cost-effective patient care in all practice settings.

The proposed Act was drafted jointly by Pennsylvania pharmacy organizations including the Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, the Pennsylvania Association of Chain Drug Stores, as well as the five colleges of Pharmacy. Therefore, this Bill has a broad base of support across all pharmacy practice settings throughout the Commonwealth.

I request your support for this Bill as a member of the Professional Licensure Committee and as it moves out of committee. Please feel free to contact me at work during normal business hours at 814-452-5441 if you have any questions. I would also be pleased to meet with you personally to provide any additional information.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

SAINT VINCENT HEALTH CENTER



Fredrick H. Bender, R. Ph., Pharm. D.  
Team Leader, Pharmacy Services

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

April 19, 1999

Alma T. Blair  
P.O. Box 127  
North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Blair:

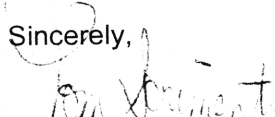
Thank you for your letter of April 1, 1999, and for expressing your valid and timely concerns with regard to PACENET legislation and House Bill 818 (formerly House Bill 201 of last session). As a co-sponsor of this bill, I can certainly empathize with your plight and hope that the information provided herein will serve as some sort of a consolation as the bill progresses.

Enclosed, please find a copy of House Bill 818. As you can see, the bill was referred to the Committee on Finance on March 10, 1999, for their consideration. You will be pleased to note that a key portion of this legislation is to increase the maximum annual income for eligibility. You mentioned in your letter that you miss the cutoff for eligibility by "just a few dollars." The proposed eligibility amount would increase from \$14,000 to \$16,000 for single persons and from \$17,200 to \$19,200 for married persons, in an attempt to be more inclusive.

You also mentioned in your letter an increased difficulty to meet the \$500.00 deductible as your "...fixed income becomes less with each rise in the cost of prescription drugs." This too is an issue we hope to rectify with our proposal. It is our recommendation that certain prescription drugs be covered by minimal copayments of \$8.00 for noninnovator multiple source drugs or \$15.00 for single-source drugs and innovator multiple-source drugs. Given these co-payments, it is my hope that you will be better able to meet your deductible as the increasing rise of prescription drugs is rendered ineffectual therefrom.

Please rest assured that your concerns have been duly noted and will be remembered when this particular piece of legislation come before the House of Representatives for a vote. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

enclosure

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

June 11, 1993

Mr. Sidney Smith  
Chairman  
Manufacturer's Association of  
Northwest Pennsylvania  
c/o Union City Chair Company  
18 Market Street  
Union City, PA 16438

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing in reference to the news article published on Saturday, June 5, 1993, in the morning paper, in which it is reported that Mr. Ralph Pontillo, Executive Director of the Manufacturer's Association of Northwest Pennsylvania, publicly belittled me and at least two of my colleagues in the General Assembly. In particular, the article reports that Mr. Pontillo openly expressed disparaging remarks concerning me, State Representative Linda Bebko-Jones and State Senator Anthony Andrezeski.

The comments were made during a meeting which took place on Friday, June 4, 1993, between Mr. Pontillo, representatives of several area manufacturers and a group of seven leading State Republican Senators. When Senator D. Michael Fisher, one of the seven Republican leaders present at the meeting, noted that Senator Andrezeski opposed suggestions from the Republican side of the aisle, he further asked whether business people could work on some of the local House Democrats [to attempt to gain further support for their pro-business agenda].

It was at this suggestion that Mr. Pontillo undertook to express his unfortunate remarks. He is unhappy with the "business climate" in the State of Pennsylvania and has somehow drawn his own personal conclusion that attempting to work with local House Democrats, including me, is something that cannot be pursued successfully.

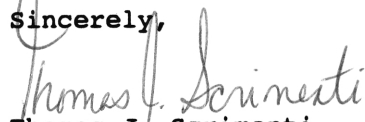
Surely I can understand the frustrations that any person representing a special interest group may sometimes feel, particularly when that person is unhappy with the level of success achieved in effecting the type of policy change that the group desires. I believe, however, that it is highly inappropriate for such a representative of a "professional" special interest group to use crass, demeaning language, to describe a public official, particularly in the regretful language used by Mr. Pontillo to describe Senator Andrezeski. I would reiterate that description in this letter, however, I find it to be so reprehensible that it is clearly unfit to reprint.

I would like to categorically state that I am personally and professionally offended by the language used by Mr. Pontillo at this meeting, to characterize me and my legislative colleagues. In light of the fact that I have worked at establishing and maintaining a very open and responsive relationship with your association in the past, I am particularly interested in finding out whether our relationship has fundamentally and officially changed.

Mr. Sidney Smith  
June 11, 1993  
Page 2

Clearly, I can foresee many legislative matters affecting the business community in the future and would like to know whether your association wants to participate in that process or simply attack it. Further, I believe that a matter of this magnitude demands a meeting with you so that we may be able to clearly define the terms of our relationship.

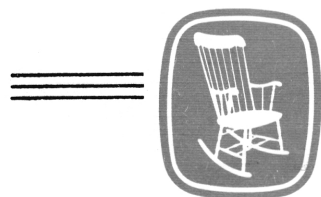
Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/js

Established 1881

JUN 2 1 1993



# UNION CITY CHAIR CO.

*Manufacturers of*

WOOD SEAT CHAIRS AND ROCKERS

AREA CODE 814/438-3878

FAX 814/438-7536

P.O. BOX 31

UNION CITY, PA 16438

June 17, 1993

Rep. Thomas Scrimenti  
9 West Main Street  
North East Pa. 16420

Dear Tom:

It's unfortunate that Ralph Pontillo, who most definitely speaks for the MANP, felt compelled through frustration to attack several Northwestern Pennsylvania's Democratic Representatives on a personal level, but I understand his frustration.

I believe that Pat Howard of The Erie Daily Times on Thursday, June 10th said it best and I quote "Nearly everyone agrees that more dialogue is needed about Pennsylvania's business climate, especially between business representatives and state officials."

It's important that everyone involved prevent the process from becoming a battle of personalities rather than a constructive process aimed at fixing what's broken.

Pontillo rightly characterizes state government as one of the leading villains in allowing Pennsylvania's competitive position to deteriorate in recent years. We also understand his frustration. The solution, however, won't be found in increasing alienation between the business community and the public's elected servants. The situation begs for cooperative solutions, not divisive rhetoric."

I have written to Bud George and agreed with him that we need to set a convenient date to discuss our mutual concerns. I think we would all like to preserve, create, and attract productive jobs for Pennsylvanians through expansion-investment by business and industry. As state legislators, you have the opportunity and responsibility to influence the business climate through your voting record and increase Pennsylvania's tax base. It's not a labor vs. business issue. Business expansion and profits equals jobs.

I look forward to meeting with you and the other Democratic legislative leaders, along with the rest of the MANP board of Governors, as soon as we can establish a convenient date working through Ralph Pontillo.

Very truly yours,



Sydney G. Smith  
Chairman  
MANP



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Office of Democratic Legislative Information**  
G-01, South Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Angelia L. Halaja (717) 787-7895**

HARRISBURG, June 11 - State Rep. Tom Scrimenti, D-Erie, responded today to a verbal attack on him and other area Democratic members of the General Assembly by Ralph Pontillo, executive director of the Manufacturer's Association of Northwest Pennsylvania.

Pontillo made the comments during a meeting June 4 between the association and seven Senate Republican leaders. The Erie Morning News reported on the events of the meeting, which was held to discuss the current business climate in Pennsylvania. According to the Saturday, June 5 Erie Morning News, Pontillo harshly attacked Scrimenti, Rep. Linda Bebeko Jones and Sen. Anthony Andrezeski, maligning the senator most vehemently.

In a letter to Sidney Smith, chairman of the association, Scrimenti called Pontillo's actions "highly inappropriate" and his choice of words describing the local legislators "crass, demeaning language" and said that he would repeat the director's words but the quote was "unfit to reprint."

"He is unhappy with the 'business climate' in the state of Pennsylvania and has somehow drawn his own personal conclusion that attempting to work with local House Democrats, including me, is something that cannot be pursued successfully," Scrimenti said in his letter.

"I would like to categorically state that I am personally and professionally offended by the language used by Mr. Pontillo at the meeting to characterize me and my legislative colleagues," he continued. "In light of the fact that I have worked at establishing and maintaining a very open and responsive relationship with your association in the past, I am particularly interested in finding out whether our relationship has fundamentally and officially changed."

Noting that legislation affecting the business community is on the horizon, Scrimenti requested a meeting with Smith to "clearly define the terms of our relationship."

Scrimenti remarked that he hopes for a quick reply to his letter so that the incident can be put in the past and that he and the association again can begin working together on business-related legislation.

###ah

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MANUFACTURER'S  
ASSOCIATION  
of Northwest Pennsylvania

The natural resource for business.  
3537 W. 12th Street • Erie, PA 16505-3650  
814/833-3200 • FAX: 814/833-4844

May 20, 1994

OFFICERS

DEANNA J. KLEIN  
*Chairman*  
PHILIP M. TREDWAY  
*Vice Chairman*  
HARRY E. BROWN  
*Treasurer*  
RALPH J. PONTILLO  
*President and Secretary*

Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti  
9 West Main Street  
North East, PA 16428

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

GOVERNORS

F. BRADLEY BIGGAR  
*Mill Manager  
International Paper*  
HARRY E. BROWN  
*President  
EBC Industries  
Erie Bolt Division*  
ALLAN E. CONCOBY  
*President, Chief Executive Officer  
and Chairman  
Erie Forge and Steel, Inc.*  
FRANK M. GERLACH  
DEANNA J. KLEIN  
*President and General Manager  
Fairview Manufacturing Corporation*  
THOMAS J. LOFTUS  
*Corporate Senior Vice President  
and General Manager,  
Mechanical Products Division  
Lord Corporation*  
RONALD W. MONG  
*President  
Mong Dairy Company*  
ROBERT R. MOTSINGER  
LOUIS P. MUSANTE  
*President  
Westminster Manufacturing  
Corporation*  
LOUIS I. POLLOCK  
*President and Chief Executive Officer  
Morris Coupling Company*  
M. SHAWN ROONEY  
*President  
Niagara Plastics Company*  
SYDNEY G. SMITH  
*President  
Union City Chair Company*  
PHILIP M. TREDWAY  
*President  
Erie Molded Plastics, Inc.*

I am writing on behalf of the over 5,300 member companies of the Manufacturer's Association of Northwest Pennsylvania to express our deep frustration in regard to your vote in favor of House Bill 150, Pennsylvania Plant Closing Bill. The Manufacturer's Association strongly opposed the Federal Plant Closing Act (WARN). What we cannot understand is why you and your colleagues saw fit to expand an already onerous federal bill.

Once again, you and your colleagues have demonstrated that words are cheap. You call for job growth, economic expansion and a fair and reasonable business climate. Your actions, however, through your support for House Bill 150, demonstrated otherwise. In effect, you have now added lights to the already posted billboards which read -- Businesses stay out of Pennsylvania!

We can now add House Bill 150 to the long list of anti-business issues, which in effect have made Pennsylvania one of the worst states in the nation in which to do business.

I'm going to share this letter with every member company in your district. Perhaps you can explain to them why you believe companies with 50 or more employees must now comply with the Plant Closing Bill.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Pontillo  
President

dmb

cc: Board of Governors

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

□ 9 WEST MAIN STREET  
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428  
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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

December 6, 1999

Randy Delp  
Reliable Sources  
915 State Street  
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Mr. Delp:

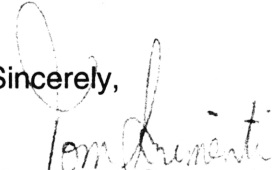
I would like to take this opportunity to respond to your concerns regarding House Bill 842 and the issue of requiring plumbing contractors and journeyman plumbers to be licensed by the state. I appreciate the fact that you have taken the time to express your position on this very important issue.

I, like yourself, am very concerned about any corruption that may exist in the process of obtaining a plumbing license through the Erie Plumbing Board. It is my opinion that corruption at any level of government is unacceptable and repugnant. It is also my opinion that clear guidelines and procedures are necessary to guarantee that qualified individuals are licensed as plumbing contractors and journeyman plumbers in Erie County. Therefore, I believe that House Bill 842 is worthy of debate and consideration.

It is my understanding that House Bill 842, which is currently in the House Committee on Professional Licensure, would require all plumbing contractors and journeyman plumbers to be licensed by the State Board of Plumbing Contractors, which this legislation would create. It is also my understanding that this legislation would establish clear and fair guidelines for obtaining a plumbing license in our state, which would help to guarantee that qualified individuals are licensed as plumbing contractors and journeyman plumbers. Therefore, as a member of the Professional Licensure Committee, I will certainly take your concerns into consideration if and when the committee decides to report this legislation to the full House for debate.

Thank you for alerting me to your concerns about House Bill 842. If you have any further concerns about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

TJS/sg

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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COMMITTEES

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

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

June 18, 2001

James B. Terrill, Chair  
Office of County Council  
Erie County Court House  
140 West Sixth Street, Room 116  
Erie, PA 16501-1081

Dear Mr. Terrill: - *Jim*

I would like to thank you for taking the time to voice your concerns about House Bill 1652.

As you know, this legislation was referred to the House Judiciary Committee on May 22, 2001. I agree that this is a local issue that should be addressed by the county. I will keep your thoughts in mind if this bill ever reaches the House of Representatives for a vote.

Thank you again for taking the time to voice your concerns on this issue. If I may be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Tom*  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

cc: David E. Mitchell, Vice Chair  
Mark A. DiVecchio  
Joseph F. Giles  
Joy Greco  
Fiore Leone  
Carol J. Loll



JUN 13 2001

James B. Terrill, Chairman  
David E. Mitchell, Vice Chairman  
Mark A. DiVecchio

Joseph F. Giles  
Joy Greco  
Fiore Leone  
Carol J. Loll

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

June 8, 2001

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
PA House of Representatives  
25B Capitol, East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

It has come to our attention that House Bill No. 1652 Session of 2001, amending Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes and introduced by Representative Thomas Petrone, has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

As members of the Erie County Council who also serve as members of the Erie County Board of Elections, we have some serious concerns regarding HB No. 1652.

The legislation provides for fines and/or imprisonment for candidates and/or their agents who fail to remove any written, printed, or painted political advertisement sign, bill, notice, card or poster within two weeks after an election. Admittedly, political signs and other printed advertising should have a limited life span, however, such determinants should fall within each local municipality's purview. House Bill No. 1652 proposes to supersede any and all local ordinances regarding the removal of political signs.

Imprisonment for failure to remove political signs borders on the ludicrous, and any sensible or practical enforcement of this proposed amendment to Pennsylvania's Consolidated Statutes that deal with crimes and offenses would prove impossible, ineffective, and totally cost prohibitive. Prison overcrowding has reached critical proportions, and the enactment of inane legislation such as House Bill No. 1652 could only exacerbate the problem. Political sign removal should not be made synonymous with real criminality.

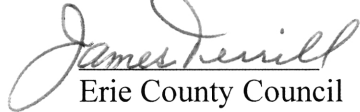
It is our opinion that such matters should remain the responsibility of local government.

We respectfully urge that you lend the full support of your office in opposition to House Bill No. 1652 Session 2001.

Thank you for your time and attention, as we are certain that you will give our request your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

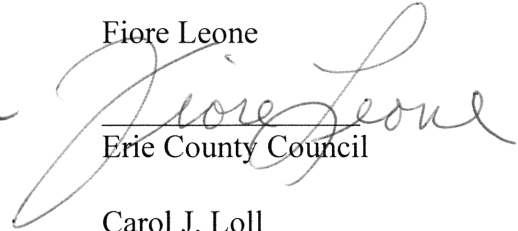
James B. Terrill, Chair

  
Erie County Council

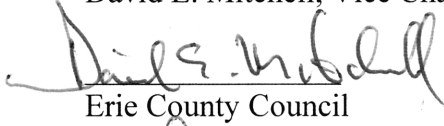
Joseph F. Giles

  
Erie County Council

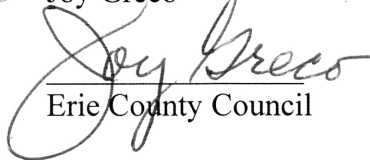
Fiore Leone

  
Erie County Council

David E. Mitchell, Vice Chair

  
Erie County Council

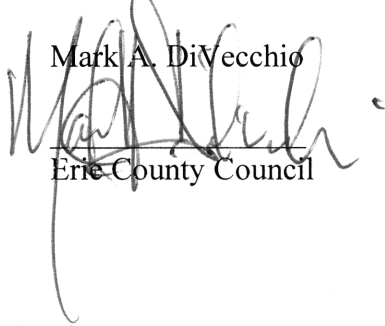
Joy Greco

  
Erie County Council

Carol J. Loll

  
Erie County Council

Mark A. DiVecchio

  
Erie County Council

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

January 30, 1995

Gordon Navecky

[REDACTED]  
Fairview, Pa 16415-2925

Dear Mr. Navecky:

I would like to thank you for your letter stating your opposition to a "right-to-work" law and your support of Pennsylvania's prevailing wage law. I have been a strong union supporter since I was first elected State Representative. I will continue to oppose any so called right-to-work legislation and support the prevailing wage law.

Last session the Republicans were able to persuade 60 legislators to co-sponsor a right-to-work bill. As you know, passage of a right-to-work law would allow people to work at a unionized work place and pay no dues to the organization that represents them. That is why I feel that a right-to-work law is unfair. The real push for this law comes from powerful reactionary forces that seek to eliminate the gains that working people have achieved during the past 50 years. You may be sure that I will oppose any right-to-work laws and will support the free collective bargaining system that we presently have in Pennsylvania.

I also agree that prevailing wage ensures that public construction workers are paid a decent wage. A highly skilled and trained workforce is the best way to avoid on-the-job injuries and fatalities. If opponents of the prevailing wage were successful in repealing this law, there would be a greater chance of poorly paid, poorly skilled workers being hurt or killed. In addition, the elimination of the prevailing wage would certainly result in lower wages for the workers of Pennsylvania, which would damage the tax base of our local communities. Last session, many legislators introduced legislation to eliminate prevailing wage. The Republicans have pledged to assault this law again. I pledge to you and the sheet metal workers that I will defend the prevailing wage and all the benefits it gives to workers, communities and taxpayers.

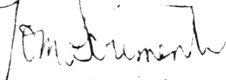
The Davis-Bacon Law is the federal prevailing wage law. Republicans attempted to repeal Davis-Bacon in the last Congress. All evidence indicates that anti-labor forces

Mr. Navecky  
Page 2

will again attempt to repeal it this session. I encourage you to contact your local member of Congress and both of Pennsylvania's U.S. Senators to urge them to support the federal prevailing wage.

Finally, allow me to close by stressing to necessity of winning the war of public opinion. I encourage you to contact your local elected public officials, friends, and relatives to explain the importance of these issues. I also encourage you attend local school board meetings to explain the benefits of the prevailing wage law. I hope that you will continue to inform me of your positions on these and other labor questions before the legislature. If I may be of further assistance with this issue, or any other, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tom Scrimenti  
State Representative  
4th District



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

March 10, 1995

1

Dear 2:

I would like to thank you for your letter stating your support of Pennsylvania's prevailing wage law. Since I was first elected, I have supported prevailing wage because it is a fair deal for workers, business, and taxpayers. You may be sure that I will support the prevailing wage law because it provides a stable means of income for Pennsylvania's construction workers.

I support prevailing wage because it ensures that public construction workers are paid a decent wage. In addition, a highly skilled and trained workforce is the best way to avoid on-the-job injuries and fatalities. If opponents of the prevailing wage were successful in repealing this law, there would be a greater chance of poorly paid, poorly skilled workers being hurt or killed. The elimination of the prevailing wage would also certainly result in lower wages for the workers of Pennsylvania, which would damage the tax base of our local communities. Last session, many legislators introduced legislation to eliminate prevailing wage. The opposition has pledged to assault this law again. I pledge to you that I will do my best to defend the prevailing wage and all the benefits it gives to workers, communities and taxpayers.

Finally, allow me to close by stressing the necessity of winning the war of public opinion. I encourage you to contact all of your local elected public officials, friends, and relatives to explain the importance of these issues. If I may be of further assistance with this issue, or any other, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/djr

*prev wage . doc*

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGING AND YOUTH  
INSURANCE  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

May 1, 1995

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PHONE: (717) 787-9475

Mr. Clarence Hess, Chairman  
Greene Township Supervisors  
8899 Old Wattsburg Road  
Erie, Pa 16510

Dear Chairman Hess:

I would like to thank you for your recent letter expressing the Greene Township Board of Supervisors' position on the Pennsylvania prevailing wage law. I would also like to take this opportunity to explain why I support the law and feel that it is fair for taxpayers, businesses, and workers.

The law was passed in 1961 to ensure quality work by construction companies would be performed on public works. The federal government has had a similar law since 1931. As you know, local and state governments usually deal with many construction firms who submit bids. Public agencies generally have to award projects to the lowest bidder. With materials, equipment, and other costs fixed by outside forces, contractors can control only one factor in their bids: labor costs. Without the prevailing wage, companies with low-paid, unskilled, casual work force would always win bids. The prevailing wage law was passed to protect workers, responsible construction companies, and government entities. With wages taken out of competition, governmental agencies can be more confident that low bids would reflect managerial and worker efficiency and skill and not unscrupulous labor practices.

I respectfully disagree that repealing the prevailing wage would save 20-30% on construction costs. Currently, on site-labor only accounts for 15 to 20% of public construction costs. Therefore, it is unrealistic to assume that reducing workers wages would save 30% on construction costs unless we pay workers nothing. As further evidence of that fact, the state of Kentucky provides an excellent example. In 1984, Kentucky repealed its prevailing wage law. Contractors responded by cutting worker's wages by 47% but lowered the total project construction costs by only 7%. Most economic indicators are that the only certainty about the repeal of prevailing wage would be lower wages for Pennsylvania's construction workers, which would in turn hurt the tax

base of state and local governments. There are absolutely no economic studies that prove repealing prevailing wage will save taxpayers money in the long run. I believe it would also lead to a decline in quality in public works.

In addition, prevailing wages are not union wages. All contractors, union and non-union, are supposed to send data to the Department of Labor and Industry. Unfortunately, most non-union contractors refuse to participate. Prevailing wage is based on local wage rates. It is incorrect that the prevailing wage rate is the same in Erie County as Philadelphia or Pittsburgh.

Furthermore, local and state governments must address the problem as to why public construction is so expensive. Wages are only one factor in the cost of a public works project. It is inherently unfair to cut wages when wages have become a less significant part of the total cost of construction over the last 30 years. I believe that the profits of contractors, consultants and architects and the exorbitant rise in material costs are also inflating the bottom line of public construction costs.

Once again, I would like to thank you for expressing the Greene Township Board of Supervisors' position on prevailing wage. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Tom Scrimenti  
State Representative  
4th District

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

July 23, 2003

Mr. Dave Bertges  
Council Representative  
Local Union No. 81  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America  
1701 State Street  
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Mr. Bertges: - Dave

Thank you for your letter regarding the Prevailing Wage Law and Project Labor Agreements (PLAs). Your thoughts and concerns are greatly appreciated.

As a strong supporter of both the current Prevailing Wage Law and PLAs, I agree wholeheartedly with your comments on the importance of these labor issues. As you know, a few bills have been introduced in the General Assembly to increase the Prevailing Wage Law's "public work" threshold above the current level of \$25,000. I vehemently oppose these legislative efforts to reduce the number of union workers employed on publicly funded projects.

The Prevailing Wage Law and PLAs assure that well-trained, experienced workers are provided on construction and other projects. In addition, by requiring the use of such skilled workers, the Prevailing Wage Law and PLAs allow for fewer on-site accidents, which is of utmost importance, especially when public funds are being used for a project.

In relation to my ongoing support for the Prevailing Wage Law and PLAs, the first time I met with Edson "Ted" Arneault, owner of the land where the proposed Presque Isle Downs horse racing facility would be located, I insisted that my support for his facility would be conditioned on the use of a union workforce.

In closing, please be assured that I will continue to support the current Prevailing Wage Law and PLAs. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

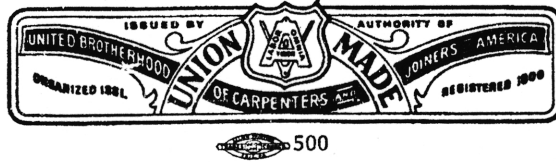
Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

LOCAL UNION No. 81

# United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

INSTITUTED AUG. 12, 1881  
ALWAYS DEMAND THIS LABEL



17 JUN 2003

1701 State Street  
455-1836

Erie, Pennsylvania  
16501

Dear Representative Thomas Scrimenti.

We are writing to you concerning proposed changes in the prevailing wage law. Carpenters Local 81 would like your support in keeping the Prevailing Wage Law as it stands now.

Prevailing wage helps guarantee that the taxpayer will receive the highest quality-building project for their money. It encourages apprenticeship training thus assuring that the craftsmen used on the project are highly skilled. This skill level assures the end result is a quality product, we can all be proud of. Our training includes a high emphasis on safety not just for our members but for the public. The old saying "you get what you pay for" is true.

We could list many other reasons for supporting the prevailing wage; personally we feel that it is a matter of fairness. The work we do is hard and dangerous, and construction workers are subject to be exploited due to the short nature of construction projects.

PLA's (Project Labor Agreements) are another area of interest to us. A PLA ensures the use of highly skilled workers who produce a quality product, but even more than that it ensures the workers are local. Thus helping to reduce our high rate of unemployment and improve our sagging economy because these workers work and live here. You have seen first hand how some construction projects in the Erie area (Lowes) have brought in workers from out of the area. This money has then left the local economy to be spent in other states.

The members of the carpenters union are interested in what your position will be on these matters, we would hope you would give us your position on each issue separately. If we can assist you in any way please don't hesitate to contact us.

Dave Bertges  
Council Representative

Sincerely

Felix Folletti  
Council Representative

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Inmate  
Work Force  
Act

COMMITTEES

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

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

November 2, 1995

Dr. Chester Battersby

[REDACTED]  
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Dr. Battersby:

Thank you for contacting me recently regarding your interest in having public works programs for prisoners. Let me say that your concerns are both welcomed and appreciated.

As you may know, the House of Representatives recently passed legislation (House Bill 124) which would provide for the Inmate Work Force Act. This legislation establishes voluntary inmate litter retrieval programs to be administered by the Department of Corrections. Inmates would retrieve and collect litter along public roads or perform other public service work projects that are deemed to be within the capabilities of the inmates. I have enclosed a copy of HB 124 for your review.

In closing, I believe that this legislation addresses our shared concerns. Please know that I will continue to support measures by which Pennsylvania can become more productive without displacing our civilian labor community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom".

Tom Scrimenti  
State Representative

TS/rcb

Enclosure

COPY

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

October 19, 1995

**TO:** Robert Miller, Assistant Director  
Legislative Services

**FROM:** Representative Thomas J. Scrimenti

**RE:** Drafting of Letter

A constituent of mine, Dr. Chester Battersby, a chiropractor who lives at 265 West Tenth Street, Erie, PA 16501 contacted me, suggesting that prisoners be required to participate in public works by doing things that are typically neglected or left undone, for example, sweeping streets and picking up litter. He thinks prisoners could be doing something constructive, something that could benefit society, and pay society back in a small way for the prisoners' misdeeds.

I believe that legislation has been introduced to accomplish these objectives. I know that on October 18 the House passed amendment A5005 (Sturla) to House Bill 124 (Special Session) that pertains to this matter. I do not wish to introduce any new legislation.

Please have your staff research this issue and prepare a letter for my review.

Thank you for your assistance.