PHONE: (814) 725-8664

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



AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS GAME & FISHERIES

COMMITTEES

House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

September 26, 1989

Mr. A. C. Pulakos, President Pulakos Candies 2530 Parade Street Erie, PA 16503-2097

Dear Mr. Pulakos:

I am writing in response to your recent letter in which you expressed your disapproval of the Department of Revenue's proposal to tax candy, gum and confections.

As you correctly pointed out, the Department has published its proposal in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, Volume 19, No. 21, August 5, 1989. As required by the Regulatory Review Act, copies of the proposal have been submitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC), and the Chairpersons of the House and Senate Committees on Finance. The House Finance Committee met with regard to the Department's amendment on Tuesday, September 19.

According to House Finance Committee Executive Director Bob Kassoway, the Committee voted unanimously against the proposal, and submitted a letter to the Department of Revenue requesting that it withdraw the amendment. The IRRC, scheduled to meet within the next two weeks on this issue, has also been notified of the Committee's response. It is Mr. Kassoway's opinion that the IRRC will also vote against the proposal in question. Given the negative feedback from both of these agencies, it is possible that the Department will withdraw its proposal altogether. If not, the regulatory process allows the Department to re-submit the amendment to the Finance Committee. Should that happen, the Committee will again reject the proposal...this time much more publicly.

Please be assured that I recognize and support your position on this matter. The candy industry is extremely important to the economy of this Commonwealth, and should not be subject to taxation as implied by the Department's amendment. If I may further assist you with this, or other matters in the future, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tom Scrimenti

State Representative

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

 \Box

П

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

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



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH

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

December 3, 1998

David L. Thornton, Owner North East Motors Post Office Box 569 North East, Pennsylvania 16428

Dear Mr. Thornton:

I am writing in reference to your recent letter in which you expressed your concerns about the 1% sales tax that every retailer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is entitled to collect. As you stated, this program allows the retailer to recover a portion of the expense of collecting and sending those taxes to the state every month.

You have also explained that new and used vehicle dealerships and auto auctions have been excluded the benefit of the 1% tax reduction. Additionally, you have detailed how the Pennsylvania Independent Auto Dealers Association (PIADA) has been cooperating with the state government for the past two years in a program to ensure correct and accurate sales tax payments from all vehicle transactions. This program, the Motor Vehicle Verification of Fair Market Value (MV-3) program, has clearly generated millions of dollars in revenue for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Finally, you have indicated that there are several legislative proposals that have been introduced to the Pennsylvania General Assembly's 1997-1998 Legislative Session to provide the 1% sales tax reduction for dealers and auctions, and have encouraged my support for these bills.

I certainly appreciate your taking the time to express your thoughts on this issue and believe that you have a valid position in favor of providing a legislative remedy for this evidently inequitable situation. Senate Bill 1426, introduced by Democratic State Senator Robert Mellow, is designed to fully address this particular problem. This bill was introduced on April 22, 1998 and was referred to the Senate Finance Committee on that same day. No further formal legislative action, however, was taken on this legislation during this legislative session.

As you may know, all bills that were not enacted into law during a given two year legislative session must be reintroduced to the next session if they are to be considered further by the legislature. Therefore, if this issue is to see further legislative action, it will be necessary

for Senator Mellow to reintroduce this legislation to the upcoming 1999-2000 Legislative Session.

You may wish to contact Senator Mellow at: Senator Robert J. Mellow, 535 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120, or telephone him at (717) 787-6481 to request that he reintroduce this legislation in January, 1999.

Please know that I fully appreciate your arguments in support of this important bill, and will be sure to keep your comments carefully in mind as we may consider this type of legislation in the coming legislative session. I have enclosed a copy of Senate Bill 1426 for your review and further information. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti State Representative

Enclosure

North East Motors

Post Office Box 569 North East, PA 16428

David L. Thornton

Phone 814 / 725-9678 Fax 814 / 725-4803

November 11, 1998

Thomas J Scrimenti State Representative House PO Box D-4 Main Capital Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

Almost every retailer in the state of Pennsylvania is currently entitled to 1% of the sales tax collected, if they pay it to the Department on time. This program allows the retailer to recover a portion of the expense of collecting and sending those taxes to the state every month.

This is a win-win situation that both parties benefit from, EXCEPT retailers such as ourselves, car dealerships. For an unfair time period, new and used vehicle dealerships and auto auctions have been excluded the benefit of the 1% tax reduction. If anything we have been worse off, as we have to remit the sales tax with state fees in separate checks for every vehicle sold, thus being more of an expense than the typical retailer, who only has to send in one check for the entire months collected tax. We feel it is time to provide this same incentive for our industry, the automotive industry.

You may be aware that the auto sales industry, led by the Pennsylvania Independent Auto Dealers Association (PIADA), has been cooperating with the state government for the past two years in a program to ensure correct and accurate sales tax payments from all vehicle transactions. The Motor Vehicle Verification of Fair Market Value (MV-3) program has generated \$25 to \$40 million in revenue for the state. If the auto industry were permitted to take the 1% incentive, it would only cost the state \$5 million, which would still be a substantial net gain for the state of Pennsylvania.

Several bills have been introduced to provide the 1% sales tax reduction for dealers and auctions, and I strongly urge your support on this matter. The state has imposed their rules upon the automotive industry, which we are forced to follow; it is only fair to be granted the same benefit as all the other retailers in the state, a 1% sales tax reduction. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David L Thornton, Owner

North East Motors

9 WEST MAIN STREET NORTH FAST PENNSYLVANIA 16428 PHONE: (814) 725-8664

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

25B. EAST WING **HOUSE BOX 202020** HARRISRURG PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020 PHONE: (717) 787-9475



House of Representatibes

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

July 23, 2003

COMMITTEES

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

S. E. Riley, Jr. Conner Riley & Fryling The Bell Telephone Building 17 West Tenth Street, P.O. Box 860 Erie, PA 16512-086

Dear S. E. Riley:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns surrounding the recent proposal to expand the Commonwealth's sales tax to include legal services. I take tremendous pride in listening to those issues that are of supreme importance to the residents of our area.

As you know, severe economic shortfalls and a struggling national economy have had a significant effect on the Commonwealth. In an effort to provide economic relief, the Republican controlled Commonwealth Caucus has proposed an initiative to change the current state sales tax. This proposal would reduce the sales tax rate by one-third from six percent to four percent and expand those items taxed to include food, clothing and services. Services that would be taxed under this proposal include legal and financial services, utilities and doctor visits.

At this writing, this proposal has yet to be put into bill form and formally introduced. Given the proposal's complexity and controversial nature, this will be an issue that will surely be debated and discussed at length. With that said, please be assured that I will certainly keep your concerns in mind as my colleagues and I continue to closely review this issue.

Again, thank you for contacting me and alerting me of your concerns on this issue. If I may be of any further assistance on this or any other issue of importance, please contact me.

State Representative

CONNER RILEY & FRYLING

JUN 27 2003

The Bell Telephone Building 17 West Tenth Street P.O. Box 860 Erie, Pennsylvania 16512-0860 Phone (814) 453-3343 Fax (814) 454-6713

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 860 Erie, PA 16512-0860

Direct Fax (814) 455-1572 E-mail: tim@connerandriley.com

June 25, 2003

Hon. Tom Scrimenti 25B East Wing Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I have been informed that the Commonwealth Caucus has proposed to extend Pennsylvania's sales tax to professional services, including legal services. The addition of a sales tax to professional services is an ill-advised response to Pennsylvania's need for maximizing revenues for a number of reasons including the following:

- 1. A sales tax on legal services would tax people at times of misery, misfortune and vulnerability. Clients dealing with death, divorce, domestic abuse, criminal charges, personal injury, housing, credit and bankruptcy seek legal services not from choice, but from necessity. The tax would place yet another burden on those already suffering financial or personal crisis.
- 2. A sales tax on legal services would tax people for taking responsible steps in managing their affairs. Examples include persons who wish to protect their families by drawing a will and appointing guardians; individuals buying and selling their homes or businesses; and those who are trying to incorporate a new business. Increasing the cost of legal services would deter individuals and small businesses from retaining lawyers at the outset, resulting in more costly legal problems and greater burdens on our state's judicial system down the road.
- 3. Many transactions already taxed would be subject to additional taxes on legal fees. Examples include estate administration and real estate transfers.
- 4. A sales tax is considered regressive that is, the poor and middle class pay a larger percentage of their income in total sales taxes than the wealthy. Again, most legal services are purchased out of necessity, not choice.
- 5. The tax would be borne disproportionately by individuals and small businesses; large corporations could avoid the tax by employing in-house lawyers whose salaries would not be subject to the tax. The majority of businesses are small businesses without in-house counsel.

- 6. Further, the large businesses that do employ in-house counsel frequently retain outside counsel for technical expertise in various specialty areas. The tax would discourage these businesses from hiring outside counsel, eliminating a source of business for the smaller specialty firms and decreasing the flow of dollars into the Commonwealth's economy.
- 7. Sales taxes are designed to be based upon final retail sales or consumption. Taxing legal and other professional services provided to businesses requires businesses to build the tax into the price of the goods or services sold, which will again be taxed upon final sale. Imposing a sales tax on services used in the distribution chain results in pyramiding and in a substantially increased sales tax burden. This would place Pennsylvania's businesses at a competitive disadvantage to states that do not tax professional services.
- 8. This tax would discourage businesses and professionals from locating in Pennsylvania, resulting in lost job, wage and tax opportunities.
- 9. The tax would encourage our citizens to seek professional services from out-of-state providers. This is especially true of border communities and sophisticated clients, or clients of law firms that have out-of-state affiliates.
- 10. All communications between a client and his or her lawyer are confidential to protect the client. An audit on a lawyer's client fund account in administering the tax could violate the client's attorney/client privilege, and create a greater burden on lawyers to continue to protect those communications.
- 11. There may be constitutional problems in taxing a person's ability to defend himself in a criminal defense case or in taking money from a worker's compensation award.

I respectfully ask that you <u>not</u> support any legislation taxing professional services. Thank you for considering my position on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Conner Riley & Fryling

By Time S. E. Riley, Jr.

SER:CAH

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

П

П

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

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



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

July 23, 2003

COMMITTEES

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

Mr. Jay Confer

North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Confer:

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the issue of children with diabetes in Pennsylvania's schools. I appreciate the time and effort you have taken to apprise me of your thoughts on this matter. I am genuinely grateful for your input, given the importance of this issue.

At this writing, House Bill 1510 is being studied by the House Health & Human Services Committee. While I am not a member of this committee, I will keep your views in mind, when, and if, the bill is brought before the entire House of Representatives.

In the interim, thank you for alerting me of your interest in this bill and its effects on children with diabetes. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely.

Thomas J. Scrimenti

State Representative

July 21, 2003

State Representative Tom Scrimenti 25-B East Wing House Box 202020 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear State Representative Scrimenti,

I am writing to you today as a person concerned about children with diabetes in Pennsylvania's schools.

Diabetes is a disease that requires good control of blood sugar levels in the body. In order to maintain this control, people with diabetes must be able to monitor their blood sugar and take insulin when necessary. This is especially true of children with diabetes who can esperience drastic highs and lows in their blood sugar quickly, the result of which can be serious injury or even death.

As it stands now, Pennsylvania students with diabetes miss valuable classroom time on a daily basis because they must leave class to test their blood sugar levels multiple times daily in the nurse's or principal's office. Even worse, in many public schools with children with diabetes, no one is trained to administer Glucagon in the case of a low blood sugar emergency that results in the student's loss of consciousness. In fact, most Pennsylvania public schools do not even have a school nurse present at all times during the day in case of diabetic emergencies.

These facts strike fear into the hearts of all parents of children with diabetes in our state. Fortunately, H.B. 1510, and the senate version, S.B.42, address these concerns by allowing classroom testing by students who are old enough and mature enough to take care of their own disease. Furthermore, H.B. 1510 would require that non-medical school personnel be trained in the administration of Glucagon in case of a diabetic emergency.

These issues may seem insignificant, but resolving them would make a world of difference for our students with diabetes and their parents who worry about them. I urge you to support H.B. 1510.

Sincerely, Mr. Jay Confer Lest North East, FA 16428

P01

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

П

П

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

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



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

July 16, 1996

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH

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

Mr. Ted Miller

North East, PA 16428

Dear Mr. Miller:

It was a pleasure speaking to you last Monday, July 8th, regarding a bill that was recently introduced to address the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). As a co-sponsor of this bill, I believe that this reform measure would be extremely beneficial to this retirement system.

This bill was designed in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees and was recently introduced as House Bill 2659. The COLA fund proposal establishes an account within the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) for the accumulation of "excess earnings" generated from investments of annuitant funds. The "excess earnings" will increase the assets in the fund and be held for the benefit of those annuitants whose funds were used to generate the earnings.

During active service, a member of PSERS makes contributions to the fund along with the school district and the Commonwealth. The goal of this bill is to create an account that will generate a sufficient amount to fund existing supplemental annuity liabilities and to accumulate reserves. The Commonwealth could then use the fund to largely offset the employers contributions to fund future annuities enacted by the General Assembly for school employees. In the future, this would reduce the burden that each contributing party would have to make.

As always, I am happy to share this recent development with you. I hope you join me in supporting this reform in your retirement fund. Please keep me informed on any views you may have as this matter develops. I need to hear from you.

Sincerely,

COPY

Thomas J. Scrimenti State Representative

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

 \Box

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

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

COMMITTEES

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

AGING AND YOUTH

House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

May 4, 1998

Gino Carlotti, Director Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees 5442 Gardner Drive Erie, PA 16509-3019

Dear Mr. Carlotti: - Juno

Thank you for your fax concerning cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) and the possible postponement of the effective date to 1999.

As you may be aware, Senate Bill 1269 passed the Senate on April 29, 1998 and has subsequently been sent to the House of Representatives and is in the House State Government Committee. SB 1269 provides a cost-of-living adjustment to retired teachers and creates a Supplemental Annuity Reserve Account. This is the piece of legislation seems to have gained momentum. According to SB 1269, July 1, 1998 is still the date for the cost-of-living adjustment.

It is my intention to ensure that Pennsylvania's public school teachers are thanked for their hard work and treated with the respect they deserve both during their tenure and after they have retired. Please be assured that I will keep your concerns in mind as SB 1269 travels through the legislative process. If I can be of further assistance with this matter or future matters, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti State Representative



June 9, 1998

Honorable Thomas J. Scrimenti House of Representatives Box 202020 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR), thank you for supporting passage of SB 1269--the COLA bill for state and school retirees promoted by this association.

We will, of course, report passage of our COLA bill to the retired public school employees of this Commonwealth. A special communications to school retirees who are not currently members of our association is being mailed today and will include the enclosed Legislative Analysis to help them estimate the increases that they can expect to receive. Next week we will be mailing the PASR NEWSLETTER to all members, announcing passage of the bill and providing more details.

This association has always respected and served the needs of its members by providing complete information concerning actions taken by the General Assembly. We also respect and serve the needs of legislators who wish to communicate directly with their school retiree constituents. In this instance, we believe *our PASR members* should learn first of the passage of the COLA from their legislators. You should bring the good news to your school retiree constituents!

If you had previously provided a list of the zip codes for communities in your district to our office and obtained mailing labels from us, you will find enclosed an updated disk listing our members in your district in a Microsoft Excel file format. If you had not previously requested a listing from us and would like to obtain one now, please fax us a listing of your zip codes and we will deliver a disk to you within the next week.

Again, thank you for your support and best wishes for an enjoyable Summer!

Sincerely,

Richard C. Rowland

Executive Director : 878 Century Drive • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-8406 • 717-697-7077

FAX: 717-697-8742 F-MAIL: pasr@igateway.com

PASR OFFICERS

President

MR. EUGENE C. SHEFFER

717 Fern Street Franklin, PA 16323-2701 Phone: 814-432-3456

President-Flect

MRS. GERALDINE R. HOURIGAN

82 James Street Kingston, PA 18704-4730 Phone: 717-287-0233

Vice President

MS. LOIS JOAN STUCK

412 Rainey Avenue Grove City, PA 16127-2312 Phone: 724-458-6234

Immediate Past President

MRS. JEAN L. MOWRY

2585 Mercer St., P.O. Box †58 Sandy Lake, PA 16145-0158 Phone: 724-376-3969

Treasurer

DR. SAMUEL M. SANZOTTO

6122 Charing Cross Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-5201 Phone: 717-766-2668

Assistant Treasurer

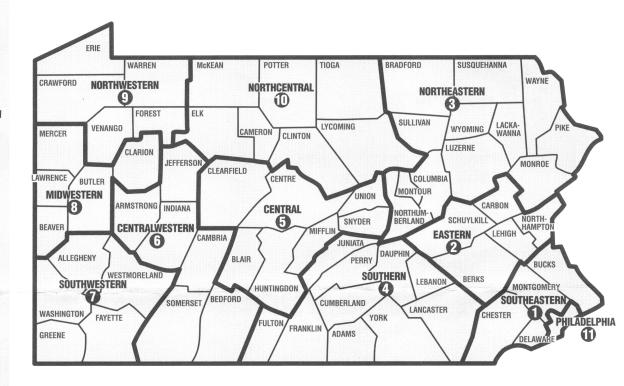
MRS. HAZEL G. RANIERI

2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, Apt. 20B25 Philadelphia, PA 19130-3061 Phone: 215-232-3129

Executive Director

MR. RICHARD C. ROWLAND

PASR REGIONS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGION 1-SOUTHEASTERN

Director: MR. THOMAS J. TRACY, JR 47 Washington Lane Coatesville, PA 19320-1624 Phone: 610-857-3127

Regional Representative: DR. PAUL J. MILLER 49 Hearthside Road Aston, PA 19014-2607 Phone: 610-494-2569

REGION 2-EASTERN

Director: MRS. ELMA M. WALTON 3220 Eisenbrown Road Reading, PA 19605-1410 Phone: 610-929-1464

REGION 3-NORTHEASTERN

Director: MRS. LOIS B. YEAGLE R.D. 2, Box 103 Rome, PA 18837-9510 Phone: 717-247-7856

REGION 4- SOUTHERN

Director: MR. JAMES N. PAPOUTSIS 9 Kensington Drive Chambersburg, PA 17201-8729 Phone: 717-263-1109

Regional Representative: MR. THEODORE E. FURRY 10 Nace Street, P.O. Box 2 Millerstown, PA 17062-0002 Phone: 717-589-3133

REGION 5-CENTRAL

Director: MRS. L. JEAN LAMBERT R.R. 4, Box 889, Glenwood Dr. Altoona, PA 16601-9753 Phone: 814-944-9549

REGION 6-CENTRAL-WESTERN

Director: MR. EDWARD J. BROWN 630 S. Juliana St., PO. Box 519 Bedford, PA 15522-0519 Phone: 814-623-9495

REGION 7-SOUTHWESTERN

Director: MR. ALLEN Q. JONES R.D. 2, Box 3-A Dunbar, PA 15431-9703 Phone: 724-628-3506

Regional Representative: MRS. JOHANNA COCHERES 2206 Charlemagne Circle Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2920 Phone: 412-366-3447

Regional Representative: DR. HOWARD F. JACK 122 Scenery Circle McMurray, PA 15317-2740 Phone: 724-941-9331

REGION 8-MIDWESTERN

MR. ROBERT A. CRAIG 816 Lakeview Avenue New Castle, PA 16101-5309 Phone: 724-652-0893

REGION 9-NORTHWESTERN

Director: MR. GINO J. CARLOTTI 5442 Gardner Drive Erie, PA 16509-3019 Phone: 814-864-6757

REGION 10-NORTH CENTRAL

Director: MR. LEWIS A. McGILL R.R. 1, Box 91 Mill Hall, PA 17751-9712 Phone: 717-726-4155

REGION 11-PHILADELPHIA

Director: MR. WALTER H. COLLINS 6215 Christian Street Philadelphia, PA 19143-2920 Phone: 215-476-0487

OTHER ADDRESSES

ANNUITANT REPRESENTATIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYES' RETIREMENT BOARD

MRS. ANNA P. SIMPSON 1515 Fairway, 274 Woodside Rydal, PA 19046-1664 Phone: 215-572-1684

NRTA DIVISION OF AARP COORDINATOR

MR. DON L. CASTO 3458 Zepp Road, P.O. Box 85 Sumneytown, PA 18084-0085 Phone: 215-234-4644

AARP STATE PRESIDENT

MS. ROSEMARY MEYER Rt. 1, Box 238 Canadensis, PA 18325-9521 Phone: 717-595-3858

PA AARP REPRESENTATIVE

MS. SHIRLEY J. SHARP 225 Market Street, Suite 502 Harrisburg, PA 17101-2123 Phone: 717-238-2277

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

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

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



COMMITTEES

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CARE AND SERVICES

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

June 11, 2001

Mr. Marty Fitzgerald P.O. Box 217 Harborcreek, PA 16421-0217

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald: - Wart

Thank you for your letter regarding my no vote on House Bill 26, which would increase pensions to public employees. As a representative, nothing pleases me more than knowing that I have truly represented the people who have given me the privilege of serving in the state legislature. I appreciate you taking the time to let me know how you feel on this important issue.

Despite my best efforts, this legislation passed in the House, was approved by the governor and signed into law on May 17, 2001. I voted against the pension plan because of the inequity the bill posed. Please be assured that both pension plans are solvent. The State Employment Retirement System has a \$6 billion surplus and the Public School Employees Retirement System has a \$53 billion surplus. In addition, the employees will have to contribute more toward their retirement to cover the increase.

Once again, thank you for sharing your views on the pension increase for public employees. I want to reiterate that I will always put the welfare of the taxpayer above my own personal benefit. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thomas J. Scrimenti

State Representative

Since

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

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

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

July 24, 2001



House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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

mailed from N.E. office 7/30

Ms. Marilynn P. Krull P. O. Box 306 North East, PA 16428

Dear Ms. Krull:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the very timely issue of providing a Cost of Living Adjustment for Pennsylvania's retirees. I want to assure you that I am keenly aware of the rising cost of living throughout this Commonwealth and realize that Pennsylvania's retirees absolutely deserve this desperately needed relief.

There are currently several pieces of legislation which address this issue. House Bill 1443, which would provide for a yearly automatic Cost of Living Adjustment for Pennsylvania state retirees, was referred to the House Rules Committee. While I am not a member of that legislative panel, I am a co-sponsor of this legislation and will do everything in my power to see that it becomes law.

I am optimistic that there will be some kind of action on this issue when we return to session in the fall. I strongly support legislation which will raise the retirement benefits of public education employees. The recent percentage increase for the Cost of Living Adjustment for current state and public school employees and legislators is supported by a higher personal deduction from their paychecks.

Once again, thank you for your letter regarding legislation to provide for a Cost of Living Adjustment for Pennsylvania's retirees. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thomas J. Scrimenti State Representative

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

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

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



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

October 30, 2001

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH

DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Ms. Sandra Foltz

Union City, PA 16438

Dear Ms. Foltz:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding COLA's for retired public school employees. I appreciate the time and effort taken to contact my office and include me in your thoughts.

Like you and many others across the Commonwealth, I support awarding COLA's to Pennsylvania's deserving state the public school retirees. I believe your years of dutiful service to the Commonwealth warrant our serious and prompt attention. It was with this in mind and more that I opposed the passage of House Bill 26 in May 2001. Although I joined several other Members in objecting to the fact that retirees were ignored in this proposal, the bill passed with little opportunity for public debate or comment. Nevertheless, I remain a strong advocate of awarding COLA's to our Commonwealth's deserving retirees.

At this writing, several bills have been introduced to provide COLA's to Pennsylvania's public school and state retirees. As a proud sponsor of many of these proposals, please be assured that I will remember and respect your comments as my colleagues and I deliberate this issue in the future.

Again, thank you for writing to me on this issue of shared concern, and I will keep your thoughts in mind. If I can be of any further assistance to you with this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti State Representative

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

П

П

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

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



House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

May 3, 2002

Mr. Thomas Blose

Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Blose:

I am pleased to inform you that the Pennsylvania General Assembly recently passed House Bill 27, which will provide a well-deserved cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Pennsylvania's state and public school retirees. Governor Schweiker signed HB 27, now Act 38 of 2002, into law on April 23, 2002.

As I hope you know and as proven by my record of service, I have been staunchly committed to ensuring that our state and public school retirees receive the benefits they deserve. It was with this in mind that I opposed Act 9 of 2001 and joined several of my colleagues in objecting to the fact that retirees were ignored under this proposal. Unfortunately, the bill passed with little opportunity for public debate or comment. Nevertheless, during the past year, I remained steadfast and vigorous in my support for awarding a COLA to this well deserving group as evidenced by my support for HB 27.

Under this plan, retirees of the Public School Employees (PSERS) and State Employees Retirement System (SERS) will receive a COLA based upon their date of retirement. For example, employees who retired before July 2, 1990 will receive a COLA beginning July 1, 2002. Employees who retired between July 1, 1990 and July 2, 2002, on the other hand, will receive their increase effective July 1, 2003. The adjustment is intended to provide retirees with an increase that is reflective of at least 50 percent inflation. These COLA increases, however, will not apply to employees who retired in 2002 and opted for the pension benefits provided under Act 9.

Furthermore, Act 38 also includes a provision to reduce next year's retirement costs for both school districts and the Commonwealth by authorizing a refinancing of the costs of last year' pension increase to state and public school employees. The refinancing could save school districts as much as \$350 million statewide. I am pleased that many school districts will now be able to avert raising taxes and cutting educational services due to the savings this will provide.

COMMITTEES

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

Page 2 May 3, 2002

The well-being and quality of life for Pennsylvania's state and public school employees are of utmost importance to me. Please know that as I have in the past, most recently with House Bill 27, I will continue to support measures that are beneficial to our public school and state retirees.

Again, I am glad to inform you of this long, overdue COLA increase. I commend you for the investment you have made in securing Pennsylvania's future. Our Commonwealth owes you a debt of gratitude for your unselfish efforts. As always, if I can be of any assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti State Representative 4th Legislative District

Dent E. Mail 5-3-62