

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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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 6, 1999

Mr. Daniel R. Clark

██████████  
Corry, PA 16407

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your support for making the early retirement legislation for school workers a permanent measure. I always value feedback from my constituents on state and local issues. It is through your opinions that I am able to serve the needs of our district.

You may be aware that several bills have been offered by my colleagues in the House of Representatives regarding the issue of special early retirement options for educators. You cite House Bill 1392, which was introduced by my colleague Representative Eleanor Taylor. This bill was referred to the Committee on Education on April 26, 1999. House Bill 1392 would provide for the making the "30 and out" clause a permanent measure.

Like you and many others across the Commonwealth, I, too, recognize the merits of this proposal and have accordingly joined many of my colleagues in co-sponsoring House Bill 738. This bill would extend the early retirement option until June 30, 2001. This bill, as you may already know, was referred to the State Government Committee on March 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year. It currently awaits approval by that committee.

Please be assured that as a co-sponsor of House Bill 738 and as a supporter of early retirement options, I remain committed to their advancement. In regards to House Bill 1392, I will continue to research the idea making the "30 and out" policy permanent. I must ensure that it will not hurt the retirement system over the long run. In the meantime, I truly appreciate the time you have taken to share your opinions with me. I will be sure to remember your thoughts should my colleagues and I be asked to cast our votes on the House floor. If you have any additional thoughts or if I may prove to be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Scrimenti in cursive.  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative  
4<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

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\* Sample \*  
20 Emails  
of same  
text

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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

February 27, 2001

Terry Humphreys

[REDACTED]  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Terry:

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns with me regarding teacher retirement issues. I appreciate the opportunity to convey the most recent events pertaining to the "30 and out" legislation.

The House Education Committee met on February 8, 2001, and unanimously passed an amendment that would create a permanent "30 and out" window for all members of the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). The bill, House Bill 8, will go to the House Appropriations Committee for final consideration. There has been no word yet on whether the Appropriations Committee will consider this bill.

There are several other additional retirement bills on the House calendar. At this time, I am not certain which of these bills may be the legislative proposal that includes a "30 and out" provision. I do support an early retirement incentive and will keep your views in mind during legislative debate on this issue.

Once again, I appreciate your input on early retirement legislation. Please feel free to contact my office if I can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Scrimenti in cursive.  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

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# House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

March 12, 2001

Mr. Bernard W. Fitch

████████████████████  
Erie, PA 16511

Dear Mr. Fitch:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the important and timely issue of early retirement commonly referred to as “30 and out.” As you might well imagine, I have heard from many others throughout our region on this very matter.

You may already be aware that I am very much in favor of the concept for early retirement for our teachers and state employees. It is time to revisit this issue and offer this well-deserved opportunity to those who have proudly served their profession for a significant number of years. The benefits of this objective provide worthy rewards to those at each end of the career spectrum. While those who have served for 30 years are given an early opportunity to retire, those who are about to enter the field are offered a host of new options and choices.

Possibly, the most popularly publicized legislation on this issue is House Bill 100. This particular bill simply “re-opens” the retirement window for public school employees offering a window from April through June of the current year, and the same period in the next two consecutive years. State employees would be offered a window from July of 2001 through June 30, 2003. While House Bill 100 appears to be the vehicle by which the “30 and out window” will be facilitated, it is not clear at this point in time when the legislature will have the opportunity to vote on this historical legislation.

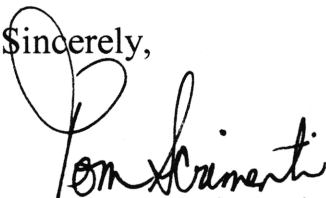
Page 2

There are several other retirement-related bills, for example House Bill 27 and House Bill 28, that are to be voted on in the immediate future. The essence of these bills deal with more of a technical nature as well as various aspects related to retirement policies for both school employees and state employees. They address issues such as vesting, cost of living percentages, buy-back time, investment procedures, etc.

With regard to your inquiry concerning coaching, I am a co-sponsor of House Bill 8, which would allow those, such as yourself, to return to coaching. As you are aware, provisions in the Public School Employee Retirement Code currently prohibit retired employees to return in a paid capacity even for extra-curricular activities. The bill is not up for an immediate vote, but this could change in the near future. I can certainly appreciate and respect your views on this matter.

It is my hope that this letter has adequately addressed your concerns. Should there be anything else that I may do to assist you in any way, please know that you are always welcome to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Legislator



THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

May 29, 2001

William K. DePlatchett

████████████████████  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

Dear Mr. DePlatchett:

Thank you for your letter concerning the need for a COLA provision within the Public Schools Employees' Retirement System and the State Employees' Retirement System.

I fully agree with your position that a cost of living allowance provision should be an integral part of the retirement plan. I voted NO for House Bill 26, the PSERS/SERS bill, when it came before the House for a final vote. There were several issues that I feel are inequitable to retirees and absent from the bill as it was finally passed.

I feel that an across the board multiplier increase of one percent should have been applied to all state employees, school employees and state legislators. Instead, legislators got one percent and the others got .5 percent. I objected to the fact that an automatic COLA was not provided for within the bill. I had thought it appropriate to include a "30 and Out" provision for current employees, which was not included. And, I know the increase from \$55 to \$100 for retired teacher medical benefit supplemental payments for medical costs was not adequate. For these reasons, I did not support the bill.

It is my sincere hope that the above issues can be more thoroughly debated and provided for in the near future. The current surplus being held in these funds would cover the cost of these additional benefits. I will most certainly support these actions should the legislation come before the House.

I appreciate hearing from you on this issue, and I will keep your thoughts in mind.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

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DEMOCRATIC VICE CHAIRMAN

June 26, 2003

Darlene Robb

[REDACTED]  
Harborcreek, PA 16421

Dear Ms. Robb:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning a "30 and Out" provision in the state and public school retirement system. I appreciate you taking the time to share your views with me.

There are several bills that have been introduced in the House that address retirement for state and public school employees. I am the proud co-sponsor of House Bill 101 and House Bill 130, which would both open the retirement window for state and public school employees for two years. At this writing, House Bill 101 is under review by the House Education Committee, and House Bill 130 is under review by the House State Government Committee. While I am not a member of the committees currently reviewing this legislation, I will continue to support a "30 and Out" retirement option for state and public school employees.

Unfortunately, no "30 and Out" legislative proposal has been adopted to date. Restoring fairness to the state and public school retirement system is of great importance to me. To that end, I am hopeful that we will soon have an opportunity to vote on a "30 and Out" retirement option. Please be assured that I am and will remain dedicated to providing Pennsylvania's public servants, such as yourself, with retirement benefits worthy of their years of dutiful service.

Be assured that I will continue to work for this retirement opportunity. Again, thank you for your valuable input. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

December 7, 1999

Mary Darling

██████████  
Corry, Pennsylvania 16407

Dear Ms. Darling:

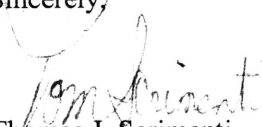
Thank you for writing to me to express your views regarding how the Pennsylvania General Assembly should spend the tobacco settlement funds. Your distinguished position as President of the Corry Branch of the American Cancer Society Board of Directors certainly adds considerable weight to your particular views regarding this important issue.

You may know that I am in agreement with you regarding the need to use these funds to address public health concerns. It is clear that the regular use of tobacco products by the general public has led to serious health problems. It is also evident that most of the manufacturers of these tobacco products have promoted them in spite of the fact that these companies were often well aware of their potentially harmful effects upon an individual's health.

Our children do deserve special consideration with respect to preserving and protecting their health. Often, the advertising that was done to promote the sale of cigarettes was directed specifically to our young people. To be sure, many of the people who have been regular smokers in their adult years began smoking when they were in their teenage years. It is certainly rather unconscionable for the tobacco companies to have directed their advertising to youths when they were well aware of the potential risks to their health.

Please know that I appreciate hearing from you regarding this important issue, and that I plan to continue to support the use of these settlement funds to address public health issues. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

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April 17, 2000

Mr. Frank K. Gates  
Ms. Joy A. Maatman  
Greenlee Associates  
P. O. Box 291  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Frank and Joy:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the all-important Tobacco Settlement issue. I can appreciate and respect your advocacy on behalf of the Community Foundations For Pennsylvania and the role that particular organization can play in this issue.

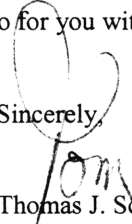
As you know, the most recent and significant development in this subject is the unanimous passing of House Bill 445 on March 20, 2000. This bill provides requirements for tobacco manufactures to comply with the obligations created in the settlement agreement of January 13, 1999 entitled the Master Settlement Agreement.

Most legislators, as well as constituents, are in agreement that the forthcoming funds should be allocated toward health care problems and not squandered on other programs as several other states have done. The real debate comes into play when settling on how much money each sub-category should receive. As you can well imagine, many different groups have many different ideas as to just how the money should be invested.

Over a 25-year period, Pennsylvania will receive approximately \$11.2 billion. We have already received \$264 million of the \$375 million scheduled for this year. I can certainly understand the rationale and reasoning behind your suggestion to channel a portion of the Settlement money through local organizations, thereby circumventing the trappings of the bureaucratic process. I will most assuredly keep your thoughts in mind as work together to expedite the progress on this issue.

Should there be anything further that I may do for you with this or any other matter, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

February 12, 2001

Sister Catherine Manning, President and CEO  
Saint Vincent Health System  
232 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16544

Dear Sister Manning:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the tobacco settlement. I am committed to keeping the interest of Pennsylvanians in mind in the fight to pass a spending plan for the tobacco settlement.

I understand your concerns with providing uninsured persons with essential medical care. That is one of the many reasons my colleagues and I worked hard to develop a plan for the tobacco settlement two years ago in January of 1999. Unfortunately, the tobacco legislation failed to pass last session.

Since then, we have been ready and willing to work on implementing a spending plan. Recently, on January 31, 2001, House Bill 2, which provides the means for spending the tobacco settlement money, was amended and voted on by the House of Representatives and passed overwhelmingly. The bill is now awaiting further action in the Senate. Among the many issues provided for, House Bill 2 creates within hospitals an uncompensated care program. Appropriations from the tobacco settlement will be used to reimburse hospitals for uncompensated care so that all patients can receive emergency treatment.

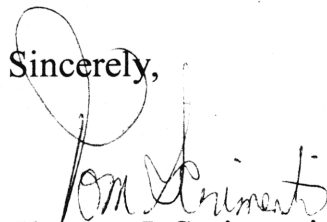
In an attempt to collect input from Pennsylvania residents, we are encouraging constituents and interested groups to send their questions and comments directly to

Sister Catherine Manning  
Page 2

the e-mail address **tobacco@pahouse.com** in order to gather the necessary feedback we need to strengthen any tobacco proposal.

Once again, thank you for your thoughtful comments on this issue. Please be assured that I will continue to push for proposals that address issues such as improving public health, bolstering medical research and improving access to health care. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG  
June 26, 2002

Ms. Janet Vogt

[REDACTED]  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Ms. Vogt: - Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the pre-emption of tobacco regulations in Pennsylvania. As your state representative, I appreciate the time you took to contact me and to inform me of your thoughts.

As you may know, the House of Representatives recently passed legislation regarding the regulation of tobacco sales. Specifically, language which would provide for the pre-emption of local ordinances relating to tobacco sales was amended into House Bill 1501, a Crime Code bill aimed at criminalizing the purchase of tobacco products by minors. Similar to House Bill 1521, the amended version of HB 1501 would permit the enforcement of local ordinances adopted prior to January 1, 2002.

At this writing, HB 1501 is before the Senate Appropriations Committee for additional review. Meanwhile, HB 1521 continues to remain before the House Rules Committee. I encourage you to visit the Pennsylvania General Assembly's website at the address, [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us), if you would like to follow the development of the legislation.

Please be assured that I appreciate your input on this important issue. Smoking among minors is a significant problem that we must continue to work towards eliminating. I certainly will remain mindful of your concerns should the members of the House of Representatives have an opportunity to revisit this issue.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. If I may assist you further with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

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

TJS/rst

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HARRISBURG

April 17, 2002

Ms. Karen Kacprowicz, Manager  
Eastway Plaza State Liquor Store  
4045 Buffalo Road  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Ms. Kacprowicz: - *Karen,*

Per our discussion regarding the transportation of liquor across state lines, I am enclosing an article that I thought would be of interest to you.

As I mentioned to you earlier, I believe that it would be in the best interest of the defenders of the state liquor store monopoly to come out in support of changes that would not affect the ultimate objective; job preservation. Times are changing and I believe it would be in the state stores best interest to support the transportation of liquor across state lines for personal consumption with limitations.

I am hopeful that we can continue to have positive dialogue on this issue since we agree on so many other matters affecting state stores.

Best regards,

*Tom*  
Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

enclosure