

Real Estate
COMMITTEES 57

Bill Copy

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SUB-COMMITTEE
- CHAIR ON TOWNSHIPS
- TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- POLICY
- SOUTHWEST CAUCUS
- NORTHWEST CAUCUS
- VETERANS AFFAIRS

Butler County Memorial Park Inc
380 Evans City Rd
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Friends:

I am writing today to keep you apprised of the legislation and issues affecting realtors at the state government level, and most importantly, I am writing to you, a member of our real estate community, to seek your input in these and other matters. As a state legislator, I care about the issues that have an impact upon your livelihood and your family.

As you may know, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives has a plethora of bills that effect real estate and realtors. The most comprehensive of this legislation is an renewal package, House Bill 1934 through 1954, which was created through House Urban Affairs Committee in cooperation with realtors throughout the Commonwealth. This legislative package is a far-reaching attempt to revitalize abandoned and blighted property and to implement methods of stimulating the economic revitalization of Pennsylvania. I am a sponsor of House Bill 1934, which establishes a program to enhance the desirability and viability of established residential neighborhoods. I believe that this legislative package is a definitive step in the right direction in providing for the development and recovery of Pennsylvania's communities.

I believe that Pennsylvania's real estate agents are skilled business professionals who are instrumental in the economic development of the Commonwealth. And during this period of economic downturn, I believe that a strong real estate market is instrumental to the recovery of Pennsylvania and the nation. To that end, I remain committed to promoting home ownership in the Commonwealth and will continue to be dedicated to strengthening and bolstering ownership and private property rights.

As legislation and issues affecting real estate and realtors come before the House of Representatives, I will approach them with the utmost diligence and, certainly, keep your views in mind. In the mean time, I ask for your input on the matters I addressed in this letter as well as any other issues you wish to discuss.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I am dedicated to always helping the residents of our district. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely yours,

Guy A Travaglio

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Nursing Admin.

COMMITTEES

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SUB-COMMITTEE
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[Handwritten signature]

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House of Representatives
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 HARRISBURG

Daniel A Kenyon
 [Redacted]
 Butler, PA 16001

Dear Daniel:

I am writing today to alert you of pending legislation affecting Pennsylvania's long-term care nursing facilities. I would personally like to commend you for the invaluable service you provide to residents of our community. As a state legislator, I care about the issues that have an impact upon your profession and would like to obtain your input on these and other matters.

Currently, there are several pieces of legislation in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives concerning the issue of long-term care, including House Bills 1005, 1119, and 1345. As you may know, HB 1005 would amend the Older Adults Protective Services Act to include additional grounds for denying employment to people who have a prior record of neglect of a patient; who have solicited, attempted, conspired to commit any one of a number, including aggravated assault, murder, kidnapping, sexual assault and forgery. House Bill 1005 is currently before the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee.

A second bill, House Bill 1119, would require designated persons and/or relatives of residents in long-term care nursing facilities to receive notification of any issuance of a ban on admissions. A ban is only placed upon a home where there is a serious threat to the life, health, safety, and well being of the residents. This bill would also require every long-term care nursing facility to display the license permitting its operation in a public and conspicuous location and display all reports of inspections issued during the preceding 12-month period. This legislation is now before the Senate Aging and Youth Committee.

Lastly, House Bill 1345 would amend the Health Care Facilities Act to require the Pennsylvania Department of Health to make unannounced inspections of long-term care nursing facilities. The bill further specifies that the Department shall require a minimum

of one annual unannounced visitation that does not occur near the time of the facility's annual license renewal. House Bill 1345 is before the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee awaiting consideration.

I hope you find this information helpful and informative. You can review this legislation by accessing the General Assembly's Website at www.legis.state.pa.us. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important legislation or any other issue you may be concerned with.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of any assistance. As your state representative, I am dedicated to always helping the good citizens of our district.

Sincerely yours,

Guy A Travaglio

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Veterinarian
COMMITTEES 16

Guy A. Travaglio

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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- VETERANS AFFAIRS

Kathleen M Schweikart
[Redacted]
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Dr. Schweikart:

I am writing today to keep you apprised of the legislation and issues affecting veterinarians and animal care at the state government level, and most importantly, I am writing to you, a highly-trained professional, to seek your input in these and other matters. As a state legislator, I care about the issues that have an impact upon your livelihood and your family.

As you may know, the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act is the extensive law that regulates the licensing of veterinarians and the practice of veterinary medicine in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Currently in the House of Representatives, there is legislation, House Bill 1742, that seeks to overhaul the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act. Introduced on June 13, 2001, this bill is awaiting action in the House Professional Licensure Committee. House Bill 1742 updates definitions in the Act, explicitly spells out the powers and duties of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, provides for temporary permitting, sets procedures for disciplinary actions, and establishes methods for record keeping. Please be assured that I will continue to research House Bill 1742 and its implications. I believe that to more thoroughly address this legislation the House Professional Licensure Committee should seek the input of veterinarians and other interested parties to make sure that this bill is both necessary and beneficial.

As a state representative, I recognize that Pennsylvania's doctors of veterinary medicine are skilled professionals that are vital not only to the care of our animals but to the public health, safety, and welfare of the Commonwealth. I understand the interrelationships of animal care and human care in our economy and society, and I am dedicated to expanding public awareness of this issue. I look to you and your colleagues for progressive leadership in the care and treatment of animals and the protection and advancement of the agricultural community.

As legislation and issues affecting veterinarian medicine come before the House of Representatives, I will approach them with the utmost diligence and, certainly, keep your interests in mind. In the mean time, I ask for your input on the matters I addressed in this letter as well as any other issues you wish to discuss.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I am dedicated to always helping the residents of our district. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely yours,

Guy A. Travaglio

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Handwritten initials

Handwritten initials

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- VETERANS AFFAIRS

Michael J Zima
[Redacted]
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Michael:

I am writing today to alert you of pending legislation (House Bill 1700) affecting Pennsylvania's public accountants. As a state legislator, I care about the issues that have an impact upon your profession and would like to hear your opinion.

As you may know, House Bill 1700 would amend the Local Tax Enabling Act by increasing the level of the low-income exemption and deleting the current definitions of "earned income" and "net profits". House Bill 1700 would increase, from \$5,000 to \$10,000, the maximum amount of income that taxpayers may earn (from all sources) and be eligible for the low-income exemption. This legislation would also revise the definition of earned income to be defined as "compensation" as determined under Section 303 of the Tax Reform Code of 1971. Employee business expenses are allowable deductions as determined under Article III of the Tax Reform Code. The amount of any housing allowance to the clergy shall not be taxable as earned income.

Furthermore, HB 1700 would amend the definition of net profits to be the net income from the operation of a business, profession or other activity (except corporation) as determined under Section 303 of the Tax Reform Code. The term does not include income, which is not paid for services provided and which is in the nature of earnings from an investment. A series of exclusions in the current law (gain on the sale of farm machinery, gain on the sales of certain livestock, etc.) would be maintained. House Bill 1700 overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives on June 12, 2002, and currently awaits further consideration in the Senate.

I hope you find this information helpful and informative. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this legislation, as well as any on other issues that may be of concern to you

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of any assistance. As your state representative, I am always dedicated to helping the good citizens of our district.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Guy A. Travaglio, Jr.

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Bill Copy

Pharmacy
COMMITTEES *85*

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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NORTHWEST CAUCUS
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Raymond L Stierer
[REDACTED]
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Raymond:

I would like to personally take this opportunity to update you on pending legislation that may affect pharmacists in my legislative district and across our state. I am extremely devoted to providing my constituents with up to date information that reflects the legislative initiatives the Pennsylvania General Assembly has proposed.

Currently in the General Assembly there are several legislative initiatives that, if enacted, will have an impact on pharmacists in our Commonwealth. House Bill 968, which was referred to the House Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee on June 7, 2002, is designed to further define and regulate pharmacy technicians. Specifically, this endeavor will require pharmacy technicians to register with the State Board of Pharmacy on a biennial basis. Additionally, a pharmacy technician will be required to have a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate, pass a Board-approved pharmacy technician certification examination and complete a Board-approved training program.

Further, as you may know, House Bill 751 unanimously passed the House and was signed into law on June 29, 2002, as Act 102. This initiative further defines pharmacist as "Healthcare Provider," and recognizes managing drug therapy in health care facilities. In addition, House Bill 434 provides for content and format of a Uniform Prescription Drug ID Card plus established guidelines for "RX Cash Discount Cards." On February 5, 2001 this legislation was referred to the House Insurance Committee where it is awaiting further review and consideration.

As your state representative, I am committed to serving my constituents and being of service whenever possible. For that reason, I would like to invite you to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the above legislation, or any other issue relating to pharmacists. I am dedicated to always helping people and addressing the concerns of the communities I serve and am grateful for any input that I receive. If I may be of assistance with any other state-related matter, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Guy A Travaglio

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

copy

Engineers
COMMITTEES *103*

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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NORTHWEST CAUCUS
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Timothy R Beggs
[REDACTED]
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Timothy:

I would like to personally take this opportunity to update you on pending legislation that may affect professional engineers in my legislative district and across the Commonwealth.

Currently in the General Assembly there are two legislative initiatives that, if enacted, will have an impact on professional engineers. Specifically, House Bill 941 would amend the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law to provide a credit toward the four-year engineering requirement for licensure. A year of engineering experience would be credited for each post-graduate degree obtained in engineering, not exceeding two years. The degree must be obtained through a pre-approved engineering program and be in the same discipline as an individual's undergraduate degree. This proposal unanimously passed the House on October 16, 2001, and is now awaiting further consideration from the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

In addition, House Bill 2207 also amends the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law. The bill is designed to allow surveying students to apply for the surveyor-in-training certificate and sit for the surveying fundamentals examination upon completion of two or more years of an approved surveying curriculum. However, students would not be eligible to receive the certification until providing proof of graduation.

As your state representative, I am committed to serving my constituents and being of service whenever possible. For that reason, I would like to invite you to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the above legislative endeavors, or any other issue relating to your respected profession.

As always, I am dedicated to helping the people of Butler County and addressing the concerns of the communities I serve. If I may be of assistance with any other state-related matter, or you simply want to tell me how you feel, don't hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Firefighters
COMMITTEES 9/87

[Handwritten signature]

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Gerald J Rhodaberger
[REDACTED]
Butler, PA 16001-2439

Dear Gerald:

On Nov. 5, voters need to come to the rescue of volunteer firefighters and rescue crews. That day is Election Day. A referendum will appear on the ballot that could help establish a funding program for volunteer fire companies and other emergency services in Butler County and throughout Pennsylvania. **Please look out for the referendum and vote yes on it.** By voting yes, you will give state legislators authority to create a \$100 million program to help provide equipment and training that local volunteer fire companies and rescue and ambulance squads need to supply the services that our communities depend upon. Efforts of these volunteers now save Pennsylvania \$6 billion a year, yet many of these companies struggle financially. They need our help to survive. We as taxpayers cannot afford to lose them. The following paragraph shows you just how the referendum will appear at the top of the ballot:

“Do you favor the incurring of indebtedness of up to \$100,000,000 for the purpose of establishing a program that utilizes capital and other related methods to enhance and improve the delivery of volunteer emergency services in this Commonwealth as hereafter authorized by statute?”

Simply put, the referendum asks if you favor allowing the General Assembly to borrow \$100 million, for the state to establish a fund for volunteer fire departments and other emergency services. A yes vote means you want the General Assembly to create the \$100 million program to assist local emergency units. A no vote means you do not favor the program and do not care if local volunteer emergency services survive. If they do close down, taxpayers will likely have to make up the loss by paying a much higher cost either by hiring someone to offer the services, or by suffering terrible physical, insurance and other losses.

If a majority of voters statewide vote yes, the General Assembly can then increase the state's indebtedness, which is necessary to borrow the \$100 million. This fund will then serve as a permanent source of financial assistance for our volunteers. I had previously joined my colleagues to create a \$25 million program to help emergency services. Unfortunately, Governors Ridge and Schweiker and the Republican majorities in the House and Senate agreed to leave that important funding from the budget. Since that time, volunteers who staff our emergency services had to work even harder to raise the money they need to operate, while responding to emergency calls and putting in the necessary hours for training. Many feel ready to quit if we fail to help them.

I support this referendum to ensure that our emergency volunteer squads can stay on the road and continue to protect our homes, schools, businesses, churches and communities. Please join with me in voting yes for this referendum and in showing appreciation for all the great work that those volunteers do. Please call my office if you have any questions about the referendum.

Sincerely,

Guy a Travaglio

Guy Travaglio
State Representative

Sample

Retired Teachers

COMMITTEES *440*

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Mr R. Neal Williams
[Redacted]
Jamesville, NY 13078

Dear Neal:

I am pleased to announce that you will be receiving a cost-of-living increase in your retirement pension in the near future.

On April 17, I voted for legislation that provides a COLA for retired state and public school employees. This measure unanimously passed both the House of Representatives and Senate and is now awaiting the governor's signature. As a staunch advocate for our retirees, I am proud of have voted for this long, overdue increase.

As you may recall, I voted against House Bill 26 (Act 9 of 2001) that raised the future pensions of current employees because it did not contain increases for retirees. My Democratic colleagues and I have consistently called on the House Republican Leadership to increase your pension. Today, thanks to the combined voices of retirees and certain lawmakers, myself included, who were steadfast in our resolve, we have finally prevailed.

The date your COLA goes into effect is based on your retirement from state or public school service. To find your increase, simply match your retirement date within the various options below. For example, if you retired on June 15, 1982, you will receive a 15 percent increase this July.

The benefit percentage increases effective July 1, 2002 are:

- Retirement date before July 2, 1980: 25 percent
- Retirement date July 2, 1980 to July 1, 1983: 15 percent
- Retirement date July 2 1983 to July 1, 1988: 10 percent
- Retirement date July 2, 1988 to July 1, 1990: 8 percent

The benefit percentage increases effective July 1, 2003 are:

Retirement date July 2, 1990 to July 1, 1994: 9 percent

Retirement date July 2, 1994 to July 1, 1998: 7.5 percent

Retirement date July 2, 1998 to July 1, 1999: 6.35 percent

Retirement date July 2, 1999 to July 1, 2000: 4.87 percent

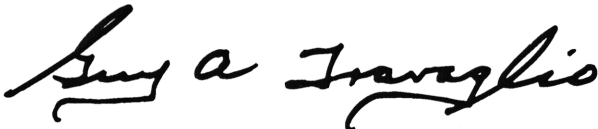
Retirement date July 2, 2000 to July 1, 2001: 3.08 percent

Retirement date July 2, 2001 to July 1, 2002: 2.27 percent

Again, I am delighted to share this important news with you. I have the greatest respect and admiration for our retired public school and state employees. Thanks to your years of dedication and hard work, Pennsylvania continues to evolve and flourish.

As your state representative, I, too, am dedicated to always helping the residents of our district. If I may ever be of assistance to you or your family, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy A. Travaglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

GT/sd

Sample

Barbers
COMMITTEES *s*

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Beth L Hilderbrand
[REDACTED]
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Beth:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on legislation pending before the General Assembly relating to the barber industry. As your state representative, I care about the issues that have an impact upon your livelihood and your families. Given your professional insight, I thought this information might be of interest to you, for it may ultimately affect barbers in our legislative district and throughout Pennsylvania.

As you may already know, under the Barbers' License Law, a licensure applicant must acquire a notarized statement from a licensed physician. The physician's statement must indicate the applicant was examined, received a blood test, and was determined to be free from contagious and infectious disease. In light of concerns expressed by the Department of State, the blood test component has now come into question. Specifically, the department has raised concern that the blood test requirement may constitute a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Further, they argue that the blood test does not always detect the HIV infection. Consequently, House Bill 1272 was introduced to eliminate the requirement that applicants for licensure must undergo blood testing. The bill has passed the House and was referred to the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, where it is awaiting further consideration.

As your state representative, I am committed to serving my constituents and being of service whenever possible. For that reason, I would like to invite you to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the above legislative initiative, or any other issue relating to your respected profession. I am dedicated to addressing the concerns of the communities I serve and am grateful for any input that I receive. If I may be of assistance with any other state-related matter, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Guy A Travaglio

Guy Travaglio
State Representative
11th Legislative District

COPY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

COMMITTEES (22)

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A Ross Martin
Martin Funeral Home
429 Center Ave
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Mr. Martin:

As your state representative, I wanted to take this opportunity to alert you of pending legislation affecting Pennsylvania's funeral directors.

As a result of the shocking discovery at the Marsh crematory in Georgia earlier this year, several bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives, including House Bills 2396 and 2407, which would tighten Pennsylvania's crematory laws. Although state law sets high standards of conduct for funeral directors and requires that they be licensed, no such standards exist for crematories operating in the Commonwealth.

House Bill 2396 would empower the state to more closely monitor crematories by through regular inspection and licensure of crematories by the State Board of Funeral Directors. Under this bill, the Board would develop regulations governing the facility requirements, record keeping, and cremation procedures.

House Bill 2407 would establish state crematory standards to guarantee the proper disposition of remains. This legislation, among other things, would require crematories to pass a pre-licensing inspection, allow inspectors to enter and inspect facilities without prior notification, as well as protect funeral directors from liability in regard to crematory actions.

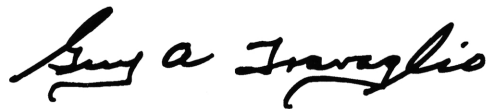
Currently, both HB 2396 and HB 2407 are before the House Professional Licensure Committee. You can review this legislation by accessing the Pennsylvania General Assembly's Website at www.legis.state.pa.us.

I hope this information has been helpful and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important legislation, as well as any input on other issues that are important to your profession.

Page 2

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of any assistance. As your state representative, I am dedicated to helping the good citizens of our district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy a Travaglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "G" and a stylized "a".

Guy Travaglio
State Representative
11th Legislative District

COPY

DOCTORS 140

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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Louis Shapiro
[REDACTED]
Butler, PA 16001

Dear Dr. Shapiro:

As your state representative, I wanted to take this opportunity to alert you of legislation affecting Pennsylvania's doctors. I would personally like to commend you for the commitment you have made to provide medical care for residents of our community. The practice of medicine is one of the noblest careers paths one can pursue. You should be proud to be part of such a fine and noble profession.

On March 20, 2002, Governor Schweiker signed House Bill 1802 (Act 13 of 2002), known as the "Medical Malpractice Reform Bill," into law. This legislation, although not perfect, represents a positive first step towards lowering medical malpractice insurance premiums in Pennsylvania. For instance, Act 13 includes immediate relief from ever-rising malpractice insurance rates by targeting a portion of the relief to high-risk specialists such as orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons. In addition, Act 13 also reduces the amount of coverage doctors are required to carry. It is my hope that this legislation will help foster a climate which is much more conducive to medical professionals in our state.

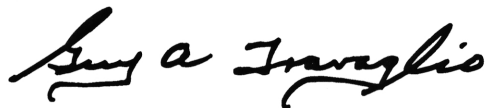
In addition to Act 13, both House Bill 2315 and Senate Bill 1376 have garnered much attention from both chambers of the General Assembly in recent months. This legislation would reform Pennsylvania's tort law by repealing joint and several liability. Currently, both HB 2315 and SB 1376 are before the House Judiciary Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee respectively. As you may know, the Senate Judiciary Committee recently held a public hearing on this issue in Harrisburg. You can review this legislation by accessing the Pennsylvania General Assembly's Website at www.legis.state.pa.us.

Once again, I commend you for the dedication and loyalty you have exhibited toward helping others. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important legislation, as well as any input on other issues that are important to your profession.

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As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of any assistance. As your state representative, I am dedicated to helping the good citizens of our district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy a Travaglio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the last name.

Guy Travaglio
State Representative
11th Legislative District

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, MEMBER
HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-7686
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

COMMERCE, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR
FINANCIAL SERVICE & BANKING
DEMOCRATIC POLICY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TOURISM & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NORTHWEST CAUCUS
SOUTHWEST CAUCUS

November 7, 2003

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg PA 17120

RE: Press Release/Butler County Health Center

Dear Governor Rendell:

Enclosed please find a press release issued by my office on November 6, 2003. I would like to call on you to help return this health center to the county of Butler, by way of House Bill 713 or executive order.

My legislation, if passed, would immediately open public health centers statewide. At a policy hearing I hosted in Butler last year, former Department of Aging Secretary Linda Rhodes testified that privatizing these centers is jeopardizing your health. Furthermore, there is no proof that the closures have saved any money whatsoever. I am hoping you will help me push HB 713 to the forefront.

I look forward to a cooperative effort.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

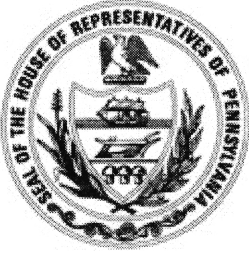
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Guy A. Travaglio".

GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CC: Dr. Calvin B. Johnson, Sect. Dept of Health
Mr. Steve Crawford

Enclosure

GAT/mlp



NEWS RELEASE

State Rep. Guy Travaglio

D-Butler

www.pahouse.com/travaglio

CONTACT: Leslie Suhr
House Democratic Communications Office
Phone: 717-787-7895
Fax: 717-772-9930
Email: lsuhr@pahouse.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Travaglio said Beaver County health scare another reason to re-open Butler County health center

Harrisburg, Nov. 6 – State Rep. Guy Travaglio, D-Butler, today pointed to Beaver County's hepatitis scare as another reason to re-open Butler County's public health center.

On Wednesday, several thousand people received vaccinations for hepatitis A after health officials say they probably came into contact with the disease from a worker at a nearby restaurant. About 85 cases of the disease have been confirmed thus far.

"If this happened in Butler, we'd have a real problem on our hands," Travaglio said. "We currently have no resources available to us to assist in emergency situations like the one that occurred in Beaver. Public health centers serve a purpose – one that is to protect the people."

Travaglio has been fighting to re-open the center since then-Gov. Ridge closed three centers statewide in 1995 as part of an experiment that experts say failed.

Travaglio has also met several times with Gov. Rendell and Secretary of Health Dr. Calvin B. Johnson to support the re-openings and his legislation (H.B. 713). Both have indicated support for the measure.

He also pointed out that when school nurses need immediate advice on, for example, how to deal with fumes in a school building, they must deal with poison control centers outside the area. Also, mothers-to-be must find alternative prenatal care.

This latest episode gives more credence to Travaglio's arguments.

Additionally, the federal Council on Public Health Preparedness last year released its finding that many communities throughout the nation are still unprepared to handle a biological terrorist attack, such as smallpox or anthrax. It found that local health departments lack the facilities, staff and ability to deliver the vaccines and services needed to thwart an outbreak of that magnitude.

"We lost a real community asset, as well as an essential tool in the war against terrorism," Travaglio said. "I am confident that Gov. Rendell will recognize the important need of restoring state health centers."

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NORTHWEST CAUCUS
SOUTHWEST CAUCUS

November 10, 2003

Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg PA 17120

RE: Butler Community College

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing on behalf of Butler Community College, they are having difficulty getting a clearly defined occupational program approved for additional stipend approval through the Department of Education's Bureau of Career and Technical Education. Although the College has followed all proper procedures in an appeal, and all definitions for an occupational program have been met, the status for stipend reimbursement has not been granted. This means that Butler Community College will lose over \$276,000 for this fiscal year for over 200 students that will be prepared for immediate employment at the end of a two year program. We ask that you intervene and request approval for this program.

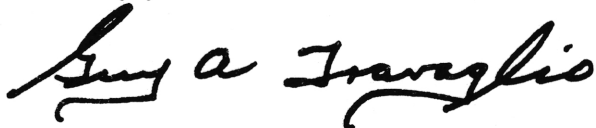
The program was submitted, approved and received stipend funding in the category of Advanced Technology for two consecutive years (2001-2003). After submitting the stipend reimbursement information to the Department of Education this year, they were denied through a letter dated July 18, 2003 from John Bonchalk, Vocational Education Advisor in the Bureau of Career and Technical Education. They appealed this decision though a letter addressed to Dr. Vicki Phillips in August of 2003 clearly explaining the reasons this program meets all stipend requirements. On September 8, BCC received another denial letter from John Bonchalk. They once again appealed immediately to Dr. Phillips once more and received a letter on October 24, 2003 from John C. Foster, Director of the Bureau of Career and Technical Education with a more in depth explanation of ACT 31 criteria and descriptions of other community college programs denied by the committee.

This year, the College resubmitted the program as required when modifications are made. Nothing in the program description changed, only the sequencing of courses and certain prerequisites. However, due to the technicality –the use of employment fields rather than specific job title –the program was disallowed. The catalog is clear (“typical employment opportunities include entry-level positions in law enforcement agencies; private security firms, and human resource information systems departments...”) that the program is a two-year, occupational program designed to have graduates immediately employable. This program is so new that employers are creating specific job descriptions as they hire BCC graduates.

Butler Community College continues to challenge the ACT 31 committee’s decision to deny the stipend request for advanced technology. Butler County Community College would like to request reconsideration of the Computer Forensics program for the Advanced Technology category of ACT 31, or at the very least reinstate eligibility in the general stipend category. Therefore, I urge you to review the decision made by the Department of Education.

Thank you for your consideration in this request. If you have any questions regarding my endorsement of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



GUY A. TRAVAGLIO, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CC: Dr. Cynthia Azari, Ed.D, President

GAT:mlp