

Honoring Lieutenant William Lebo



[*Watch Video Here*](#)

On Tuesday, the House unanimously passed my resolution honoring the life and service of Lebanon City Police Lieutenant William Lebo. Lieutenant Lebo was killed in the line of duty on March 31, at the age of 63 and just one month shy of his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to our community. I joined my Lebanon County colleague, Rep. Russ Diamond, who co-sponsored [House Resolution 193](#). To see our remarks, click the video box above.

Bills to Divest from Russia, Boost PA Energy Independence Advance

In response to Russia's unprovoked and atrocious acts toward the people of Ukraine, as well as its continued attempts to expand its geopolitical influence, I joined my House colleagues in voting for a series of bills to divest Commonwealth investments in Russia and Belarus and invest in Pennsylvania energy production. [House Bill 2447](#), which passed unanimously, would also prohibit future Commonwealth investment in the financial assets of those countries. About 40% of the Russian government's budget comes from its oil and gas industry, which is fueling its war machine and its pursuit of regional and global influence. The world spends between \$5 billion and \$7 billion worth of Russian oil and gas per week. The United States has banned the import of Russian petroleum products, but European countries, which currently receive over 40% of their natural gas from Russia, have been unable to do so. Pennsylvania is in a position to help. I was proud to support several bills this week that would help expand domestic energy production and move us toward energy independence.

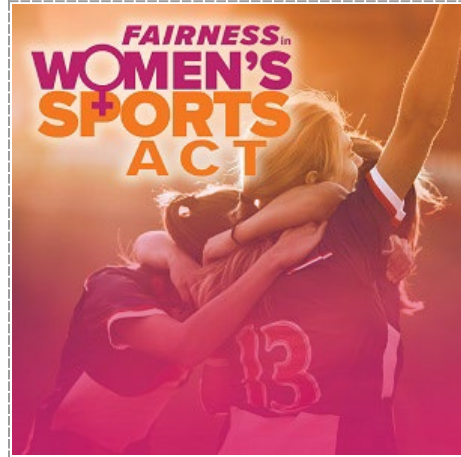


- [House Bill 604](#) would establish a permitting framework at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ensure that decisions on permits are rendered reliably and in a timely manner.
- House Bills [2450](#) and [2451](#) would amend the Delaware River Basin Compact to make clear it does not have the authority to ban fracking.
- [House Bill 2461](#) would end a Wolf administration moratorium and require the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish a program to lease the subsurface rights under state lands for oil and gas development.

The bills now go to the Senate for consideration.

Fairness in Women's Sports Act Earns House Approval

In a move to support women's rights in competitive sports, the state House approved the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, which I co-sponsored. [House Bill 972](#) would protect opportunities for women and girls in athletics by ensuring women are not forced to compete against biological males playing on women's sports teams. The current movement to allow biological males to participate in women's sports threatens the progress made under Title IX and could rob female athletes of scholarships and other opportunities they gain by participating and excelling in sports. Title IX was



adopted nearly five decades ago to ensure equal athletic opportunities for women. Science clearly tells us that men and women are biologically different, with men having the ability to develop greater strength, speed and endurance than similarly gifted and trained women. In fact, in 2018, 275 high school boys ran the 400 meter faster than the lifetime best of Olympic Team USA member and world-record-holding sprinter Allyson Felix. Lawmakers also pointed to the recent example of Lia Thomas, a biological male who competed on the University of Pennsylvania's men's swim team with mediocre results and then transitioned to female and smashed records on the women's swim team. House Bill 972 now goes to Senate for consideration.

Placing Taxpayer-Funded Vehicles for Lawmakers in the Rearview Mirror



A full prohibition on the use of state-owned or state-leased vehicles by state lawmakers is long overdue and this week the House advanced legislation to prohibit it. The use of such vehicles has declined significantly over the years, but a handful of legislators still rely on them. The bill now moves to the Senate.

‘Smart Justice’ to Keep PA Safer, Support Crime Victims

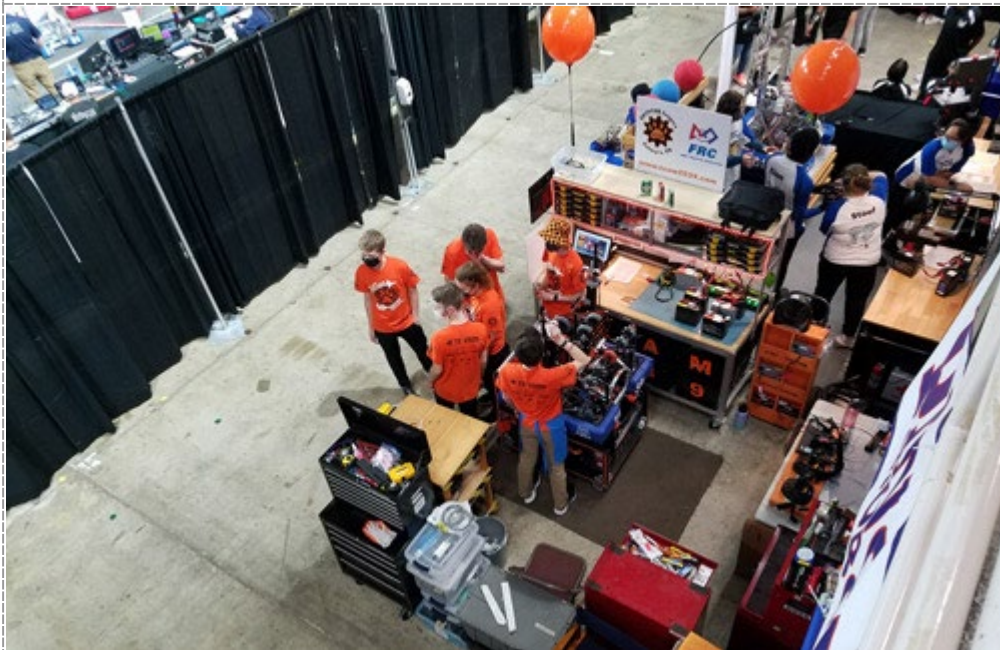
Continuing our commitment to protect public safety in Pennsylvania communities, the House Judiciary Committee this week advanced a “Smart Justice” package of bills. The proposals offer changes to better support crime victims and ensure proper enforcement of laws already on the books to address violent crime in the City of Philadelphia. To support crime victims, [House Bill 2464](#) would grant legal standing to assert and enforce a right granted to the crime victim by law in a trial or appellate court, or in another official body with jurisdiction over the victim’s case. [House Bill](#)



[2525](#) would update the Criminal History Record Information Act (CHRIA) to create a procedure by which a crime victim may obtain criminal history investigative information for use in a civil action relating to the crime. This would give crime victims a stronger hand when attempting to recoup in civil court the costs of a criminal’s actions. Additionally, [House Bill 1123](#) would establish a fund within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to be used to offer up to \$50,000 to individuals who provide information leading to the capture and arrest of a perpetrator of criminal homicide of a law enforcement officer.

The remaining two bills in the package aim to address skyrocketing crime rates in the City of Philadelphia, not by adding to criminal laws already on the books but by addressing a district attorney who refuses to prosecute serious crimes in the city. Despite crime rates spiking there, conviction rates in shooting cases have fallen steadily since 2015. Between 2016 and 2020, the fatal shooting conviction rate dropped from 96% to 80%. It dropped from 69% to 64%, in non-fatal shootings. To address the failures of the current district attorney, [House Bill 2238](#) would limit a person in that position to just two terms in office. Additionally, [House Bill 2275](#) would reauthorize the state Office of Attorney General to prosecute gun-related crimes under the Uniform Firearms Act. For more information, visit PAHouseGOP.com/smartjustice.

Palmyra-Area Robotics Team Vies for World Championship



Best wishes to the Palmyra-based Krypton Cougars robotics team, which is headed to the World Championship in Houston April 20-23. To qualify, team #2539 bested 58 other robotics teams in the Mid-Atlantic District Championship, tying for first place and placing third overall in the district rankings. Competing in the World Championship is exciting, but I was told the team is even more pleased to have the opportunity to promote STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – in our community. The team recently claimed the Innovation in Control Award for the third straight competition. Overall, the team has recorded an impressive 44 wins against just 13 losses this season. Now it's on to Houston!

Protecting Children from Abuse

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. While state laws have identified people, such as teachers, health care providers and clergy members, who are mandated to report suspected cases of abuse, we all have a role to play in protecting children. Signs of potential physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect may include sudden changes in a child's behavior or school performance; being overly compliant, passive or withdrawn; always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen; and a reluctance to be around a particular person or to return home from school or activities. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call PA ChildLine at **1-800-932-0313**.



Donate Life Month

April is also Donate Life Month, an opportunity to raise awareness about the growing need for organ donation across the Commonwealth and the country. According to Donate Life PA, 20 people on average die each day while waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, and every 10 minutes, another person's name is added to the national waiting list. About 118,000 people nationwide, including more than 7,000 Pennsylvanians, are waiting for a transplant to save their lives. Hundreds of thousands more are waiting for life-enhancing tissue transplants. While polls show overwhelming support for organ donation, fewer than half of Pennsylvania's licensed drivers are officially designated as organ donors. If you'd like to register as an organ donor, [you may sign up here](#). You are also encouraged to let your loved ones know of your wishes. For more information about organ donation, visit donatelife.org.



Happy Passover and Happy Easter



If you are celebrating Easter this weekend, I wish you and your family many blessings and an Easter holy day filled with hope, peace and love. To our Jewish friends observing the Passover Seder at sundown this Friday, may you also enjoy these blessings in abundance. Chag Samaech!