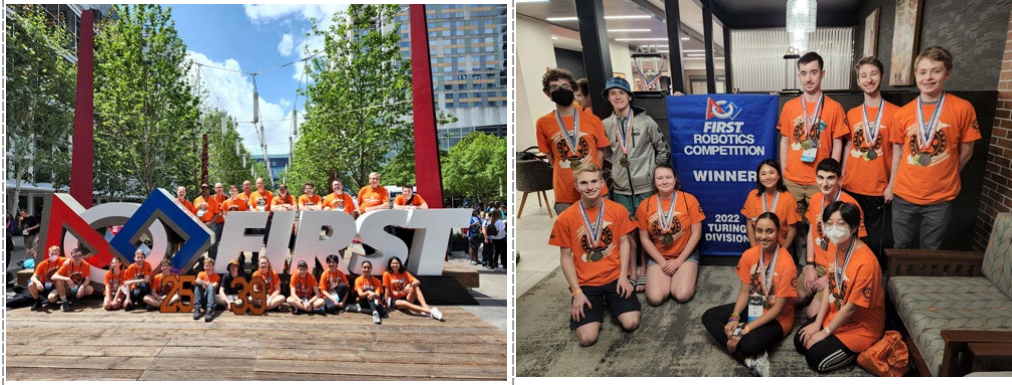


## Local Robotics Team No.2 in World Championship



Congratulations to lead mentor and coach David Walker and the Palmyra-based Krypton Cougars robotics team #2539, which recently competed in its FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas. In all, 3,898 teams from over 100 countries were vying for the opportunity to go to the world championship games. The Krypton Cougars were among just 453 teams selected. Before an audience of about 35,000, they fought hard throughout the first four days of the competition, winning their division. This enabled them to compete among the best-of-the-best on the elite Einstein Field, where the final eight teams battled it out. The eight teams formed two, four-team alliances, each winning one battle. In the deciding match, the Turing Alliance, consisting of the Krypton Cougars and teams from Israel, California and Maryland, were narrowly defeated by a tough Galileo Alliance. In all, the Krypton Cougars are proud of their performance and the outpouring of support from its members, sponsors, mentors, families and members of the community who cheered them on this season. Team #2539 is accepting new members for next year, so seventh- and eighth- graders and high school students are welcome to join now. Visit [team2539.com](https://team2539.com) to learn more! Congratulations, team!

## Working to Ignite PA Job Creation

This week, I joined a bipartisan majority in the House in support of legislation to reduce the Corporate Net Income Tax (CNIT) rate and provide additional tax relief to job creators. Pennsylvania's CNIT rate ranks among the highest in the nation, but [House Bill 1960](#), which I co-sponsored, would cut the CNIT rate from 9.99% to 8.99% starting in January. It would be further reduced in future years if the Commonwealth has a General Fund surplus of more than \$500 million. The measure would also increase the cap on net operating losses to 45% or as much as 50% of taxable income if the

Commonwealth has a General Fund surplus of more than \$750 million. Lowering taxes on employers would have a ripple effect on the state's economy by encouraging the expansion of existing businesses, attracting new business investments and creating family-sustaining jobs. The bill passed the House by a vote of 195-8 and now goes to the Senate for consideration. It is one of eight tax reform bills recently passed the House to help small business job creators and drive investment in Pennsylvania.



**IGNITING**  
**PENNSYLVANIA'S ECONOMY**

PA House votes to cut PA's corporate net income tax.

- ✓ Helping PA small businesses create more family-sustaining jobs
- ✓ Promoting economic growth
- ✓ Attracting & retaining more business investment in Pennsylvania

## Relief for Small Rural Businesses

This week, the House Commerce Committee advanced legislation I co-sponsored, to extend the Pennsylvania Rural Jobs and Investment Tax Credit (RJTC) program to provide growth capital exclusively for small businesses in rural Pennsylvania. [House Bill 2396](#) aims to give rural businesses a much-needed boost and create family-sustaining jobs. As many of our rural

businesses strive to overcome the struggles and setbacks stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, this legislation adds \$50 million in critical capital support. Unlike other tax credit programs in the Commonwealth, the RJTC program requires participating businesses to invest in their own success and be accountable for the benefits received.

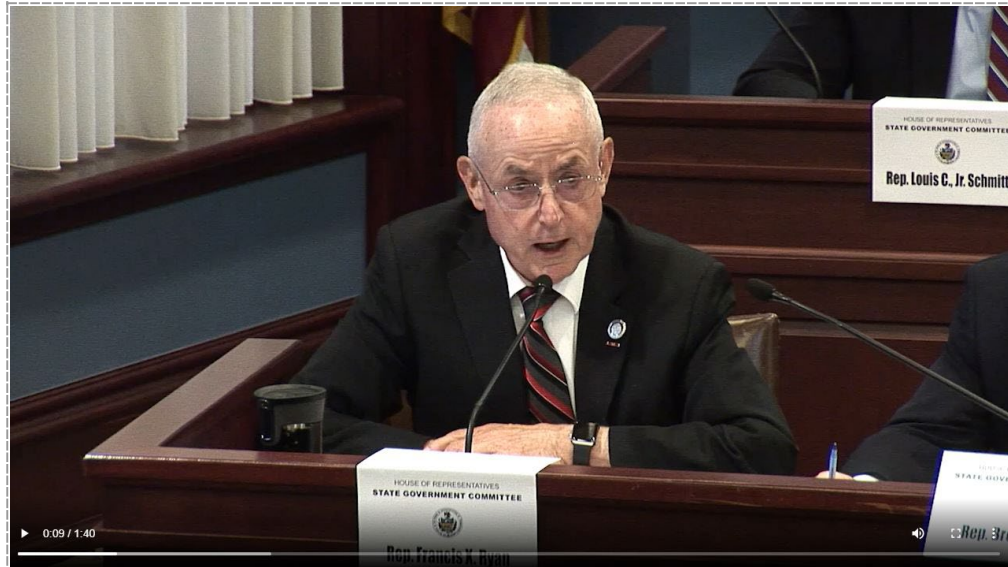


## Pension Bills Aim to Protect Taxpayers



[In this week's podcast](#), I focus on a pension reform package now making its way through the General Assembly, which would protect Pennsylvania taxpayers and keep fees paid to fund managers in check.

## Important Government Transparency Bill Advances

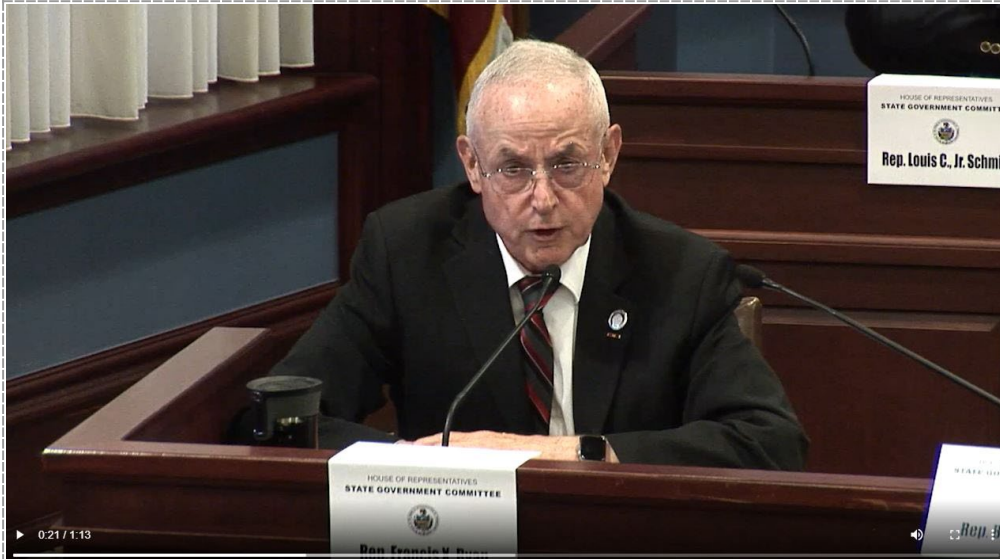


[\*Watch Video Here\*](#)

On Wednesday, the House State Government Committee on which I serve, advanced legislation that would require more robust and transparent management fee reporting standards from the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) board and Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) board. As a legislative appointee to the PSERS board where I serve as vice chairman, I co-sponsored [House Bill 1671](#) because I believe the public should know how its tax dollars are being invested. This bill would require all SERS and PSERS board meetings and committee meetings be livestreamed, and unedited records of the meetings be posted online. This includes disclosure of investment performance data, fees and expenses paid to investment managers and staff travel expenses. **See my remarks in the video box above.**

## **Regular Training for Those Who Oversee State Pension Systems**



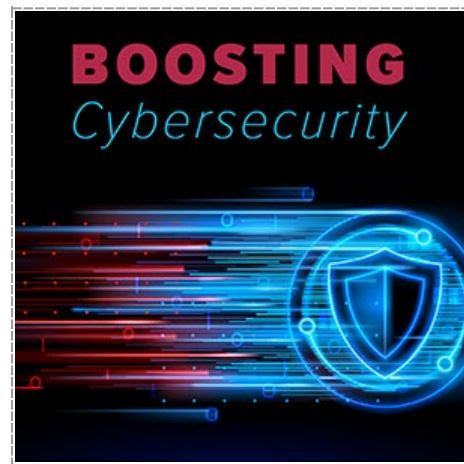


[Watch Video Here](#)

The House State Government Committee also voted this week to advance my bill to require any trustee, board member or other appointed or elected official in a fiduciary relationship to a state, county or local pension system, or to a fund of the Commonwealth, to obtain two hours of initial training and one hour of annual training in fiduciary law. [House Bill 2010](#) would strengthen the knowledge and skills of those charged with the handling of millions of dollars in state assets and protect the ongoing financial interests of annuitants, taxpayers and the Commonwealth. **For more details, see my video remarks above.**

## Strengthening our Cyber Defenses

Government agencies are housing more and more of our personal information, making them prime targets of cyber criminals. This week, the House approved legislation I co-sponsored, which would authorize the Pennsylvania National Guard to provide functional support for cybersecurity across the Commonwealth, including crisis response and proactive training. [House Bill 2412](#) would allow trained military cybersecurity experts to support requests from state agencies in need of immediate assistance or training. The bill would also permit the guard to receive requests and



provide support to non-government entities with cybersecurity education and training exercise assistance as needed. The FBI reported almost 800,000 complaints of cyber intrusion in 2020 alone, including ransomware and identity theft. The bill goes to the Senate for consideration.

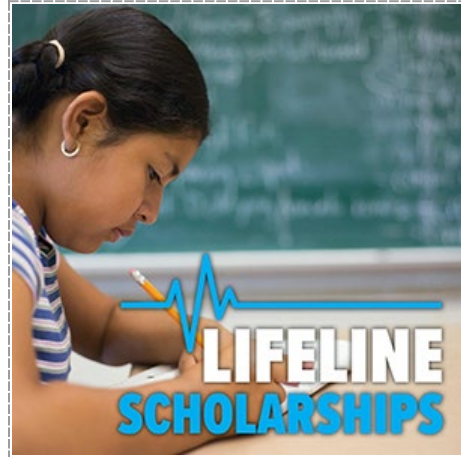
## Give the Gift of Life!



Blood is still in very short supply in Pennsylvania – particularly the rarer blood types. I donate blood regularly because I know it saves lives. You can too! Visit Kiara (pictured with me) or Stephanie at WellSpan's blood donor center, [750 Norman Drive, Lebanon](#), or another blood bank near you. Blood donations stay within central Pennsylvania to be used for patients in need. Please consider donating today. You will be glad you did!

## PA House Supports Lifeline Scholarships for Students

Historic legislation that passed in the House this week, would empower families of students attending low-performing schools by creating the Lifeline Scholarship program. School-age children who reside within the attendance area of a district school in the bottom 15% of performance metrics based on state testing, would be eligible to receive a scholarship to offset costs associated with choosing an alternative academic setting that best meets their child's individual learning needs. If a student and his or her family would choose to take the Lifeline Scholarship, the student would receive only the state portion of school funding to use toward an education elsewhere. Federal funding and local property tax revenue would remain with the school district, enabling it to improve its academic standing and better serve current and future students. [House Bill 2169](#) goes to the Senate for its consideration.



## New Funding Formula to Boost PHEAA Grants for Students

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) announced the adoption of a new 2022-23 PA State Grant Program formula that increases a potential award from \$5,000 to \$5,750 due to a pandemic inflation adjustment in some cases. The agency also estimates as many as 9,000 additional students could receive crucial funding toward their higher education, bringing the total to around 107,000 students served. Grant amounts are determined by several factors, including a student's family income, effect of inflation on incomes and cost of the school they attend. To apply for a PA State Grant, applicants must first complete the 2022-23 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which can be accessed online at [PHEAA.org/FAFSA](https://PHEAA.org/FAFSA).



## Celebrate Small Businesses



The week of May 1 is National Small Business Week and Pennsylvania Small Business Week. This year's theme, *Building a Better America through Entrepreneurship*, celebrates the resiliency and tenacity of America's entrepreneurs. Small businesses are our economic engine. Pennsylvania is home to 1.1 million small businesses that employ 2.5 million workers. I hope you will join me in thanking and patronizing our small businesses next week and throughout the year.

**Voter Registration Deadline Monday**



Pennsylvanians wishing to participate in the May 17 primary election must register to vote no later than this Monday, May 2. Only voters registered Republicans or Democrats will select nominees in the primary to represent their party in the Nov. 8 general election.

To register to vote, the form must be completed and submitted by 11:59 p.m. Monday.

Paper voter registration forms, available here, must be received by your county voter registration office by close of business on Monday.

People who are unsure of their registration status may check it here.

Once registered, voters may choose to vote in person, or by mail-in or absentee ballot. For details, click here.

