



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KATE KLUNK

SERVING THE 169TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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TRANSFORMING THE CHILD CARE LANDSCAPE FOR FAMILIES AND PROVIDERS



As Pennsylvania families continue to navigate the high cost and limited availability of child care, House Republicans announced a 14-bill package designed to strengthen the system from the ground up. This effort would modernize workforce and volunteer standards; improve licensing, oversight, and transparency for regulatory consistency; and expand access for families and providers statewide. I am

proud to be a co-prime sponsor of every measure in the package.

Importantly, this work was shaped not only by policymakers in Harrisburg, but by community partners on the front lines. It all began with the Hanover Area YMCA and the Hanover YWCA. When I first approached them with questions about child care, they offered candid insights that helped spark six House Republican Policy Committee hearings held across Pennsylvania. Their willingness to share challenges and opportunities ensured the resulting proposals reflect real needs facing providers and families today.

Workforce and Voluteer Standards

- Define staff qualifications, professional development, and credentialing requirements.
- Establish volunteer qualification rules, including Department of Human Services (DHS) acceptance of valid Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) clearances for current and retired teachers.

Licensing, Oversight, and Transparency

- Create uniform training and consistency standards for DHS licensing inspectors.
- Standardize DHS licensing inspection requirements.
- Set a formula for issuing and determining the duration of provisional licenses.
- Form a public Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) board with parents and providers from each Early Learning Resource Center region across the state.
- Direct a comprehensive study of child care regulations to reduce redundancy and burdensome requirements.

Access, Expansion, and Provider Support

- Launch a state-funded grant program for new child care providers.
- Launch a state-funded low-interest loan program to support facility expansion.
- Exempt school age programs on school property operating before or after school.
- Exempt part day, instruction only nonpublic, private, or parochial schools from DHS licensing.

Operational Requirements for Safety

- Align PDE and DHS requirements for van and bus drivers.
- Require DHS to accept electronic signatures.
- Define water safety requirements and eliminate additional staff lifeguard mandates when a certified lifeguard is present.

Individually, each proposal addresses a different barrier; but collectively, they form a cohesive strategy to make Pennsylvania's child care landscape more affordable, accessible, and sustainable. I hope my colleagues across the aisle will join us in moving these proposals forward. Pennsylvania urgently needs meaningful child care reform, and this package can help deliver the transformation families and providers deserve.



POWERING PENNSYLVANIA'S FUTURE

In late June, House Republicans unveiled a comprehensive 10-bill legislative package designed to keep the lights on, lower electricity costs, expand reliable baseload generation, and cement Pennsylvania's role as America's energy leader.

The unveiling of this package of bills followed the House of Representatives passing House Bill 2224, which is included in the package and would eliminate the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) on electric utility service. Eliminating the GRT could reduce your electric bills by as much as 6%.

Additional bills in the package would:

- Establish a one-year timeline for environmental permit appeals.
- Create a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Permit Ombudsman to assist applicants and improve permitting efficiency.
- Modernize Environmental Hearing Board appeals to focus on the administrative record developed during permitting.
- Eliminate the DEP regulatory petition process that allows outside organizations to initiate new regulations.
- Align state environmental permitting standards with applicable federal standards.
- Protect Pennsylvania ratepayers from subsidizing electric transmission costs driven by other states through a Pennsylvania-first grid reliability approach.
- Replace the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards with a Reliable Energy Portfolio Standard that prioritizes dependable, dispatchable generation.
- Protect consumer energy choice through a uniform statewide policy that preserves access to a variety of energy sources.
- Ensure projects with valid DEP permits are not unnecessarily stalled while permit appeals are pending.

By streamlining the regulatory burdens stifling our energy potential, strengthening the state's energy portfolio, and reducing costs like the GRT, this legislation aims to create a more predictable environment for energy development and a more stable grid for residents. As these proposals move forward, they will play a central role in shaping Pennsylvania's energy future for generations to come.



SUMMER 2026

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **KATE KLUNK**

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STATE BUDGET OVERSPENDS... **AGAIN**

The state budget was passed on July 12, approving \$50.85 billion in spending. Although I'm pleased the Legislature completed its budgetary obligation, albeit 12 days late, the finished product spends above revenue projections and relies on accounting tricks to defer costs to the next fiscal year. For example, deferments of Medicaid payments "hides" over \$1.3 billion from this year's budget sheet.

This year's product included some wins for Pennsylvanians, like its preservation of the popular Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs, as well as funding for rural road infrastructure. Republicans also blocked a tax increase on Pennsylvania's businesses and job creators, which would have cost billions and was part of the Democrats' original budget proposal.

Families and businesses must live within their means and spend only what they have when they budget, but once again we've not adopted this principle in Harrisburg. I voted "no" on this year's budget because rather than scale back irresponsible spending, we've burdened tomorrow's taxpayers with a steep bill.

At the current trajectory, save some drastic cuts that would be uncharacteristic of the Legislature, this budget sets Pennsylvanians up for future tax hikes. I look forward to contributing to next year's budget that hopefully puts taxpayers first and grows the economy, not state government.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MY **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Telephone Town Hall

THURSDAY, AUG. 20 • 5:30 P.M.

Tune in for a discussion about the latest state-related issues. This is a great time to ask questions about legislation, local concerns, and more.

To be sure you're on the list to receive the call that begins our town hall meeting, please contact my office at 717-630-8942 ahead of time.

Coffee with Kate

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10 • 9–10:30 A.M.

Olive Branch – Cultivated Coffee | 110

Eisenhower Drive, Hanover

Join me for coffee and conversation about the latest state-related and community issues. This event will be held outside, weather permitting.

RSVP by calling 717-630-8942 or visiting RepKlunk.com/Events.

Document Shredding and Damaged License Plate Replacement Event

SATURDAY, OCT. 3 • 9 A.M. TO NOON

District Office | 118 Carlisle St., Hanover

Protect yourself from identity theft by shredding documents that contain personal information. Additionally, staff will be working with local police to help you obtain a new license plate if yours is damaged. You must bring your vehicle with the affected plate attached, as well as your current registration card and driver's license.

RSVPs are only required to replace damaged license plates. Call 717-630-8942 to let us know you're coming for that purpose.