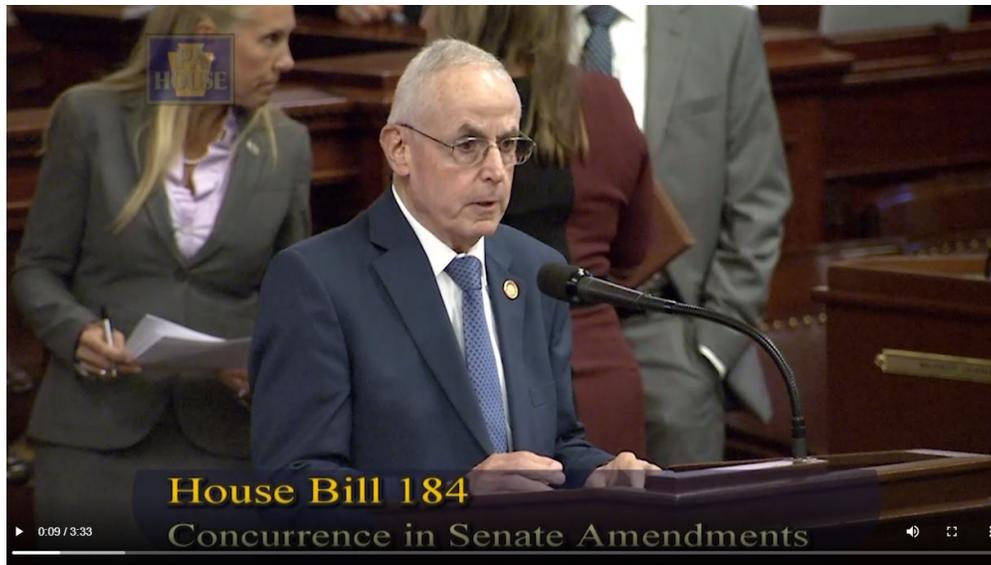


Bill Aimed at Preventing Suicide Sent to Governor's Desk

As the Commonwealth marks September as National Suicide Prevention Month, legislation I co-sponsored to hold accountable those who instruct, cause or solicit another person to commit suicide, is now awaiting the governor's signature. "Shawn's Law," is named for Shawn Shatto, a young York County woman who took her own life after receiving a step-by-step guide on how to die by suicide from an online chat forum. [House Bill 184](#) strengthens penalties for those who encourage another person under the age of 18 or with an intellectual disability to die by suicide. Prior to the House vote on the bill this week, I spoke to Shawn and her loving family in the House chamber. Click the video box to watch.



[*Watch Video Here*](#)

Shawn's Law - Why it is Necessary



[In this week's podcast](#), we discuss Shawn's Law, suicide prevention and the role of the internet.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, help is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**. The lifeline provides free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources, and best practices for professionals.

Voting Rights Protection Act Reintroduced

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I voted to extend the disaster emergency declaration to help people across Pennsylvania and right here in Lebanon County, who were adversely impacted by Hurricane Ida. Recognizing the long recovery ahead for many residents, the General Assembly this week approved a resolution extending the governor's disaster emergency declaration issued Aug. 31. The resolution proposes to extend the declaration through Oct. 27. This is the first time the General Assembly has voted to extend a disaster emergency since voters approved an amendment to the state Constitution limiting a governor's disaster declarations to a maximum of 21 days. Anything beyond 21 days now requires legislative approval.



WANTED: Waterways Conservation Officer Trainees

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is recruiting Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) Trainees at its H.R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety in Bellefonte, Centre County. Upon successful completion of the 52-week training program, trainees would become seasonal WCOs with the opportunity to be promoted to permanent WCO positions as they become available. Seasonal WCOs would work full-time, 40 hours each week from approximately March to October of each year. WCOs are specifically trained in all aspects of fisheries conservation and watercraft safety and work to preserve fishing and boating opportunities on Pennsylvania's 86,000 miles of rivers, streams, and lakes. The Commonwealth is accepting applications online only through Oct. 21. To [view the announcement](#) and apply, please visit the Pennsylvania employment website at: employment.pa.gov. The class of trainees is expected to report for training in Summer of 2022 and graduate in the summer of 2023. To qualify, applicants must



- Be a Pennsylvania resident
 - Possess a valid driver's license
 - Be at least 21 years of age
 - Have a high school diploma or GED
-

- Pass a criminal history background check

For more information on the position, visit the [WCO recruitment page](#) of [fishandboat.com](#).

Dairy Grant Program Accepting Applications

The Center for Dairy Excellence is now accepting applications for a second round of funding through the Dairy Excellence Grant Program. This is a competitive grant program that offers up to 50%, or a maximum matching level of \$5,000, to approved dairy farms. Improvement projects can include anything related to improving dairy farm efficiency, cow comfort, milking facilities, housing facilities or feeding systems. The project should focus on improving milk production per cow and/or enhancing overall farm profitability and efficiency. The deadline to apply is Oct. 15. [More information is available here.](#)



Keeping Kids Safe in the Car

As National Child Passenger Safety Week draws to a close, PennDOT and the Pennsylvania State Police are reminding parents and caregivers about the importance of properly restraining children in vehicles. The Commonwealth's primary seat belt law requires all vehicle occupants younger than 18 to wear a seat belt when riding in a vehicle. Children under the age of 2 must be secured in a rear-facing car seat, and children under the age of 4 must be restrained in an approved child safety seat. Children must ride in a booster seat until their eighth birthday. Parents are also reminded that due to potential dangers associated with air bag deployment, children 12 and younger should always ride buckled in a vehicle's back seat. For more information on child passenger safety, visit [PennDOT's Safety Page](#).



