

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MARCY TOEPEL

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U.S. POSTAGE
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147th Legislative District

 Find more local news on my Facebook page | [Facebook.com/RepToepel](https://www.facebook.com/RepToepel)

HELLO NEIGHBOR,

As the current House session progresses, several issues and challenges face our Commonwealth, such as welfare reform, health care, education, crime, senior-related initiatives, and passing a responsible state budget

The time has come to manage the people's hard-earned dollars in a responsible manner. Our Commonwealth has endured several years of over-spending and I am fighting to do everything I can to ensure our next state budget right-sizes government spending. House Republicans have introduced a budget that not only does this, but also considers our future. Our revenue has increased in April, which is a positive indicator; however, we must proceed with caution. We have many financial challenges ahead of us for example, repayment of unemployment compensation borrowed from the federal government, the spike in pension payments, and debt repayment. Our rainy day fund is gone as well as other special funds. The courts may also order us repay approximately \$700 to \$800 million in MCare funds that were used by the last administration to balance the budget. These gimmicks must end. We must pass a budget that restores confidence in the state's finances.

As a state representative, I feel it is not enough to just be a part of the legislative process, but to also keep you informed on the process and be accessible. I accomplish this using many tools including email, Facebook, district events, my website and newsletters.

I also host satellite offices at various locations throughout our district. I provide this service to conveniently assist my neighbors throughout our district with state-related services and forms. These satellite offices also give residents a great opportunity to share their thoughts on the important issues impacting our communities with me and my staff. The operation of my satellite offices comes with little-to-no extra cost.

I always take into consideration the opinions and needs of my constituents when casting my vote or introducing and co-sponsoring legislation. I feel

it is very important for my work in the House of Representatives to benefit those I serve as much as possible.

Information regarding my legislation and other state issues and programs can be found in this newsletter as well as online at my website at RepToepel.com. I am also on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RepToepel](https://www.facebook.com/RepToepel).

If you would like to receive any of my correspondence via email only, please call my office at (215) 679-3082. Being as cost effective and paperless to dispense important state related information is important to me.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Marcy Toepel
State Representative
147th Legislative District



Many people stopped by my recent Open House including, Chris Mullaney, Paul Hightower, Ernie Schmitt, Joan Schmitt, Robin Hightower, Matt Kells, John Hasson, Bob Thomas and Deb Thomas!



Web: RepToepel.com

Email: mtoepel@pahousegop.com

OUTREACH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

I want to be as accessible as possible to those residing in our district. My staff and I invite residents of the 147th Legislative District to stop by one of my outreach office locations for assistance with any local or state-related matter.

We are able to help you with services such as PACE/PACENET prescription drug assistance programs, driver and vehicle services, Property Tax Rent/Rebate claims, and copies of birth and death certificates. These outreach office locations are provided at no additional cost to the taxpayers.

THE OUTREACH OFFICE LOCATIONS AND HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

First Tuesday of the Month (2 locations)

Upper Salford Township
1441 Salford Station Road
Salfordville, PA 18958
10 a.m. to Noon

Salford Township
139 Ridge Road
Tylersport, PA 18971
1 pm to 3pm

Second Tuesday of the Month

Lower Frederick Township
53 Spring Mount Road
Zieglerville, PA 19492
10 a.m. to Noon

Third Tuesday of the Month (2 locations)

Douglass Township
1320 East Philadelphia Avenue
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
10 a.m. to Noon

New Hanover Township
2943 North Charlotte Street
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Fourth Tuesday of the Month (2 locations)

Perkiomen Township
1 Trappe Road
Collegetown, PA 19426
10 a.m. to Noon

Skippack Township
4089 Heckler Road
Skippack, PA 19474
1 to 3 p.m.

More information is available at my website at RepToepel.com and on my Facebook page at [Facebook.com/RepToepel](https://www.facebook.com/RepToepel).

LEGISLATION WOULD MAKE FUNERAL DEMONSTRATIONS ILLEGAL

Our world is turned upside down when someone we care about passes away. As traumatic as it can be to lose a mother, father, son, daughter, or friend, the experience is made a thousand times worse when we are unable to memorialize and lay them to rest in a peaceful and private manner.

In response to activities by organizations that have demonstrated at funeral services both in Pennsylvania and other parts of the country, I have introduced legislation that would make it illegal to demonstrate within a certain range of a cemetery, church, or other location being used for the purpose of a commemorative service.

Specifically, my legislation, House Bill 1246, would make it a second-degree misdemeanor for anyone to demonstrate within 500 feet of a location being used for a service related to a funeral. In addition to my legislation, Rep. Duane Milne (R-Chester) has introduced legislation to increase the funeral location demonstration buffer to 1,000 feet.

I believe families who have lost loved ones should have a right to mourn peacefully, privately, and without harassment, and I am hopeful my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this legislation. More information on House Bill 1246 can be found at my website at RepToepel.com and on my Facebook page at [Facebook.com/RepToepel](https://www.facebook.com/RepToepel).

LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO THWART ILLEGAL FIREARMS PURCHASES PASSES HOUSE

One only has to turn on the evening news or visit their favorite news website to learn of another crime involving a firearm. The information that usually does not make the news, however, is how the alleged offender obtained the firearm in the first place, particularly if that person has been convicted of a previous crime. Many people may not realize is that many of these offenders, who have criminal records and are legally unable to purchase a firearm, get these guns through what is called a straw purchase. A straw purchase is defined as a purchase of an item by an individual or group for someone who is unable to purchase the item themselves.

Obtaining or receiving a firearm through a straw purchase is illegal in Pennsylvania. There was a loophole in the current law that prevented the imposition of an enhanced penalty for second and subsequent offenses. My legislation, House Bill 898, would restore a five-year minimum sentence for those convicted of making repeat straw purchases of firearms. This measure should go a long way in making our streets safer for everyone.

House Bill 898 recently passed in the House by a vote of 186-10. I am elated that this legislation passed with such overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle. My legislation also had the support of Risa Vetri Ferman, district attorney for Montgomery County.

"House Bill 898 restores a significant law enforcement tool to remove illegal guns and prosecute straw purchasers," said Ferman. "The Pennsylvania Supreme Court -- in a case of statutory interpretation -- recently struck an important public safety statute that provided a five-year mandatory minimum sentence for repeat straw purchasers. This decision removed a critical tool that helped law enforcement prosecute and put away straw purchasers who are responsible for putting illegal guns in the hands of felons and who wreak havoc in our communities. The decision has also stymied the ability of law enforcement to get straw purchasers to identify the violent criminals to whom they illegally sell or give guns."

House Bill 898 now heads to the Senate for consideration. I am hopeful it garners the same level of support over there and will soon be on the governor's desk for his signature. More information on my legislative initiatives can be found at my website at RepToepel.com and on my Facebook page at [Facebook.com/RepToepel](https://www.facebook.com/RepToepel).