

**SENATOR**  
**MIKE REGAN**  
*Reports to You*  
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State Senator  
**MIKE REGAN**  
**REPORTS**  
*To You*



*Enhancing School Safety*  
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*Peyton's Law*  
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INSIDE

31ST DISTRICT • 2019 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

## New Law Supports Volunteer Fire Companies

Local volunteer fire companies provide vital services to our communities by protecting our lives and our property. These volunteers spend a great deal of time training, which unfortunately means additional time spent away from their families and loved ones.

As Chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, my committee passed legislation which created a new law that expands online training options for firefighters. Act 106 of 2019 requires the State Fire Commissioner to oversee the development of online

training courses and post all available courses. Online training, particularly basic administration courses, is very important in terms of making it easier to become a firefighter in Pennsylvania. Most importantly, the new law ensures that these courses are free for firefighters and include a certificate of completion.

The bill was a high priority for our local first responders, and I am thankful that they brought this issue to our attention so we could take the necessary action to support them.



## State Senator Mike Regan

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Dear Friend:

Many great things happened in 2019, and it was a pivotal year in the General Assembly that resulted in significant progress on a number of issues of interest to our local communities. The bills approved last year set the stage for even greater things in 2020, and I am excited to keep working on behalf of the residents of York and Cumberland Counties.

Some of the highlights of the current two-year legislative session so far include the passage of new laws I was proud to champion that enhance school safety and provide assistance to our servicemen and women and their families. The Senate has also passed legislation I am sponsoring to increase education and awareness of EKG testing to prevent Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

As Chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, I have worked to learn more about the issues affecting our veterans and what we can do to further help them. This newsletter includes updates on all of these issues and more, giving you a 2019 year-in-review.

In order to keep printing and mailing costs to taxpayers as low as possible, I primarily rely on social media, electronic newsletters, and my website to keep members of the community up-to-date on what is happening locally and in the Capitol. To sign up for my e-newsletter or to find links to my social media pages please visit my website at [www.senatormikereganpa.com](http://www.senatormikereganpa.com).

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or need help with an issue pertaining to state government.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike Regan

## Pennsylvania GI Bill for Families

In 1996, Pennsylvania established the National Guard Educational Assistance Program, which provides men and women a free college education, based on the tuition rate at the State System of Higher Education, in exchange for a six-year commitment in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Since then, nearly 2,500 individuals a year have taken advantage of this program.

On July 1, Governor Wolf signed House Bill 1324 into law as Act 32 of 2019. This legislation, the companion measure to my Senate Bill 589, provides five years' worth of higher education benefits to the spouse and/or children of a Pennsylvania National Guard member who commits to serve another six years.

Known now as the Pennsylvania GI Bill for Families, this new law recognizes that military service is not just an individual commitment but a commitment for our National Guard

families, who are called on to sacrifice when a spouse or parent is training or deployed.





## School Safety and Security

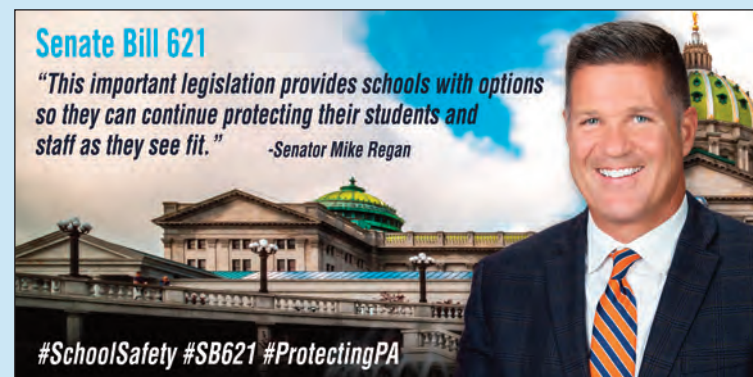
This past year I have continued working to improve Pennsylvania's laws pertaining to school safety and security to help school districts across the state

to better protect their students and staff.

Legislation I authored, **Senate Bill 621**, became law as **Act 67**, which addressed two issues that arose since the passage of Act 44 of 2018. The legislation corrected an oversight to allow Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs to serve as School Resource Officers, and it set training requirements, should a school choose to arm

their Security Guards.

Further, the new measures established a baseline training for all school security personnel – whether armed or not – to ensure that School Police Officers, School Resource Officers, and School Security Guards are trained for the purpose of working in a school setting and alongside students. The legislature also increased funding for school safety and security grants for school districts and intermediate units across the Commonwealth, improving their ability to implement necessary school safety enhancements.



## Peyton's Law – Senate Bill 836

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the leading killer of student athletes in the United States and the leading cause of death on school campuses. Every hour of every day we lose a child to SCA, and the majority of those deaths are attributed to detectable and treatable heart conditions that went undiagnosed due to the limited scope of standard sports physicals and well-child check-ups. Recognizing these staggering statistics, I introduced legislation in honor of Peyton Walker, a young woman from Camp Hill who died of SCA at the age of 19.

**Senate Bill 836**, known as Peyton's Law, builds off of Act 59 of 2012, the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act,

which established the current requirement that student athletes and parents receive an SCA symptoms and warning signs information sheet each school year that must be signed and returned prior to participation in athletic activities. Based on recently enacted legislation in Texas, known as Cody's Law, Peyton's Law amends Act 59 to require information be provided to student athletes and their parents/guardians regarding EKG testing and they be notified of the option to request the administration of an EKG in addition to the standard physical examination.

Peyton's Law passed the Senate unanimously in October and is



currently in the House of Representatives awaiting further consideration. I am hopeful that this important, lifesaving legislation will be passed by the House and signed by the Governor early this year.

## Lyme Disease and Tick-Borne Illnesses

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of cases of Lyme disease and tick-borne illnesses, and our area is one of the hardest hit. Because of this, I hosted a Lyme Disease town hall in March for residents to hear from and ask questions of experts and to learn about related legislation we are working on in Harrisburg. In particular, I am a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 100, which would provide coverage for the long-term antibiotic treatment of Lyme.



### FREE TICK TESTING

The Pennsylvania Tick Research Lab can analyze your tick, testing for tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

PA Tick Research Laboratory has an easy-to-use online tick testing order form to allow you to quickly have your tick tested for any tick-borne disease. Go to [www.ticklab.org](http://www.ticklab.org), navigate to the testing order form, choose the diseases you would like them to test your tick for, and enter your contact information and payment information.

Once you have completed your order, you will be sent a receipt and mailing label you can use to mail your tick into the laboratory in a small plastic bag, and they will provide you with your test results within 72 hours after they receive your tick.

## Statewide Veterans Suicide Roundtables

As Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, a top priority for me is the issue of Veterans suicide. This year, I held five roundtables across the Commonwealth with members of our Congressional Delegation, members of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committees, VA officials, state agencies, county officials, veterans groups and non-profit organizations.

The statistics are staring us in the face, and they are a call to action:

- 22 veterans commit suicide each day across the nation.
- The Veterans suicide rate is double that of the general population.
- 14 of 20 Veterans who have died by suicide had not been treated by the VA.
- Pennsylvania has the largest number of Guard suicides in the nation.

As a result of the roundtable discussions, I have introduced Senate Bill 976, which would statutorily establish Veterans Courts for those Veterans who find themselves in trouble with the law as a result of service-related issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI). Currently, there are 25 such courts in Pennsylvania, and this legislation empowers additional counties to establish their own or related alternatives.



I am also working to expand the number of Veterans Service Units in our state and county prisons, and I am planning to pursue legislation providing support to our first responders with PTSI.

With respect to Veterans suicide, if you or a loved one are a Veteran and need assistance on this front, please do not hesitate to contact the Veterans Crisis Line, which can be reached at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans can push Option 1 to connect to one of 400 Suicide Prevention Coordinators across the country.

And I encourage you to visit my website where you can find video from the roundtables.

## Events Around the 31st District

Right: Over the summer I held my annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast. It is always an honor to celebrate and recognize the courage and commitment of our Veterans.



Left: In October I held my third annual Senior Citizens Expo, which provides residents the opportunity to learn about important services available to them. Be on the lookout for the 2020 date this fall!

Right: Children's Lake is a unique and special place in Boiling Springs. I enjoyed helping the Fish and Boat Commission restock the lake this spring and secure \$2.5 million to preserve it for generations.



Above: I am grateful we have so many generous residents who donated toys this Christmas season for the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. My staff and I dropped off over 100 toys!