

Flood Issues Statement on 2025-26 State Budget

By State Rep. Ann Flood

HARRISBURG – Rep. Ann Flood (R-Northampton) issued the following statement on the passage of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 state budget:

“This year’s budget makes important strides for Pennsylvania families, students and businesses while addressing key priorities for economic growth and government accountability. While the process was not perfect, the budget includes meaningful reforms and investments that move the Commonwealth in the right direction.

“While I supported the Fiscal Code bill, which advanced several key Republican priorities, I could not support the \$50.1 billion General Appropriations bill because its spending level is too high. I remain concerned that revenue growth is not keeping pace with spending and that Pennsylvania will continue to face a structural deficit if we do not make lasting fiscal reforms. Still, several priorities our caucus outlined earlier this year are included in this budget agreement, and I am proud of the progress we achieved.

“Repealing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and advancing permitting reforms are significant accomplishments. These measures will stabilize the electric grid, lower electricity costs, create jobs and reinvest revenue into our economy. They also show that Pennsylvania is open for business and ready to work with industry.

“Education remains a top priority. The budget provides \$50 million in school choice funding for schools and students facing the greatest challenges, while preserving cyber charter options for families. These investments ensure students in crisis have access to quality educational opportunities and give parents meaningful choices for their children’s education.

“The budget also strengthens Medicare and public assistance programs. Reviewing high SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) balances and recovering funds when appropriate ensures taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and benefits reach those who truly need them. These reforms improve program integrity and accountability.

“Importantly, this budget does not draw from the state’s Rainy Day Fund, preserving those reserves to protect taxpayers in the event of future economic downturns and ensuring long-term fiscal stability.”

“I will continue advocating for responsible spending, policies that expand opportunity, and programs that support Pennsylvania families and communities.”

Fight The Flu This Holiday Season With The Help Of Giant And Martin’s Pharmacies

By The GIANT Company

CARLISLE, Pa., Nov. 13, 2025 – In advance of the holidays, GIANT and MARTIN’S pharmacists are reminding customers it’s not too late to help fight the flu by getting their annual flu vaccination. It takes about two weeks after vaccination to develop the antibodies that provide protection against the flu, which typically peaks between December and March each year.

“As our customers get ready to celebrate the holiday season, we want to make sure the only thing being spread is cheer,” said Nick Koch, director of pharmacy and wellbeing, The GIANT Company. “With Thanksgiving just two weeks away, now is the time to get ahead of any possible uptick in flu activity. Get your flu shot while you’re doing your grocery shopping - no appointment needed. Our team of more than 300 pharmacists are standing by to help you cross your flu shot off your to do list.”

With more than 130 locations across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, receiving a flu shot at GIANT and MARTIN’S pharmacies is easy and convenient. Walk-ins are welcome but customers can also make an appointment if they prefer. Most insurance plans cover flu shots at \$0 copays*, including Medicare Part B. In addition, customers who get a flu shot will receive a \$5 off your next grocery purchase of \$25 or more**.

In addition, GIANT and MARTIN’S offer a variety of health resources and pharmacy services to keep communities healthy year-round, like prescription reminders and automatic refills, diagnostic testing, and pre-travel health consultations. In addition, GIANT and MARTIN’S is bringing services to workplaces and local neighborhoods with its wellbeing van. To learn more about available on-site and virtual services, visit the Wellbeing Workplace hub online.

Immunizations are administered by immunizing GIANT and MARTIN’S pharmacists and specially trained pharmacy team members, subject to state regulations. To find the nearest GIANT or MARTIN’S pharmacy, visit or download the free GIANT or MARTIN’S Pharmacy App.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone six months and older get a flu vaccination annually. Vaccination to prevent influenza is particularly important for people who are at higher risk of developing serious complications from flu including people with diabetes, pregnant women, adults over 65, those with asthma and other□

COVID-19 vaccines are also available at all GIANT and MARTIN’S pharmacies. The vaccines are available for customers 12 years and older and may be available upon request for those 5 – 11 years of age, subject to state regulations. Flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be given together.



Local IUP Student Reia Sanchez Selected For Fourth Annual Justice Research Fellowship Program

By Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education

INDIANA, Pa. -- Four Indiana University of Pennsylvania students in the Cook Honors College, including a Northampton woman, have been selected from a pool of exemplary nominees for the fourth cohort of the IUP Justice Research Fellows at the Administration and Leadership Studies Research and Training Center.

Reia Sanchez, a sociology and Spanish dual major from Northampton, was selected for program.

Sanchez, daughter of Jamie and Brett Snellman, is a 2022 graduate of Northampton Area High School. She is a dean’s list student and provost scholar, Promising Scholar, received the IUP Sutton Scholarship and was selected for membership in Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. She is on the ministry team of the Reformed University Fellowship, is an IUP Crimson Tour Guide and was an exchange student through the IUP and Valladolid exchange program.

To qualify for consideration for selection, students must have junior or senior standing and must be nominated by department faculty and recognized for their superlative academic talent.

