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Ann Flood

Pennsylvania State Representative
138th District

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State Budget Completed

By State Rep. Ann Flood

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.

Brain Injury Awareness Day at the Capitol

By State Rep. Ann Flood

Today, I had the honor of speaking during Brain Injury Awareness Day at the Pennsylvania State Capitol. This annual event brings together survivors, caregivers, professionals, and advocates to raise awareness and push for meaningful legislative change for the more than 543,000 Pennsylvanians living with brain injury-related disabilities.

Throughout the day, we heard powerful stories from individuals whose lives have been forever changed by brain injury. Their experiences highlight the urgent need for action on key legislation, including House Bill 444 and Senate Bill 318, which would ensure access to post-acute neuro-rehabilitation services, including cognitive rehabilitation therapy, through commercial insurance.

We also discussed the need for rate parity legislation to support brain injury residential providers, who have not received a rate increase since 2012. Additionally, we are advocating for a \$13 million line item in the state budget for the Office of Long-Term Living, which could leverage up to \$30 million in federal matching funds to expand access to care.

As co-chair of the Pennsylvania Brain Injury Caucus, I remain committed to advancing policies that improve care, access, and outcomes for individuals and families affected by brain injury. I am grateful to the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, the Brain Injury Coalition, and all the advocates who joined us today. Your voices are powerful, and together, we are making a difference.

