

July 2025

Action X 2 Letter

Unbelievably this year is more than halfway over!! Where has 2025 gone? It has been fast paced since the beginning of the year. It is almost impossible to keep up with, but we are trying! We are keeping close tab on new co-sponsorship memos being circulated and new bills being introduced in Harrisburg. The state budget hasn't even been passed yet and the deadline was June 30th. **By the way, Governor Josh Shapiro nearly doubled the number of staffers in his social media operation, and the budget for the governor's office, as a whole, increased by 68% in his two-and-half years in office!** On July 14th State House Democrats passed HB 1330, which according to the Commonwealth Foundation, **"The bill would increase general fund spending to \$50.6 billion—exacerbating Pennsylvania's structural deficit, by spending \$5.3 billion more than revenue.** Lawmakers would need to drain state reserves to cover the cost of such reckless spending this year, followed by tax increases next year. Pennsylvania families could expect a \$2,000 tax hike in 2026 if this overspending becomes law." This bill remains in the State Senate.

Recently Budget Secretary Uri Monson sent a letter to county commissioners with a warning over payments from the state "that will be delayed over the next six weeks in the absence of a completed budget" included \$12.88 million for Area Agencies on Aging, \$21 million in quarterly pmts. for Opioid Response, \$390 million for County Child Welfare.

However, **Senate President Pro-temp Kim Ward** (R-Westmoreland) accuses the Shapiro administration of trying to scare people. She told the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*: Putting out money immediately to keep schools, hospitals and social services functioning could be done without affecting the more complex discussions, such as education, new gaming regulations, funding for mass transit and road and bridge projects. "They get paid at last year's rate until we pass a full budget, and once we pass the full budget, that money will be backfilled," Senator Ward said in response to the letter. **She also goes on to say the Legislature could pass an "essential services" bill that would get the money flowing for services mentioned in the letters.**

Governor Shapiro has found time to not only have his Budget Secretary send a warning letter to county elected officials, but also to join Democrat attorneys general to sign onto two lawsuits.

One is against the Trump Administration's and its efforts to stop so-called gender affirming care (puberty blockers and mutilating surgeries) of minors. The other is against HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and the stoppage of Medicaid money to Planned Parenthood. PA's Attorney General Dave Sunday did not sign on as he is a pro-life Republican. Shapiro is the only signatory serving as governor or outside of an attorney general's office