



Dear Friend:

I recently began my first term representing northern Lancaster County communities in the Pennsylvania Senate. I appreciate the opportunity to represent your interests in Harrisburg.

Serving the public is a serious responsibility, and staying connected with local residents is my highest priority as a legislator. As a member of the House of Representatives, I held frequent town hall meetings to hear the views and concerns of the community, and I am committed to opening as many channels of communication with you as possible in the coming weeks and months, including outreach events, social media, traditional media, phone, email and my website at [www.SenatorAument.com](http://www.SenatorAument.com).

In order to reduce future printing and mailing costs, I plan to minimize the number of mailings I send within the district and instead rely on regular email updates and social media to keep local residents up to date on legislation in Harrisburg and events in the community. I encourage you to visit my website to sign up for these e-news updates.

Being an effective Senator means representing ALL district residents, not just those who share my views on the issues. I invite you to join the conversation and share your views, whether we agree or not. Please feel free to contact me anytime to discuss issues of importance to you and how my staff and I can serve you best. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Senator Ryan Aument

## Senate Panel Acts to Protect Public Charities, Municipalities

Charitable organizations help to meet some of the most pressing needs in our area, serving as the foundation for stronger communities. In many cases, charities help to address needs that government could never meet efficiently, helping to save untold millions of taxpayer dollars in the process.

In the first weeks of the 2015-2016 legislative session, I introduced a bill to protect public charities against costly and time-consuming litigation by ensuring the General Assembly will have the exclusive right to define what constitutes a purely public charity. The legislation recently received the endorsement of the Senate Finance Committee and may be considered by the full Senate in the weeks to come.

The need for this legislation arose from a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling that forced charities to meet a vague, outdated standard in order to be considered

a purely public charity and thus qualify for a real estate tax exemption. The ruling created the prospect of charities and municipalities facing long, expensive court battles that would only take money away from the core missions of both charity and government.

The bill does not expand the definition of a charity, nor does it limit a municipality's ability to challenge the tax-exempt status of an organization; it only ensures that the General Assembly – not the courts – can set the criteria for an organization to qualify as a purely public charity. This approach allows lawmakers to study the issue, gather input from all interested parties and achieve compromise that works for all Pennsylvania communities.

I am hopeful this bill will be approved by lawmakers so the citizens

of Pennsylvania will have the final say on the parameters of a purely public charity through their elected officials, rather than the issue being decided for them by judges and lawyers.



**Coal Caucus:** I recently joined several of my colleagues at the first meeting of the Senate Coal Caucus to explore ways to promote domestic energy production.

# New Committee Posts Create Opportunities for Innovation

It was an honor recently to be appointed to serve as Chairman of the Senate Communications and Technology Committee. One of the most important responsibilities of this committee is helping state government keep pace with new technologies and putting these innovations to good use to reduce government operational costs and improve the quality of life in Pennsylvania communities. The committee also offers additional opportunities to support job growth in one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy.

In addition, I was appointed to serve on four other committees that will consider bills that are important to our communities, including proposals to reform Pennsylvania's

public employee pension programs, support our region's rich agricultural heritage, examine programs and services intended to help those in need, and ensure the needs of our military and veterans are met. These appointments include:

- Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee (serving as Vice Chairman),
- Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee,
- Senate Finance Committee, and
- Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

## Keeping Connected to the Community

In speaking to northern Lancaster County residents over the past several months, I've learned a great deal about what people expect of their elected officials. One of the primary needs is an open and honest dialogue on the issues that matter most to our communities.

To stay connected with the needs and values of local communities, I am working to open as many lines of communication as possible. In the coming weeks, I have scheduled a pair of events that offer all local residents a chance to express their views and discuss issues of local and statewide importance.

On March 5, I will host a telephone town hall event at 6:30 p.m. that will allow local residents to call in to ask questions, raise concerns, express opinions on state issues, or just listen in. The tele-town hall format allows people from throughout the district to participate without leaving the comfort of their own home. Details on how to participate are available on my website at [www.SenatorAument.com](http://www.SenatorAument.com).

I will also host an open house at my district office at 301 East Main Street in Lititz on March 13 from 4-7 p.m. I invite all community residents to stop by and say hello.

In addition, I have set up accounts on social media to discuss issues of local, statewide and national importance. I invite you to connect with me on **Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/senatoraument](http://www.facebook.com/senatoraument)) and follow me on **Twitter** ([www.twitter.com/senatoraument](http://www.twitter.com/senatoraument)).

I also plan to provide regular email updates on legislation of note and items of local interest. If you are interested in signing up for e-news updates, I encourage you to visit my website and enter your name and email address under the "Sign Up for Updates" heading.



**Lancaster Catholic:** Students from Lancaster Catholic High School recently visited the Capitol to present me with a certificate for my support of the EITC scholarship program. The program is a great example of what can be accomplished when government and local businesses partner with the education community to improve learning experiences for students.

### SAVE THE DATE

Please join Senator Aument for an

## Open House

Friday, March 13

4-7 p.m. at his

Lititz District Office

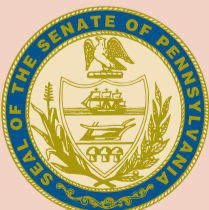
301 East Main Street, Lititz



Telephone Town Hall Event

March 5 at 6:30 p.m. Visit

[www.SenatorAument.com](http://www.SenatorAument.com) for details.



## State Senator Ryan P. Aument

36th District

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