

Comments to the House Appropriations Committee
Rep. Sue Helm

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the House Appropriations Committee for taking the time to listen to my comments today.

Like all of you, my number one priority as a state representative is the welfare of the citizens who elected me. In my case, that specifically translates to the desire to establish a much-needed medical facility in northern Dauphin County.

Years before I joined the ranks of the legislature, I purchased a real estate company from a 50-year old gentleman from that area. It was 1986, he was recently married, and was blessed with a much loved and long awaited baby daughter. Having sold the real estate portion of his company, he was looking forward to spending more quality time with his family.

Life was supposed to be good. Instead, he suffered a heart attack in his Carsonville, Halifax, home. The ambulance was called immediately. But doctors said it took too long to get him to the hospital. They said he fought to survive. But he didn't make it.

Since that time – years before I was elected – I wondered how I, how ALL of us, could prevent such a situation.

If a person has a heart attack, minutes count. It's common knowledge that acting quickly can reduce the damage of a person's heart and increase their chance of survival.

In northern Dauphin County, it's 45 minutes in any direction to get to emergency healthcare. That's particularly bad news for the victims of heart attacks or strokes, who need immediate medical attention.

Northern Dauphin County is a rural, but growing community. The need for a medical facility is critical and increasing. The development of such a facility should start immediately to meet the current and fast-approaching future needs of that area.

There are two Family Practice Centers in Northern Dauphin County; however, they are only open 9-5 on weekdays and two Saturdays a month. They have no accommodation or physician to handle strokes or heart attacks.

Since 2007, I have been actively pursuing the placement of a medical facility in northern Dauphin County. This includes government and non-government solutions, legislative and administrative approaches.

I recognize that any solution to this problem will involve a public-private approach. I have spoken to officials of major hospitals and healthcare entities. They acknowledge the need. They offer support. But they need to see a commitment from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 2008, I had a \$20-million authorization added to the state's capital budget. And I've continued to battle for the medical facility and its funding ever since.

In September of that year, the House Republican Policy Committee had a hearing in Lykens, regarding a medical facility.

The room was packed. Legislators and lobbyists were shocked at the turnout and – importantly – the concern expressed by area residents.

Several legislators were late to the policy hearing because some viewed me as a “city girl,” as they knew I represented Dauphin County, and after all they came to Harrisburg City, Dauphin County, to work. They didn’t view the 104th district as a rural area and didn’t expect the nearly one-hour ride from Harrisburg to Lykens.

And, that’s the point.

Travel between northern Dauphin County and hospitals in Harrisburg, or Hershey or Danville in Montour County or Pottsville in Schuylkill County, is 45 minutes to an hour, especially if one gets caught behind a slow-moving vehicle or farm equipment on one of our winding and mountainous two-lane roads. The areas in question are not served by interstates or 4-lane highways. They are rural, but growing areas, and areas of need. Their greatest need is an adequate emergency healthcare facility.

I ask your support at this time for \$5 million of the \$20-million capital expenditure listed in HB 1589 of 2007 to fill this need. And I ask your support for line item 237 of the 2014-15 Governor’s proposed budget to expand access to primary care services in rural and underserved areas of Pennsylvania.

His proposal would provide an additional \$4 million to provide loan repayment assurance to healthcare practitioners who commit to working in primary care in rural and underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

Charles Dickens once wrote, "There is nothing so strong or safe in an emergency of life as the simple truth."

It is the simple truth that emergency healthcare is very much a need in our rural areas, especially northern Dauphin County.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Appropriations Committee for your time.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

Requesting Member: Rep. Sue Helm Date Submitted: _____

Project Name: Emergency Medical Facility in Upper Dauphin County

Responsible Organization: Project Chair: Dr. Ben Scott

Contact Person(s): Name, Phone, Fax, and E-mail address

Dr. Ben Scott	Phone: (717) 433-4394	FAX: (717) 362-1392	-- DrBenScott@hotmail.com
Rep. Sue Helm	Phone: (717) 787-1230	FAX: (717) 787-7375	-- C21SueHelm@aol.com
Kimberly Morewood Chief of Staff	Phone: (717) 651-0100	FAX: (717) 651-0801	-- kmorewood@hotmail.com kmorewood@pahousegop.com

Total Project Cost: \$ 70,000,000. Authorization Requested: \$ 20,000,000

Municipality: Washington Township County: Dauphin
Upper Paxton Township
Hillersburg Borough

Elizabethville Borough

Project Category: Please check those that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Improvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State-owned facility | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Economic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State University | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural or Civic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State-related university | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community College | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Transit | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rail | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development (Gaming/Slots) |

Nature of Project: Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition (buildings/land) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure (related to project) | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abatement of Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

Project Description: Please include a brief description of the project:

Please return this form to:

State Representative Mario Civera, Republican Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Room 245, Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2203
(717) 787-1711 Fax: (717) 783-2813

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1589 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY D. EVANS, JUNE 18, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AMENDMENTS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
JUNE 30, 2008

AN ACT

1 Providing for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008;
2 itemizing public improvement projects, furniture and
3 equipment projects, transportation assistance projects,
4 redevelopment assistance capital projects, flood control
5 projects, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund
6 projects, Environmental Stewardship Fund projects, Motor
7 License Fund projects, State forestry bridge projects,
8 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission projects, Manufacturing
9 Fund ~~Projects~~ PROJECTS, STATE ATV/SNOWMOBILE FUND PROJECTS, ←
10 STATE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS PROJECTS and federally
11 funded projects to be constructed or acquired or assisted by
12 the Department of General Services, the Department of
13 Community and Economic Development, the Department of
14 Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of
15 Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat
16 Commission and the Department of Transportation, together
17 with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the
18 incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for
19 the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed,
20 acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services,
21 the Department of Community and Economic Development, the
22 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the
23 Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Fish
24 and Boat Commission or the Department of Transportation;
25 stating the estimated useful life of the projects; providing
26 an exemption; providing for limitation on certain capital
27 projects, for special provisions for certain redevelopment
28 assistance capital projects and for preemption of local
29 ordinances for Department of Corrections projects; and making ←
30 appropriations; AND MAKING A REPEAL. ←

31 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1	(i) County projects	
2	(A) Renovations to the Hershey Memorial	
3	Field Complex	1,500,000
4	(B) Construction of an emergency medical	
5	facility in Upper Dauphin County,	
6	including necessary costs	20,000,000
7	(C) CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER RELATED COSTS	←
8	FOR DAUPHIN COUNTY BISHOP MCDEVITT	
9	REVITALIZATION PROJECT	20,000,000
10	(ii) City of Harrisburg	
11	(A) Construction and other related costs	
12	for the Pinnacle Health Hospital	
13	Emergency Department	5,000,000
14	(B) Construction, infrastructure and other	
15	related costs for renovation of the	
16	Whitaker Center for Science and the	
17	Arts	1,500,000
18	(C) Construction and other costs related	
19	to the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement	
20	Memorial	1,500,000
21	(D) Construction, equipment,	
22	infrastructure and other related costs	
23	for renovations to create a psychiatric	
24	evaluation unit at the Polyclinic	
25	Campus of Pinnacle Health Hospital	9,000,000
26	(E) Construction and renovation of a new	
27	Capital Region Health System, Inc.,	
28	Medical Center	5,000,000
29	(F) Construction and renovation of	
30	academic offices, student housing and	

Northern Dauphin County
Talking Points: Community-Based Health Care Grant

The barriers of access to community-based primary health services in northern Dauphin County and the presence of a federally designated underserved area indicate the need for additional services and improved access to care.

- Northern Dauphin county demonstrates a number of barriers in access to primary health services:
 - Rural character of the region
 - Low population density
 - Travel distance to primary and specialty care providers and to hospitals
 - Lower-income population (esp. as compared to many communities in southern Dauphin County)
- Recent developments have seen the establishment of some primary care providers (particularly through hospital based practices.) However, there remain communities in this area without local access to providers. Additionally, not all providers will accept uninsured or underinsured patients.
- There is one federally designated Medically Underserved Area in this area: Lykens (census tract 251)
 - Recent efforts to assess areas for federally designated Health Professional Shortage areas have proven unsuccessful due to services available in more urban areas of the county (Hershey and Harrisburg)

The Community-Based Health Care Grant (CBHC) Program was created by Act 10 of 2013 and implemented by the Department to improve healthcare access and services at the community level.

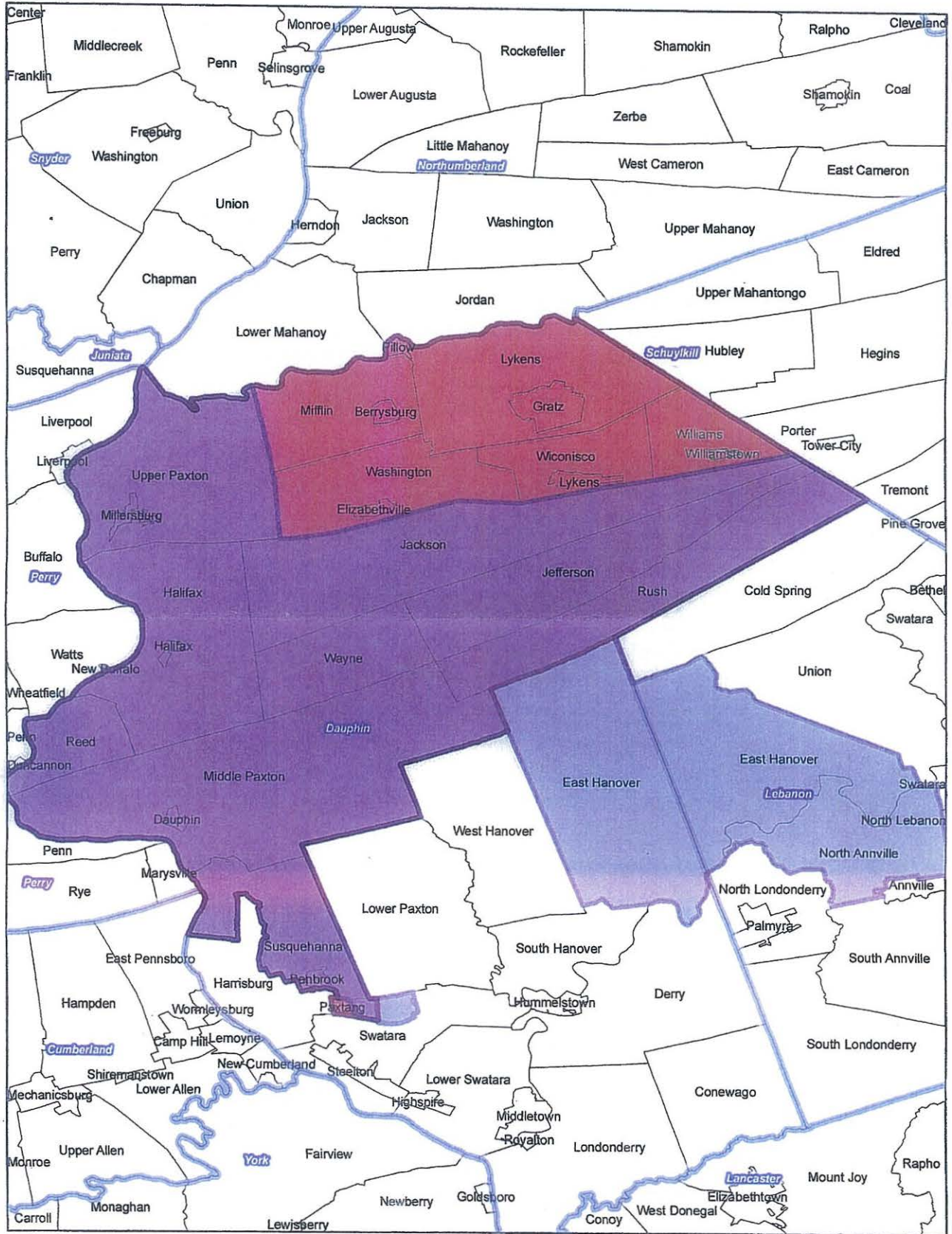
- Applicants for the CBHC grant program must be one of the following non-profit organizations:
 - Federally Qualified Health Center (or Look-Alike)
 - Medicare Certified Rural Health Clinic
 - Hospital Health Clinic
 - Free Clinic
 - Nurse Managed Health Clinic
- The CBHC program provides grant funding for the development of a new primary health care clinic in a community that demonstrates need.
 - Funding is up to \$500,000 for a period of 2 years
 - Grant requires a 25% match commitment (cash or in-kind equivalent)
 - Clinic must provide comprehensive primary and preventive health services
 - Clinic must serve all patients without regard for their ability to pay and participate in all public insurances (Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP)
- Funding is for initial implementation only and will not provide for sustained operations.
Funding supports:

- Provider, administrative & support salaries
 - Equipment & supplies
 - Renovations, additions and modifications to existing buildings (real estate purchase and construction of new buildings not supported by grant)
- The proposed clinic must either:
 - Be located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area or Medically Underserved Area; or
 - Serve a significant low-income population (i.e. a minimum of 30% patients who are uninsured with incomes at, or below 200% of the federal poverty level or who have Medicaid insurance.)
- Grants are competitive and applicants must demonstrate:
 - The need for a new community-based health clinic
 - A clear plan to provide comprehensive primary and preventive health services to all patients without regard to a patient's ability to pay
 - Ability to maintain long-term operation of the clinic
- Many local communities seeking to add a community-based primary health clinic partner with an experienced provider to open a satellite clinic in their community (typically one that is eligible to apply for the CBHC grants.) A number of organizations in the vicinity of northern Dauphin County may be possible partners:
 - Hamilton Health Center, Harrisburg (FQHC)
 - Sadler Health Center, Carlisle (FQHC Look-Alike)
 - Pinnacle Health
 - PSU Hershey Medical Center
 - Holy Spirit Health System

104th Legislative District

Red and Purple current district

Purple and Blue effective December 1, 2014



**2014-15 State Budget
General Fund Appropriations
(amounts in thousands)**

Row	Department / Appropriation	2013-14	2014-15	\$ Difference	% Difference
		Available with Supplementals	Gov Budget	2014-15 vs. 2013-14 w/ Supplementals	2014-15 vs. 2013-14 w/ Supplementals
		State	State	State	State
182	Ready to Learn Block Grant proposal includes \$100 million for PA Accountability Grants				
183					
184	The Pennsylvania State University				
185	General Support	214,110	214,110	0	0.0%
186	Pennsylvania College of Technology	15,584	15,584	0	0.0%
187	Penn State Sub-Total:	229,694	229,694	0	0.0%
188	University of Pittsburgh				
189	General Support	133,993	133,993	0	0.0%
190	Rural Education Outreach	2,300	2,300	0	0.0%
191	University of Pittsburgh Sub-Total:	136,293	136,293	0	0.0%
192	Temple University				
193	General Support	139,917	139,917	0	0.0%
194	Temple University Sub-Total:	139,917	139,917	0	0.0%
195	Lincoln University				
196	General Support	13,163	13,163	0	0.0%
197	Lincoln University Sub-Total:	13,163	13,163	0	0.0%
198	Education Total:	10,815,880	11,178,206	362,326	3.3%
199					
200	Environmental Protection				
201	General Government Operations	10,642	12,309	1,667	15.7%
202	Environmental Program Management	26,297	28,048	1,751	6.7%
203	Chesapeake Bay Pollution Abatement Program	2,667	2,655	(12)	-0.4%
204	Environmental Protection Operations	76,221	83,535	7,314	9.6%
205	Black Fly Control	3,314	3,309	(5)	-0.2%
206	West Nile Virus Control	3,824	3,812	(12)	-0.3%
207	Sewage Facilities Planning Grants	200	0	(200)	-100.0%
208	Delaware River Master	76	76	0	0.0%
209	Susquehanna River Basin Commission	573	573	0	0.0%
210	Interstate Commission on the Potomac River	46	46	0	0.0%
211	Delaware River Basin Commission	934	434	(500)	-53.5%
212	Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission	136	136	0	0.0%
213	Chesapeake Bay Commission	227	227	0	0.0%
214	Transfer to the Conservation District Fund	2,506	2,506	0	0.0%
215	Interstate Mining Commission	30	30	0	0.0%
216	Environmental Protection Total:	127,693	137,896	10,003	7.8%
217					
218	General Services				
219	General Government Operations	59,178	61,732	2,554	4.3%
220	Capitol Police	11,484	11,719	235	2.0%
221	Rental and Municipal Charges	22,969	24,162	1,193	5.2%
222	Utility Costs	21,141	20,281	(860)	-4.1%
223	Excess Insurance Coverage	1,211	1,099	(112)	-9.2%
224	Capitol Fire Protection	496	496	0	0.0%
225	General Services Total:	116,479	119,489	3,010	2.6%
226					
227	Health				
228	General Government Operations	22,118	21,861	(257)	-1.2%
229	Diabetes Programs	100	0	(100)	-100.0%
230	Quality Assurance	18,878	18,666	(212)	-1.1%
231	Chronic Care Management	970	970	0	0.0%
232	Vital Statistics	5,965	5,913	(52)	-0.9%
233	State Laboratory	3,168	3,140	(28)	-0.9%
234	State Health Care Centers	20,500	20,291	(209)	-1.0%
235	Sexually Transmitted Disease Screening and Treatment	1,729	1,729	0	0.0%
236	Primary Health Care Practitioner	3,671	7,671	4,000	109.0%
237	Community-Based Health Care Subsidy	4,000	8,000	4,000	100.0%
238	Newborn Screening	4,110	4,110	0	0.0%
239	Cancer Screening Services	2,563	2,563	0	0.0%
240	AIDS Programs (moved to AIDS Programs and Special Pharmaceutical Services)	7,169	0	(7,169)	-100.0%