

FOCUS ON FAMILIES TOWN HALL

Monday, February 12, 2024



AGENDA

- 6:00** – Welcome and Introduction
- 6:05** – Legislative Update
- 6:25** – Q&A, moderated by Chris Manna, Executive Director of Kennett Library
- 6:55** – Closing Remarks
- 7:00** – Event concludes



MEETING NORMS



We will:

1. Treat each other with respect and leave titles at the door
2. Use our time wisely by sticking to the agenda*
3. Address any conflict by dealing with the issue, not the person
4. We will discuss policy, not politics

*Topics requiring further discussion will be documented for follow-up

PREPARING FOR Q&A

Please write your questions on the comment card and pass them to a staff member.

If your question is not addressed during the town hall, we will respond to you via email or a phone call!

Please write clearly to ensure a response.

The image shows a comment card for U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan. The card has a dark blue header with the text "U.S. REPRESENTATIVE" and "PROUDLY SERVING PENNSYLVANIANS" flanking the name "CHRISSY HOULAHAN" in large white letters. A red outline of Pennsylvania is to the left of the name. In the top right corner, there is a light blue box with the text "STAY IN TOUCH WITH US". Below the header, the card is divided into two main sections. The left section is titled "LET US KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOU" and contains five input fields: "NAME:", "EMAIL:", "PHONE:", "ADDRESS:" (with two lines), and "CITY:" followed by "ZIP CODE:". The right section is titled "WHAT ISSUES MATTER MOST TO YOU?" and contains two columns of checkboxes. The first column lists: Agriculture, Civil Rights, Civility & Decency, Education, Energy & Environment, Gun Violence Prevention, Healthcare, Immigration, Jobs & Economy, and National Security. The second column lists: Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Transportation & Infrastructure, Veterans, Voting & Elections, and Other (with a line). Below the "Other" option are four horizontal lines for additional input.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
CHRISSY HOULAHAN
PROUDLY SERVING PENNSYLVANIANS

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

LET US KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOU

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

WHAT ISSUES MATTER MOST TO YOU?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business & Entrepreneurship
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & Infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/> Civility & Decency	<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Voting & Elections
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gun Violence Prevention	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Immigration	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Jobs & Economy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> National Security	_____

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE



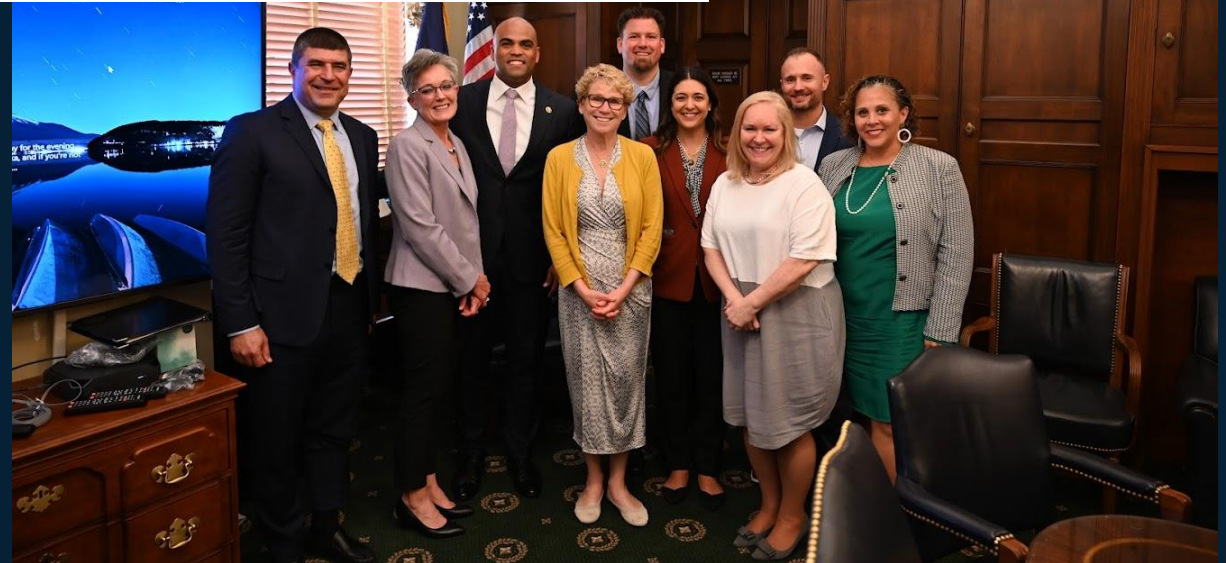
- Children are our future, and we must support initiatives that support our children and families
- Some topics we will dive into that support children and families: paid leave, childcare, education, keeping our kids safe, and more!

PAID LEAVE

- Formed the first ever bipartisan Paid Family Leave Working Group in Congress
- Policy framework with four key pillars:
 - Improving business tax credits
 - unifying practices across states
 - small employer pooling for paid leave insurance
 - A public-private partnership pilot to help new states start up paid leave programs.



PAID FAMILY LEAVE WORKING GROUP



DONOR MILK

POLICY

After infant formula crisis, lawmakers look to donor milk

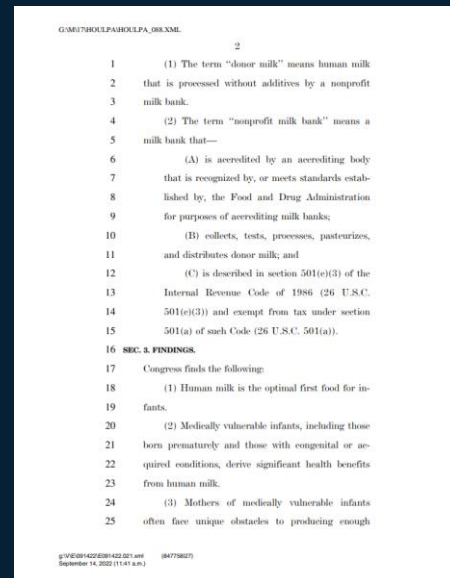
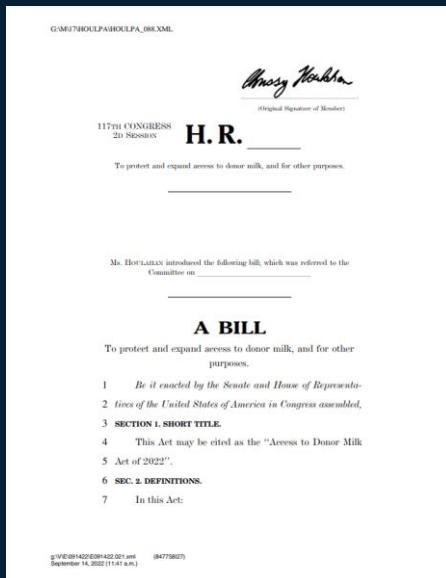
Bill aims to increase access to pasteurized donor milk for infants and push the FDA to regulate the practice

Houlahan, Duckworth Lead Bipartisan Push to Expand Access to Donor Breast Milk

The bipartisan, bicameral bill was inspired by a lactation consultant at Paoli Hospital!

- A visit to the maternity ward at Paoli Hospital in May 2022 led to the discussion of the value of donor milk for babies with a medical need and the challenges of awareness and FDA regulations.

The **Access to Donor Milk Act** is bipartisan and bicameral and will help increase access to breast milk for babies across the country.



INFANT FORMULA

- In 2022, secured new funding for ByHeart Infant Formula, the first new FDA-registered formula manufacturer in 15 years – and located in Reading, PA!
- In 2023, passed an amendment through the House that added \$15M for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s business development programs.
- In 2024, led a new bipartisan letter urging Agriculture Secretary Vilsack to prioritize the resources Congress has given him toward helping new infant formula manufacturers.



Chrissy outside at the ByHeart baby formula plant to tout state funding and to discuss how to get more formula to her community in June 2022.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

House passes bipartisan tax bill to expand child tax credit



- The child tax credit is available on the federal level and in some cases, the state level
 - In PA, the Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit which was recently increased and it is specifically for child care, while the CTC is for anyone with children
- The House of Representatives recently passed an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill to expand the **Child Tax Credit**
 - Over **26,000** children in our community will benefit in the first year from this increase

SCHOOL FUNDING

- Championed CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. Schools were provided with the financial resources necessary during and after the COVID-19 pandemic
- Proud supporter of the SNAP program, the TEFAP food program, the WIC program, and the National School Lunch Program
- Working to ensure SNAP and TEFAP will be reauthorized in Farm Bill



KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE

Houlahan Helps Pass Most Significant Gun Violence Prevention Legislation in a Generation Into Law

 Chrissy Houlahan 
@RepHoulahan

I met w/ Patricia — mom of Joaquin Oliver who was murdered in the Parkland shooting. I read her book "Joaquin's First School Shooting" & was inspired by her turning grief into action, but it doesn't have to be this way. We must enact stronger gun violence prevention laws.



- Championed the ***Bipartisan Safer Communities Act***, signed into law in 2022 and is the most significant federal gun reform law in 28 years
- This law is working — violent crime is down across the country
- The ***Bipartisan Safer Communities Act***
 - Enhances background checks for buyers under the age of 21
 - Supports state Red Flag laws
 - Disarms domestic abusers
 - Funds community violence intervention
 - Provides school safety funding
 - Invests in mental health services for kids and families – in and out of school

HELPING WITH HIGHER EDUCATION

- Support funding for our public colleges and universities including HBCUs and community colleges
- Proud to support the ***Supporting Apprenticeship Colleges Act of 2023***, a bill that would provide grants to eligible apprenticeship colleges throughout the country to expand and support enrollment.
- Also, a proud cosponsor of the *National Apprenticeship Act of 2023*

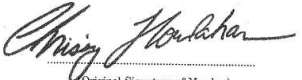


Houlahan at Delaware Community College speaking on the CHIPS and Science Act in September 2023.

STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

A new bipartisan bill would make sure government and nonprofit workers can get student-loan forgiveness — even if they leave public service after 10 years

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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To ensure that borrowers who have performed qualifying public service are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. HOULAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To ensure that borrowers who have performed qualifying public service are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Service Loan
5 Forgiveness Payment Completion Fairness Act” or the
6 “PSLF Payment Completion Fairness Act”.

- Introduced the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Payment Completion Fairness Act — a bipartisan bill that would change a technicality in federal law that unnecessarily requires PSLF applicants to be employed in a public service role at the time of forgiveness
- This legislation has 28 bipartisan cosponsors
- I am in favor of targeted loan forgiveness that helps Americans filling our in-demand jobs: teachers, first responders, and more.

Q&A

*Moderated by Chris Manna,
Executive Director of the
Kennett Library*

CLOSING REMARKS



STAY CONNECTED:



@RepChrissyHoulahan



@RepHoulahan



@RepChrissyHoulahan



Call us at

(202) 225-4315

houlahan.house.gov

OUR DISTRICT OFFICES



709 E. Gay Street, Suite 4
West Chester, PA 19380

201 Penn Street, Suite 201
Reading, PA 19601

