

STATE REP. STEVEN MENTZER

WINTER
2025

Serving the 97th Legislative District

BUDGET

More than four months after the June 30 due date, the House, Senate and governor came together to complete the 2025-26 state budget process. While I am glad the final plan spends \$1.4 billion less than the governor's original proposal back in February, I am still disappointed it spends \$50.1 billion, which is more than the state is expected to bring in – an amount which I believe will further strain our reserves and cause a desperate need for correction in the next few years.

Beyond the numbers, the budget agreement makes several policy changes that will help set up the Commonwealth for future success. These changes include reforms to the permit process for businesses; the state's exit from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; an additional \$50 million to the Economically Disadvantaged Schools scholarship program; and ensuring the integrity of benefit programs, such as Medical Assistance and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

LIFE PROGRAM

The Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) program serves adults aged 55 and older by offering a full spectrum of medical and supportive services, enabling them to remain in their homes and communities. Through a coordinated, team-based approach, the LIFE Program delivers personalized care in a cost-effective and sustainable model.

The LIFE program remains underutilized despite its effectiveness and sustainability because of a lack in public awareness. As minority Chair of the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee, I joined with majority Chair, state Rep. Maureen Madden (D-Monroe), to introduce House Bill 1894.

House Bill 1894 mandates that seniors receive a full explanation of the LIFE program before they decide which assistance program they choose; giving our seniors the ability to make informed decisions to preserve their independence, dignity and quality of life.

House Bill 1894 passed the House unanimously in November and has been assigned to the Senate Aging and Youth Committee.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

In 2026, I will be hosting another **Scam Jam event**, as well as a series of **in-person townhalls**. Please stay tuned to my legislative emails and Facebook for more information on these events, as well as other updates from Harrisburg and around the district!

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STEVEN MENTZER

97TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

From my family to yours, I'd like to wish everyone a happy holiday and a wonderful new year. It is a great honor to serve our community, and a privilege to wake up each day and earn that honor in Harrisburg and here in the district.

Please be sure to follow me on Facebook, **Facebook.com/RepMentzer**, and subscribe to my legislative emails at **RepMentzer.com/Email-SignUp** to stay in-the-know.

Merry Christmas,

