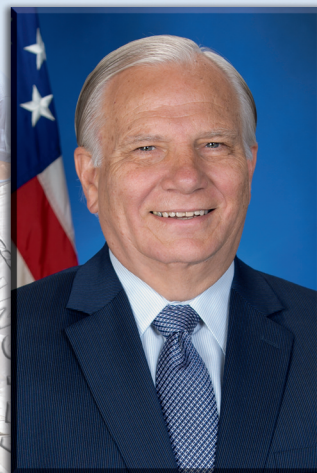


# Senator Bob Mensch Reports to Senior Citizens



W I N T E R 2 0 1 8

Friend,

I put this informational flyer together to inform you about the array of services available to senior citizens, as well as key legislation of interest to older Pennsylvanians. Important contact information is listed below. If you need additional assistance with any state-related matter, please don't hesitate to call one of my offices listed on the back.

Bob Mensch

## Strengthening Older Adult Protective Services

I have introduced legislation to overhaul the Older Adult Protective Services Act, which aims to detect and reduce elder abuse in the Commonwealth and provide protective services for Pennsylvanians over 60 years of age.

Currently, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging administers the Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA) in coordination with the Area Agencies on Aging. The department receives mandatory abuse reports and the agencies conduct the investigations. The department also ensures that criminal history background checks mandated by OAPSA are processed expeditiously and correctly for employment applicants at facilities dealing with older Pennsylvanians.

### Combatting Financial Exploitation

My legislation, Senate Bill 899, will revise OAPSA with

some consolidation of provisions, and will combat the rise of the financial exploitation of older Pennsylvanians by including penalties for financial abuse if it is a loss that results in the inability of an older adult to fund basic necessities.

### Reporting Abuse

The legislation will add physicians, health care providers and law enforcement officials to the list of mandatory reporters within OAPSA which currently only requires facility employees and administrators report to the department suspected elder abuse.

Senate Bill 899 also fixes current law to be in alignment with a state Supreme Court ruling on lifetime bans of employment at agencies that provide care to seniors.

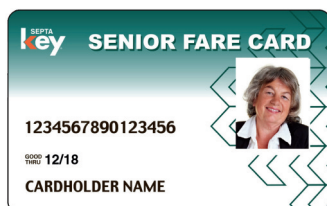
## Free and \$1 Rides with SEPTA Key Senior ID Card

Senior citizens age 65 and older with a valid ID, ride FREE at all times on all SEPTA Transit Routes, \$1 on Regional Rail for travel within Pennsylvania, and 50-percent off of the regular fare for travel to and from New Jersey and Delaware.

For the free and discounted fares, seniors must have one of several forms of valid ID, such as a paper PA Senior Citizen Transit ID, PA Non-Driver Identification Card or PA Driver License with a magnetic strip on the back (these forms of ID will eventually be phased out in the future). Effective in 2018, SEPTA no longer accepts the Medicare Card and Railroad Retirement Cards.

A convenient form of ID is a SEPTA Key Senior Card. With SEPTA Key, travel access becomes completely self-serve. All you need to do is tap your Key Card at the validator on the farebox or turnstile. If you ride Regional Rail you will show your Key Card to the conductor when paying your fare.

**We can help you apply for a SEPTA Key Senior Card at our Lansdale District Office listed on the back.**



## Apply for Property Tax and Rent Rebates

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program offers rebates to income eligible seniors and others on property tax or rent paid the previous year.

The program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The annual household income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, with half of Social Security income excluded. Surviving spouses, personal representatives or estates may also file rebate claims on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day in 2017 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is supported by the Pennsylvania Lottery slots gaming. **We can help you apply for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program at our district offices listed on the back.**

### Statewide Elder Abuse Hotline: 1-800-490-8505

Any person who believes that an older adult is being abused, neglected, exploited or abandoned may call the elder abuse hotline. The hotline is open 24 hours a day.



**Senator Bob Mensch**  
24th District  
Senate Box 203024  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3024

**Senator Bob Mensch**  
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**Senior Citizens**

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## Home Heating Help Available

**T**he Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low income families pay their heating bills.



LIHEAP is a grant. Families may apply for a cash grant, a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company or fuel provider. Cash grants are based on household size, income, and fuel type. There is also a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

For more information, contact your local county assistance office LIHEAP hotline:

**Berks County LIHEAP: 610-736-4228 or 1-866-215-3911**

**Bucks County LIHEAP: 215-781-3393 or 1-800-616-6481**

**Montgomery County LIHEAP: 610-272-1752**

## Link to Local Aging and Disability Resources

**A**ging and Disability Resource Centers aim to provide a seamless approach to assist seniors and adults with disabilities who need help with activities of daily living. In Pennsylvania, this is known as the PA Link to Aging and Disability Resources Center. There is no charge for information and assistance provided by any Link or Link partner agency.

Call if you need assistance: **1-800-753-8827**.

## Low-Cost Prescription Drug Programs

**P**ennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, offer low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents age 65 and older.

For a single person, total income must be \$14,500 or less (PACE), or between \$14,500 and \$23,500 (PACENET). For a married couple, combined total income must be \$17,700 or less (PACE), or between \$17,700 and \$31,500 (PACENET). For more information, call **1-800-225-7223**.

## LOCAL SENIOR SERVICES

### Area Agencies on Aging

Your county Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is the front door for aging services in your community. Your AAA is staffed with skilled workers who can provide information about services and also assist in obtaining access to those services.

#### **Berks County Area Agency on Aging**

633 Court St., 8th Floor, Reading, PA, 19601  
610-478-6500

#### **Bucks County Area Agency on Aging**

30 E. Oakland Ave., Doylestown, PA, 18901  
267-880-5700

#### **Montgomery County Aging & Adult Services Human Services Center**

1430 DeKalb St., 2nd Floor, Norristown, PA, 19404  
610-278-3601

## Senior Community Centers

**I**n addition to providing a nutritious meal, Senior Community Centers offer social activities, informative programs, creative arts, exercise, volunteer opportunities, community services and other special events.

There is no charge to attend the center or activities funded through the Area Agency on Aging. Contributions may be requested for some activities and special classes held at centers may have a fee. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging for locations.

## Adult Day Centers

**A**dult Day Centers offer an interactive, safe, supervised environment for older adults and adults with a dementia-related disease, Parkinson's disease or other organic brain syndromes.

Contact your local Area Agency on Aging for locations and to determine whether you or a loved one qualifies.



## Senator Bob Mensch

24th District

#### **Red Hill Office**

56 West 4th Street, Floor 2  
Red Hill, PA 18076  
(215) 541-2388  
FAX (215) 541-2387  
Toll Free 1 (855) 247-9020

#### **Lansdale District Office**

1 Vine Street, Suite 202  
Lansdale, PA 19446  
(215) 368-3117  
FAX (215) 361-4222

#### **Harrisburg Office**

Senate Box 203024  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3024  
(717) 787-3110  
FAX (717) 787-8004  
TTY (800) 364-1581

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