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# Joe Emrick

Pennsylvania State Representative  
137th District

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## Congratulations Peyton Walker, BASD Moravian Scholarship Recipient!

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

Congratulations to Peyton Walker of Freedom High School, recipient of the 2026 Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) Superintendent's Moravian Scholarship. Peyton and his proud parents, Matthew Walker and Brenda Wacik, are 137th District residents. Peyton was awarded a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to attend Moravian University.

In the picture with me are, from left to right, BASD Superintendent Jack Silva, Peyton Walker and Moravian University President Byron Grigsby.

## House GOP Launches Effort to Cut Costs for Families

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

With Pennsylvanians facing rising costs on everyday essentials, House Republican policymakers launched their "Freedom Through Affordability" initiative – a plan to deliver tax relief and lower costs to help make Pennsylvania a more affordable place to live, work and raise a family.

The initiative, unveiled at a Capitol press conference earlier this week, includes a series of multi-billion-dollar tax cuts and sales tax holidays aimed at providing immediate relief to families and workers struggling under the weight of higher prices.

Anchoring the initiative are proposals calling for six-month suspensions of the state's gas tax, which is one of the highest in the nation, as well as the Gross Receipts Tax on both electricity and cell phone services. Another proposal would reduce the state's Personal Income Tax (PIT) rate from 3.07% to 2.99%, also for six months.

Additional sales tax holidays are being proposed on an array of items, from sports equipment to help make it more affordable for kids to participate in these valuable activities, to spring cleaning and gardening supplies and tools, to car seats, strollers and other items to help new parents with the rising costs of a growing family.

To highlight the importance of the effort and collect feedback from Pennsylvanians about the challenges they face, the Policy Committee is also launching the "Affordability Starts Here" tour starting in Hanover, York County, next week. For more information, visit [policycommittee.com](http://policycommittee.com).



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