

Standing Up for Privacy and Personal Freedom

By State Rep. Ann Flood

I am excited to announce that we won! The Department of Health has withdrawn proposed regulations that would have brought back COVID-era lockdown policies, granted government access to your private medical records and given government officials the ability to enter your home without a warrant.

Last week, I joined more than 80 of my House Republican colleagues, along with thousands of Pennsylvanians, in opposing these proposed regulations. We made our concerns clear and stood together to protect medical privacy, personal freedom and our constitutional rights.

The decision to withdraw these regulations is an important victory for Pennsylvanians. It shows what can happen when we speak up, stand together and make our voices heard. Thank you to everyone who joined my colleagues and me in standing up for your rights and making sure your voices were heard!

Below is our comment letter.

Dear Members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission: Re: Rulemaking #10-242: Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases IRRC #3490

We, the undersigned, are 85 members of the House of Representatives. We have reviewed the above-referenced proposed regulation as submitted by the Department of Health (Department) regarding revisions to 28 Pa. Code Ch. 27 (relating to communicable and noncommunicable diseases). We submit the following concerns and questions for review and comment to the Department and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission).

The proposed regulation seeks to update requirements relating to the reporting of communicable and noncommunicable diseases. While we can appreciate the need to report diseases to enable the Department to fulfill its statutory duty to prevent the control and spread of diseases, we are concerned that the Department's proposed regulation goes above and beyond the requirements of applicable law. We also feel that this regulation represents a policy decision of such a substantial nature that it requires legislative review.

As part of its duties to review proposed, final-form, final-omitted, or existing regulations, the Commission shall: Members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission

- Determine whether an agency has the statutory authority to promulgate the regulation and whether the regulation conforms to the intention of the General Assembly in the enactment of the statute upon which the regulation is based.
- Determine whether the regulation is in the public interest, which entails the following:
 - o The economic or fiscal impacts of the regulation.
 - o The protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and the effect on this Commonwealth's natural resources.
 - o The clarity, feasibility, and reasonableness of the regulation, which includes the reasonableness of requirements, implementation procedures, and timetables for compliance by the general public and private sectors.
 - o Whether the regulation represents a policy decision of such a substantial nature that it requires legislative review.
- o Comments, objections, or recommendations of a committee.
- o Compliance with the provisions of the Regulatory Review Act or the regulations of the commission in promulgating the regulation.
- o Whether the regulation is supported by acceptable data.
- o Whether a less costly or less intrusive alternative method of achieving the goal of the regulation has been considered for regulations impacting small business.

The Department's proposed regulation is problematic in many ways. The regulation:

- Does not comply with the Department's statutory authority.
- Is overly burdensome on the regulated community.
- Does not factor in costs to the regulated community.
- Creates requirements that are far reaching.
- Does not require the least restrictive means upon the regulated community.
- Expands judicial interpretations of the Department's authority.
- Authorizes the Department to obtain data it does not need, including unprecedented access to medical records.
- Gives the Department unquestioned authority over adults, minors, dwellings, and schools.
- Eviscerates long-standing recognition of medical, religious, and philosophical exemptions.

PFBC Offers Fishing, Boating Grants

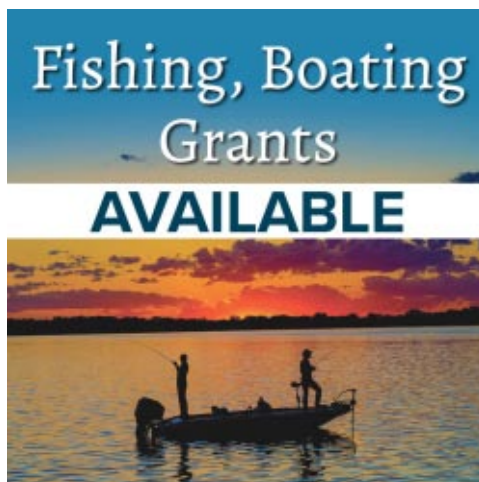
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The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is accepting applications for two grant programs key to building on the Commonwealth's outdoors heritage.

The Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Education Grant offers school districts, universities and colleges, community and civic groups, sporting and conservation organizations, and local recreation departments up to \$25,000 in funding for projects to promote new and renewed interest in fishing and boating. Learn more here.

The Boating Facility Grant Program provides grants for planning, acquisition, development, expansion and rehabilitation of public boating facilities located on the waters of the Commonwealth. Eligible applicants include townships, boroughs, counties, municipalities and nonprofit organizations such as land trusts, conservancies and watershed groups. Learn more here.

The application deadline for both grant programs is Dec. 1.



Do you need help paying
for higher education?



Join PA State Rep. Ann Flood & PHEAA for a **free**
Financial Aid Event

Financial Aid 101

This presentation provides information on the financial aid application process, what types of aid are available for students, and strategies to start thinking about affordability before getting ready to apply for post-secondary school admission. Time will be built into the presentation to allow you to ask any questions you may have regarding the financial aid process.

October 21, 2026
6:00-8:00 PM (ET)

Pen Argyl Area High School
Auditorium

501 W Laurel Ave, Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Please RSVP at RepAnnFlood.com/Events or call 610-746-2100.



For questions about this event, please call
Representative Flood's office at 610-746-2100.

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PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

AT REPRESENTATIVE ANN FLOOD'S

FREE PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

10 a.m. to noon

St. Luke's parking lot, 487 E. Moorestown Road, Wind Gap, PA

Safeguard your identity by securely disposing of sensitive documents at my free paper shredding event. Information on protecting yourself from identity theft and common scams will also be available.

Please be aware of the following specifications and limitations:

- Each household is limited to four boxes or bags of paper.
- Paper and manila folders may be shredded; hanging folders and X-rays are not accepted.
- Staples and paper clips do not need to be removed.
- This event is for personal document shredding only; business materials will not be accepted.

We will also collect worn or damaged American flags for proper retirement.

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