

June 7, 2019

House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee Members

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Re: House Bill 1076

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the 4,500 elected officials who govern the commonwealth’s public school districts, **we are writing to request your support of House Bill 1076,** which is to be considered by House Aging and Older Adults Committee on June 12, 2019.

House Bill 1076 provides for the Senior Tax Reduction Incentive Volunteer Exchange (STRIVE) program which would expressly authorize school districts to implement tax rebate programs for senior citizens in exchange for volunteer service in the school district. We believe that this legislation will allow more schools districts to develop a mutually beneficial partnership between senior citizens and schools in their communities.

Currently, there is a relatively small number of school districts across the state that offer a program in which senior citizens can participate in service activities with the school district—from reading with students to administrative assistance and more. However, due to legal concerns over a true tax rebate program, school districts have utilized an hourly salary through their payroll to hire interested senior citizens for part-time district work and the income earned through their participated can be used toward property taxes if desired.

Overall, we believe this legislation will clarify the law to make a tax rebate program much simpler for school districts to implement and thus potentially increase the number of programs that help both seniors and students throughout the state.