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# Senator Christine M.Tartaglione

#### Town Hall Meeting Follow-Up Information

December 11,2013

## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Helps low-income individuals and families pay their heating bills.
- Sends a cash grant directly to the utility company for households in danger of being without heat.
- Accepting applications through April 4.

\*For more information about LIHEAP, please contact my district offices.

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- SNAP is the new name for the Food Stamp program operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.
- Provides an Electronic Benefits Transfer ACCESS card to buy food and help eligible low-income households obtain more nutritious diets.
- On November 1, 2013, the State cut SNAP benefits by 5.4% following the expiration of the federal economic stimulus package.
- \* For more information on SNAP, please contact my district offices.

### Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

- Reimbursement program for low-income homeowners or renters who meet certain eligibility requirements.
- Application deadline extended to December 31.
- Maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates may increase rebates to \$975.
- To apply, must provide proof of age and income.

\*For more information about the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, please contact my district offices.

#### Affordable Care Act

- Creates healthcare marketplace for employers and employees.
- Participation in marketplace <u>not</u> required <u>if</u> you currently have insurance through your employer.
- Healthcare insurance required for everyone in 2014.
- Can keep Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, TRICARE or state-based risk pools.
- Open enrollment now through March 31, 2014 (additional enrollment periods available).
- Coverage will begin January 1, 2014 if you sign up by December 23.
- \* For more information on ACA, please contact my district offices or visit <u>https://www.healthcare.gov/</u>.