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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Building on Our Success to Ensure a Strong, Viable Future**

*By Rep. Dan Moul (R-Adams)*

The new legislative session begins on Jan. 1. Even before swearing in day, I have already laid plans for 2019-20, in which I will continue my work to stand up for taxpayers and our most vulnerable citizens. In doing so, I plan to introduce a number of important bills to build on our recent successes.

You may recall that I founded the Commonsense Caucus two years ago following a frustrating state budget impasse. I am proud that this growing group of fiscal watchdogs was able to avert yet another state budget stalemate earlier this year and erase a more than \$2 billion budget deficit without raising income taxes or sales taxes. In fact, we were able to invest in Pennsylvania's Rainy Day Fund for the first time in a decade. In the 2019-20 fiscal year, you can rest assured that the Commonsense Caucus is stronger and more determined than ever to protect the interests of Pennsylvania taxpayers.

A number of government reforms were enacted last session, including legislation authorizing wine and beer sales in grocery and convenience stores. In our current state budget, state lawmakers provided \$60 million in grant funding for school safety enhancements, and restructured the public pension and unemployment compensation systems, saving millions.

Other long-awaited education reforms were also adopted, most notably a permanent and predictable Basic Education Funding formula and legislation to protect and retain our best teachers. Simply providing more state tax money for education does not guarantee our children will be better educated. Where that money goes and how it is used makes all the difference.

The new education funding formula will help to ensure our schools are funded fairly, consistently and appropriately. The Pennsylvania Department of Education now has a website that enables you to track how your tax dollars are being used for education. To access *SchoolWatch*, visit [www.paschoolperformance.org](http://www.paschoolperformance.org).

Greater emphasis is also being placed on career and technical education to support the current labor force and the jobs provided by employers the Commonwealth is attempting to attract. Having a trained and ready workforce is a key consideration of any business or industry seeking to relocate here. It is critical that our workforce is adequately prepared to take on the family-sustaining jobs these employers can provide.

State lawmakers are also attempting to remove barriers that keep people from working. We are seeking to establish sensible work requirements for eligible, able-bodied individuals who receive government-paid human service benefits. This will help ensure that our limited public assistance resources are available for those who truly need them. To help Pennsylvania's working poor, we aim to break down the so-called "benefits cliff" for child care assistance programs to permit low-income families to earn more before it affects their child care benefits.

Last session, we also enacted a Clean Slate law to provide people with low-level, nonviolent misdemeanor convictions to have their record sealed from public view so as not to prejudice them and prevent a second chance at gainful employment.

When the new session begins on Jan. 1, I will renew my efforts to rein in the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) following the recent audit by the state auditor general, which found gross abuse of power and misappropriation of state funds. I have already called on SRBC executive director Andrew DeHoff to resign and I am preparing to introduce legislation to require legislative oversight of the SRBC.

As your state legislator, I am here to assist you with any state-related matter. Please feel free to stop by my office at 30 W. Middle St., Gettysburg, or call (717) 334-3010. It is my honor and privilege to serve you!