

MILOU MACKENZIE, MEMBER
131st LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
EDUCATION
HUMAN SERVICES

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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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WEDNESDAY 9:00AM UNTIL 4:30PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT ANYDAY

April 3, 2023

Governor Josh Shapiro
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro,

As a member of the House Education Committee, I was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic death of one of the Commonwealth's students who was murdered while walking to school in Philadelphia last week. It was at 7:30 am and while only two blocks from his school, that he was attacked by three masked assailants and killed.

According to the ABC news report, many other families in Philadelphia also fear for their children's lives as they travel to and from school each day. I strongly believe all the families deserve to have peace of mind regarding the safety of their children.

As State Representative in the 131st District, I cannot fathom how this situation can go unaddressed and unchecked. If similar circumstances occurred in any of the six school districts within my legislative district, the parents would be up in arms and the communities would not stand for it either. I am sure that we would be asking for security officers and extra police protection to watch over our children as they travel to and from school.

As we designate billions of dollars for education in the budget this year, can something be set aside to protect the lives of students as they walk the streets on their way to school?

When I was a child growing up in the 1960's in Nazareth, PA, we had an army of crossing guards, one on every street corner, watching out for the safety of the students. Could something similar be provided in Philadelphia and other places where the children are in extreme danger?

Those of us serving on the House Education Committee are repeatedly reminded that we are tasked to think of whatever is best for ALL the school children in the Commonwealth. Can we please consider some solutions for getting the children to and from school alive and well?

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this very serious matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Milou Mackenzie".

MILOU MACKENZIE
State Representative, 131st Legislative District