



Public Hearing: Affordability for Families

How targeted tax relief can help Pennsylvania families better afford essential school supplies as they prepare for the upcoming school year while showcasing the impact of local manufacturing and job creation in the Lehigh Valley.

February 12, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.

Hearing Overview

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Welcome from Crayola**
 - Orville Trout, Executive Vice President of HR, Corporate Affairs & Administration
 - Marta JeBran, Director of Government and Community Affairs
- **Opening Remarks**
 - Chairman David H. Rowe
 - State Representative Ann Flood
- **Testimony from Invited Experts**
- **Member Discussion with Testifiers**
- **Closing Comments & Adjournment**
 - Pete Ruggiero, President and CEO

**Tour and Luncheon to follow Hearing*

Testifiers

- **Mikal Sabatine**, Director, Families First of Pen Argyl
- **Sarah Whitworth**, School Counselor, Moore Elementary School
- **Marisa Elias**, Pennsylvania Parent

Livestream

www.policycommittee.com

Chairman David H. Rowe
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About the Testifiers



Mikal Sabatine

Mikal Sabatine serves as the Director of **Families First of Pen Argyl**, a nonprofit family support organization based in Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania. In this role, Sabatine leads the organization's efforts to provide a wide range of community-based services and programs focused on enhancing the health, education, and quality of life for families and youth in the Pen Argyl Area School District. Under Sabatine's leadership, Families First works in partnership with local volunteers, educators, and community stakeholders to offer more than twenty programs, including parenting support, health initiatives, mentoring, and other resources designed to strengthen families and foster community well-being.



Sarah Whitworth

Sarah Whitworth is a dedicated school counselor at **Moore Elementary**. She founded her school's Backpack Program to provide weekend meals for students facing food insecurity, ensuring children have the nourishment they need to learn, grow, and thrive.



Marisa Elias

Marisa Elias is a Pennsylvania parent of six who is here today to share her firsthand experience navigating the rising cost of school supplies. Her perspective reflects the everyday challenges families face as they prepare their children for the school year.