



Summer
2024

State Representative | 164th Legislative District

GINA H. CURRY

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Hello Neighbors, Community Members and Friends,

I'm proud to announce that I voted to pass a state budget that delivers a win for all Pennsylvanians. It builds a better future for all of us. It reflects the priorities shared by the PA House and Gov. Josh Shapiro and demonstrates our ability to lead and work together despite a divided government.

This comprehensive budget delivers more money for schools to help every kid – especially the ones in vulnerable school districts. It invests massive, historic money – a \$1.3 billion investment – to help every kid in every school and meets our moral, constitutional and legal obligation to our kids, schools, parents and taxpayers.

The infusion includes \$526 million to begin to fix the funding disparities among Pennsylvania's school districts – as directed by Commonwealth Court – and

help homeowners who've been shouldering the heaviest burden in paying for their schools.

In our legislative district, more than \$20 million more has been invested in our area school districts, William Penn and Upper Darby.

The budget also delivers wins for health care in Pennsylvania, including an additional \$2.5 million in funding for maternal health care initiatives. It also contains \$3 million for a new initiative on menstrual hygiene products.

While there is more work to be done, this budget also makes historic investments in public safety, community and economic development, and much more.

After a long and difficult budget journey in Harrisburg, it feels so good to be back in the District. We fought long and hard through early mornings and late nights to deliver a state budget that continues to bring power to the people of Pennsylvania. With the budget approved and stacks of legislation passed by both the House and Senate, I am relieved to be able to spend time in the 164th Legislative District until late September when House session reconvenes.

Gina H. Curry
State Representative | 164th Legislative District



Legislative Update



H.B. 2233

Towing During an Emergency

My legislation, House Bill 2233, passed the state House with bipartisan support! The bill would exempt tow truck operators from state traffic laws and local ordinances while acting at the direct instruction of a law enforcement officer in immediate response to an emergency. Tow truck operators have found themselves facing a dilemma when the retrieval or rescue of a vehicle from the scene of an accident requires an illegal action, such as traveling in the wrong direction on a highway. Even when directed by a law enforcement officer, such actions put responsible tow truck operators in a very difficult position. My legislation would alleviate the fear of legal repercussions that some tow truck operators face when trying to respond to an emergency situation as efficiently as possible.

HB 1944

Diagnostic Breast Imaging

Another bill that I have authored is House Bill 1944. This legislation would remove out-of-pocket costs for those seeking diagnostic imaging for breast cancer. Many women have access to free screening mammograms through their insurance. However, if an abnormality is found during the initial screening, the next step is more advanced imaging, such as a breast ultrasound or MRI, to confirm or rule out breast cancer. The cost for these tests is high and patients are faced with hundreds to thousands of dollars in cost sharing – all before they are even potentially diagnosed with breast cancer. As of last summer, similar bills have passed in 20 other states. I hope Pennsylvania can be next to ensure that no patient will have to delay their breast cancer diagnosis due to out-of-pocket costs. I am proud to announce that this bill was referred to the House Insurance Committee, and I hope that it makes its way to the full House soon!



HB 2142

School Corridor Funding

I have also introduced House Bill 2142. This bill deals with the safety of our students on their way to and from school. Too often we see incidents of crime and violence impacting the learning experiences of our students because of unsafe travel corridors. In fact, Safe Routes Partnership, a national nonprofit that tracks school corridors throughout the country, gave Pennsylvania poor marks related to funding safe routes to school and supportive practices. This does not need to be the case. This bill would create a \$50 million appropriation to allow for the hiring of additional police officers, training and implementation of volunteer safe path monitors to work in teams to collect information and deal with suspicious activity and, in necessary conditions, installation and use of cameras to observe and protect our students as they go to and from school.



HR 480

Widows & Widowers Day in PA

I also co-sponsored a resolution with fellow state Rep. Tom Jones, which the House adopted. House Resolution 480 establishes June 23, 2024, as Widows' and Widowers' Day in Pennsylvania. Losing a spouse is extremely difficult, and this legislation designates a day of support for those who have suffered this tremendous loss.



HB 1021 Lloyd's Law

Another piece of legislation I want to highlight is House Bill 1021, otherwise known as Lloyd's Law. Lloyd's Law would make sure no one is denied life insurance because they are also prescribed life-saving medication like naloxone. Discriminating against people who are trying to battle addiction is just downright wrong, and I was proud to introduce this legislation with state Rep. Ben Sanchez. This bill passed the House and now sits in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.



HB 2127 Postpartum Depression

The House also passed House Bill 2127, which would establish a free-standing act known as the Prenatal and Postpartum Counseling and Screening Act to require all prenatal and postnatal clinicians to distribute information relating to postpartum depression to the mother and her family. Postpartum depression is one of the most common complications after childbirth. Early detection is crucial to the well-being of both the mother and baby, and our legislation would ensure that every mother receives the support and care she needs during this vulnerable period. Thanks to state Rep. Elizabeth Fielder for introducing this legislation and state Rep. Lisa Borowski for co-sponsoring the bill with me. The bill passed the House and now sits in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

HB 2137 Baby Kits

The PA MOMNIBUS continues to move! We passed House Bill 2137, which I introduced with state Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes! This would establish a new state program to help ease the financial and emotional stress new moms and parents face by providing them with maternal and newborn supply kits and connecting them to additional support programs available at the state and county levels.



Some mothers have access to plenty of resources; others have no support at all. With this bill, we want to guarantee that a mother, who went through all the effort to bear a child, is given what they need to set themselves and their family up for a happy and healthy postpartum life. This bill passed the House and now sits in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

HB 1331 Student Teacher Stipend

I joined fellow state Reps. Danielle Friel Otten and Peter Schwyer to create the Student Teacher Stipend Program. This program initially provided a \$10,000 stipend for individuals enrolled in a teacher preparation program at an institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to complete their student teaching requirement. An additional \$5,000 stipend is for students who complete their student teaching in schools that traditionally don't have student teachers and schools with high teacher vacancies – an acknowledgement that some schools are being hit harder than others. And a \$2,500 stipend is available for cooperating teachers who agree to mentor student teachers. The best way to build an equitable pipeline of passionate educators is to equip them with the proper resources and compensation. By providing a stipend to student teachers, we are encouraging them to stick with this important work. To further strengthen the educator pipeline and address the education workforce shortage, the 2024-25 budget doubles funding for student teacher stipends, for a total of \$20 million to support Pennsylvanians training to become certified and committed educators in the state.

District Grants

\$200,000

Upper Darby American
Legion Post 214
For renovations

\$100,000

Murphy's Giving Market
For expansion of existing services
and refurbishing existing office space

\$150,000

Upper Darby
Police Department

Black Maternal Health Caucus



The PA Black Maternal Health Caucus wasted no time getting to work. Back in March, I joined my fellow caucus chairs, state Reps. La'Tasha D. Mayes and Morgan Cephas, for the introduction of the PA MOMNIBUS legislation package! It is comprised of eight bills designed to help achieve maternal equity for black mommas and birthing people throughout the Commonwealth. Specifically, the PA MOMNIBUS addresses:

- **Medicaid and health insurance coverage for doula services and blood pressure monitors**
- **Establishing a Doula Advisory Board**
- **Designating maternal health deserts**
- **Enhancing access to mental health care services for pregnant and postpartum patients**
- **Requiring implicit bias training for health-related boards within the Department of State**
- **Establishing a Maternal and Newborn Supply Kit Program**

There's been enough talking, enough studies; the time for action to protect mothers and birthing people in Pennsylvania is NOW! As you can see by the graphic to the right, we're making progress on these bills and are hoping the state Senate will soon take action in getting these bills to Governor Shapiro's desk, where he has voiced his support for the PA Black Maternal Caucus and the PA MOMNIBUS!

Pennsylvania MOMNIBUS PROGRESS REPORT

	House Committee Approval	House Final Passage	Senate Approval	Gov. Signed
HB 1608	Extends Medicaid coverage for doula services and establishes a Doula Advisory Board to set standards and accreditation requirements for doulas.			
HB 1618	Requires health insurance to cover doula services .			
HB 2097	Requires Medicaid to cover blood pressure monitors for pregnant and postpartum enrollees.			
HB 2138	Requires health insurance to cover blood pressure monitors for pregnant and postpartum enrollees.			
HB 2136	Designates maternal health deserts to target investments in maternal health care services.			
HB 2127	Enhances access to mental health care services for pregnant and postpartum patients.			
HB 2178	Requires health-related boards within the Department of State to complete implicit bias training as part of continuing education requirements.			
HB 2137	Establishes the Maternal and Newborn Supply Kit Program to distribute essential resources to new moms and parents .			

*updated June 11, 2024

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Black Maternal Health Week at the Capitol



In April, we marked the 2nd Annual Black Maternal Health Week at the state Capitol. The PA Black Maternal Health Caucus is dedicated to making Pennsylvania a frontrunner in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, particularly among Black mothers who are disproportionately affected, and to enhancing conditions and outcomes for all birthing individuals throughout the Commonwealth. I introduced HR 373, which designates Black Maternal Health Week from April 11th to April 17th in Pennsylvania, and it was officially adopted by the House on April 10th.

The following week, I was excited to host constituents and stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to mark this important week. The events at the state Capitol not only heightened awareness and shared personal stories and data but also issued a call to action. They underscored the pressing need to address the maternal health crisis and tackle the concerning mortality rates across Pennsylvania.

Curry in the Community



Aftershock Screening April 2024



Youth Job Fair
April 2024



Safety Summit June 2024



Shredding Event June 2024



Black & Diverse with
Senator Tim Kearney February 2024



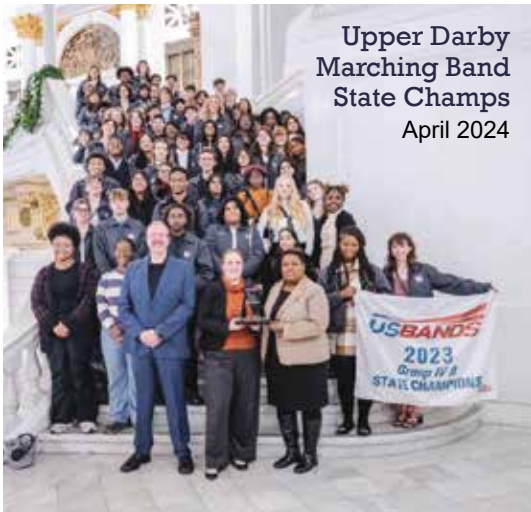
Teen & Police Service Academy
in Harrisburg
April 2024



Veterans Luncheon & Screening
January 2024



Senior Rebate Tours March 2024



Upper Darby
Marching Band
State Champs
April 2024



SCORE Small Business Event
February 2024



Mid Week Senior Fun Fair May 2024



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Inspi-HER'd 2024 3rd Annual Field Day for Youth Girls in 4th through 8th grades to support positive health and wellness! Sat., September 7 – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Naylor's Run – Pre-Registration Required		
Baby Shower with Senator Kearney Sat., October 12 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Beverly Hills Middle School	Mammogram Event Screening with Senator Kearney Thurs., October 24 – 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Barclay Shopping Center Parking Lot	Expungement Clinic with Senator Kearney Thurs., November 14 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Upper Darby ONE Center
Blood Drive with Senator Kearney Sat., September 28 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Watkins Center Pre-Registration Required	Senior Sunrise Breakfast Fri., October 18 – Time TBA Location TBA	Turkey Giveaway Mon., November 25 – Time TBA Location TBA
	Let's Gear Up Sat., November 9 – Time TBA Location TBA	Open House and PTRR Event Thurs., December 19 – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. District Office

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<https://www.pahouse.com/Curry/emailsignup>

How can my office help YOU?

- ➔ Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications
- ➔ Birth, death, and marriage certificates
- ➔ SEPTA Senior Key Cards
- ➔ PHEAA & FAFSA PA529 Savings Program
- ➔ Unemployment payment and assistance programs
- ➔ PA prescription assistance programs
- ➔ And more!