



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Emilio Vazquez

197TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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FALL/WINTER 2017

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COMMITTEES: Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Local Government, State Government, Urban Affairs, Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

Great things are happening in Philadelphia!

Dear friend,

December has arrived and I would like to tell you about the great things we have been able to achieve for our communities during this year. 2017 has been a year of much learning and growth. I have had the opportunity to listen to your concerns and to look for opportunities to improve and resolve the challenges we face; and I have wonderful news:

- We were finally able to pass a law to put an end to the stop-and-go establishments that have been wreaking havoc in our communities. I voted for this legislation that will allow the state Liquor Control Board to immediately shut down a nuisance bar or store if it does not meet the Liquor Code's seating, square footage, food or health requirements. Our communities now have the power to hold stop-and-gos accountable.
- In addition, we made a greater investment in schools, including increases in funding for the Philadelphia school district and funding necessary for our state-related universities like Penn State and Temple to avoid tuition increases for in-state students.

- The House also passed a fix for the Actual Value Initiative (AVI) to help even out property tax bills after the city's reassessment.

I will continue advocating for you and for Philadelphia in Harrisburg – to improve our education system, public safety, health care and other issues.

Remember, if you have questions or comments regarding any state-related issue, please call my office at 215-425-5708 or stop by to see us in person at our new location, 2733 N. 5th St. We're open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa! A safe, healthy and prosperous New Year. As the season unfolds, please enjoy your loved ones and cherish the time of togetherness. The holiday season is one of peace, joy and happiness, and to this end, I wish you and your families happy holidays!

Emilio Vázquez



Legislative Update

Bill to reverse school-to-prison pipeline in Pennsylvania becomes law



I'm proud to share that I supported legislation that will establish the First Chance Trust Fund to aid children impacted by the prison system and reverse the direction of youth who may be on a path leading to incarceration in Pennsylvania.

The fund will be paid for by private, tax-deductible donations and a 1 percent surcharge on vendors that have a contract with the Department of Corrections exceeding \$5 million. It will create scholarships and provide grants to programs that benefit children who live in areas with high dropout rates, high incarceration rates and high crime rates.

Protecting Pennsylvania workers

Today's worker faces a myriad of challenges, which may include exploitation and mistreatment at the hands of their employer. We can streamline the process for assistance when workers experience such unfortunate issues. Employers who break laws intended to protect workers should be held accountable for their misdeeds.

I plan to introduce a package of bills providing increased protection and assistance for the workers of Pennsylvania, as well as increasing penalties for violating certain labor laws. My proposals would help to sustain a healthy workforce, in turn creating a positive effect on the state's economy.

Other bills I'm fighting for

- **Education.** H.B. 1772 seeks to improve the transition to post-secondary schools for students with disabilities requiring the planning process to be in line with the students' graduation goals and requiring recommendations that are specifically related to post-secondary education.
- **Immigration.** H.B. 1604 would address the extent of cooperation between certain law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities; prohibiting certain acts by law enforcement agencies and postsecondary institutions.
- **Law enforcement transparency.** H.B. 1740 would ensure a greater degree of transparency to citizens residing in areas where law enforcement agencies have adopted a departmental policy to outfit their officers with body-worn cameras. It would require law enforcement agencies to develop custom-made policies and to make them available to the general public.
- **Litter and trash.** H.B. 1850 would address the disposal of waste tires by providing for a penalty of \$5,000 per tire, requiring businesses dealing with waste tire documentation and recordkeeping, encouraging recycling and expanding waste tire disposal programs.

Diaspora in action: Update on Philadelphia's disaster relief efforts to help Puerto Rico

Along with my colleagues state Rep. Ángel Cruz and Councilwoman María Quiñones-Sánchez, I personally delivered supplies collected from concerned citizens to several towns in Puerto Rico that were left with nothing, nearly two months after deadly Hurricane María devastated the island.

From Nov. 8-16, we visited Toa Alta, Juncos, Salinas, Mayagüez and Vieques. In addition, the Philadelphia-based hurricane relief effort Unidos PA' PR, with which I partnered, spent \$50,000 on supplies, which included:

- **Two skids of water;**
- **1,000 tarps;**
- **1,000 water filtration systems; and**
- **1,000 solar lights.**

At the state level, the House of Representatives unanimously adopted three resolutions urging the U.S. Congress to act promptly and effectively to help Puerto Rico rebuild:

H.R. 538 – Resolution urging the U.S. Congress and President Donald Trump to allocate resources to help Puerto Rico and its residents recover from Hurricane María.

H.R. 562 – Resolution urging the U.S. Congress to extend Jones Act waiver.

H.R. 563 – Resolution urging emergency support and resources for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to aid in their recovery from Hurricanes Irma and María.

Heating aid via LIHEAP now available

The 2017-18 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP – is now open and accepting applications for heating assistance grants.

LIHEAP offers cash grants of \$200 to \$1,000 that are sent directly to the utility company to defray heating costs for eligible households, and crisis benefits of \$25 to \$500 for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

Apply now to receive Property Tax/Rent Rebate

The deadline to file a 2016 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is **Dec. 31, 2017!**

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates can boost rebates up to \$975.

Please don't assume you are not eligible! Half of Social Security income is discounted, and claimants are not disqualified from rebates solely because of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.

To find out if you qualify for LIHEAP, Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program or if you need FREE assistance with filling out your applications, please call or visit my offices.

At the Capitol and around the 197th District



I stood in solidarity with all the DREAMers in Pennsylvania and across the country threatened by President Trump's awful decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Our country needs to stop turning its back against the people who have helped to build it.



Sometimes residents are unable to visit my offices because of their work schedules or other commitments, so I'm bringing the office to you. Call me at 215-425-5708 to find out upcoming dates and locations.

I toured Lillian Marrero Library to see firsthand the renovations that have taken place. Our community will now be able to improve their lives, search for jobs and volunteer opportunities, catch up on the latest news, communicate with people of other cultures or participate in online support groups.



The Philadelphia Eagles recently came to the state Capitol to have a conversation about criminal justice reform. I was thrilled that we were able to host Malcolm Jenkins, Torrey Smith and Chris Long to talk about why Pennsylvania needs clean slate legislation. Individuals with low-level, nonviolent criminal records would have a mechanism to seal those records from public view. This type of criminal record should not preclude a person from having access to employment, housing and other resources.



I partnered with City Council President Darrell L. Clarke and state Rep. Donna Bullock to provide our senior citizens with the city and state-related resources they need. We provided information on various programs and services, food, music and entertainment.



I partnered with state Sens. Sharif Street and John Sabatina, Councilmembers Darrell Clarke and María Quiñones-Sánchez, and local business owners to host a turkey giveaway. Thanks to their support we were able to distribute 150 turkeys to families in need.



From Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, a tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.



Ayuda para cuentas de energía ya está disponible

El Programa de Asistencia de Energía para Hogares de Bajos Ingresos 2017-18 (LIHEAP) ya está aceptando solicitudes para obtener ayuda para pagar sus facturas de energía.

LIHEAP ofrece ayudas en efectivo entre \$200 y \$1,000 que se envían directamente a las compañías de servicios públicos para sufragar los costos de calefacción de los hogares elegibles. También ofrece asistencia entre \$25 a \$500 para hogares en peligro inmediato de quedar sin calefacción.

Solicite ahora el reembolso del impuesto a la propiedad y/o alquiler de viviendas

La fecha límite para solicitar el Reembolso de Impuestos a la Propiedad y/o Alquiler de Viviendas es el próximo **31 de diciembre**.

Los beneficios del programa son para personas elegibles de 65 años o más, viudas y viudos de 50 años o más y personas con discapacidades de 18 años en adelante. El reembolso estándar máximo es de \$650, pero otros descuentos suplementarios pueden aumentarlo hasta \$975.

¡No asuma que no es elegible! La mitad de los ingresos del Seguro Social se descuentan y los solicitantes no son descalificados únicamente por los ajustes del costo de vida del Seguro Social.

Para saber si cualifica para los programas o si necesita asistencia GRATUITA para llenar las solicitudes, llame o visite mis oficinas.



State Representative
Emilio Vazquez

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INSIDE:

- Good news for Philadelphia
- Legislative update
- Puerto Rico relief efforts update
- Heating assistance (LIHEAP) & Property Tax/Rent Rebate

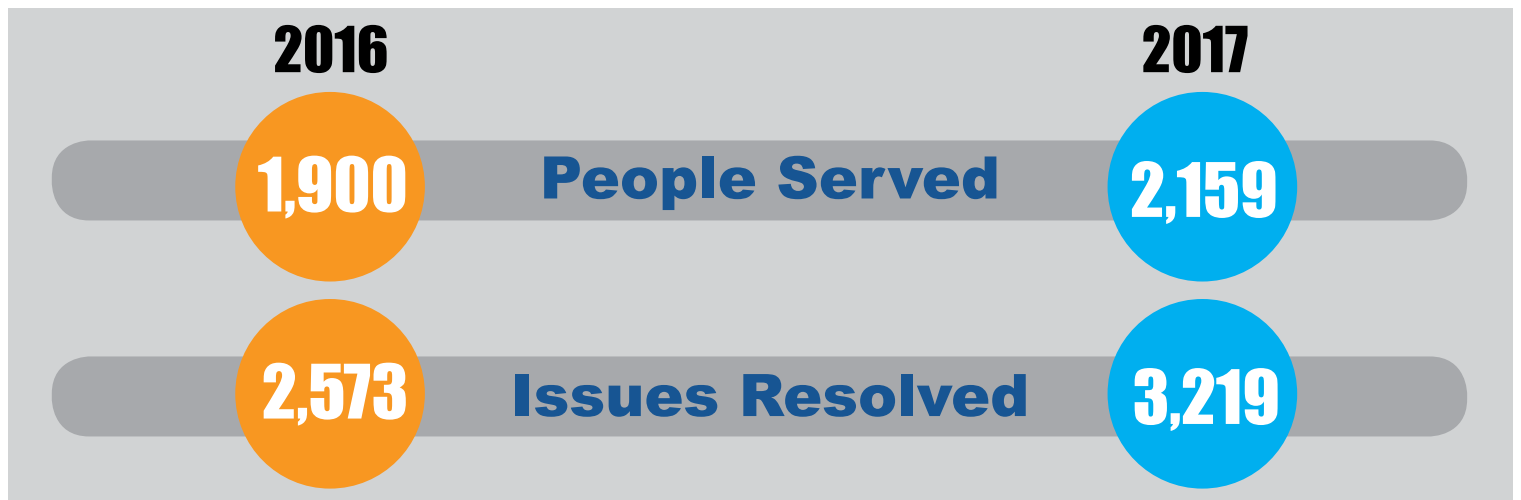


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Casework Report

2016 vs. 2017

We've reported an increase in constituents served and issues resolved.



MY OFFICE IS HERE TO HELP

If you have any state-related issue, need information about programs, or would like to comment on current legislation in Harrisburg, please call or visit my office. My dedicated and professional staff will work to meet your needs.

My district office has moved! | ¡Mi oficina de distrito se ha mudado!

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Our phone number has also changed: 215-425-5708.

Stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the community by signing up for my email updates.

Go to www.pahouse.com/Vazquez to sign up. You can also follow me on social media!

/RepEmilioVazquez @RepVazquez RepVazquez@pahouse.net

Ayuda disponible en español

Tengo la fortuna de contar con personal bilingüe listo para ayudar con cualquier problema relacionado con el gobierno estatal. Visítanos en el 2733 Norte de la 5 o llámanos al 215-425-5708.