

# THE POLICY RECAP

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS  
Jan. 30 | Harrisburg • Jan. 31 | Lancaster • Feb. 1 | Allentown



## Raising the Minimum Wage

Harrisburg | Jan. 30, 2017

State Rep. Patty Kim led the discussion on raising Pennsylvania's minimum wage. The hearing featured vibrant discussion on the positive impact raising the wage would have on Pennsylvanians living in poverty.



### Testifiers included:

- ① Sean Ramaley, deputy secretary at the state Department of Labor and Industry;
- ② John Traynor, owner of Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center and the Kitchen Bar;
- ③ Mary Quinn, president and CEO of the YWCA Harrisburg; and
- ④ Mark Price, Ph.D., a labor economist from the Keystone Research Center.

# Blended Learning

Lancaster | Jan. 31, 2017

House Democratic Policy Committee Chairman Mike Sturla hosted a roundtable discussion to explore blended learning opportunities. The average local school district is billed \$9,950 per full-time student enrolled in a cyber charter while Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 charges \$4,360 for a full-time student in its participating districts, which includes the cost of the laptop. Students can still participate in their home district's extracurricular activities while personalizing their educational experience.

## The roundtable was comprised of:

- Colette Cairns, education innovation specialist, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13;
- Ken Zimmerman, instructional media technology, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13;
- Larry Mays, director of student services, School District of Lancaster; and
- Liz Lubeskie, coordinator of online learning, Manheim Central School District.



VISIT [WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/POLICYCOMMITTEE](http://WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/POLICYCOMMITTEE) TO VIEW ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AND VIDEOS FROM THE HEARINGS

# Suicide Prevention in Teens and Young Adults

Allentown | Feb. 1, 2017

Suicide prevention in teens and young adults was the focus of state Rep. Mike Schlossberg's roundtable discussion held at Muhlenberg College. Schlossberg, who has shared his own personal struggles with anxiety and depression, requested the hearing in light of recent news that suicide is rising among all age groups, including young adults. As the 10th-leading cause of death overall and one of the top three leading causes of death among ages 10 to 34, it is a problem of major proportions and the committee was honored to take part in facilitating discussion on solutions to this epidemic.

## Participants in the Roundtable Discussion included:

- Maggie Murphy, director, National Alliance on Mental Illness Lehigh Valley;
- Chittur Ananthan, board of directors, NAMI Lehigh Valley;
- Dr. Matthew Carlson, school psychologist, Parkland School District;
- Brenda DeRenzo, director of student services, Parkland School District;
- Jacquelyn Scott, director of community and student services, Allentown School District;
- Scott Grim, coroner, Lehigh County;
- Richard Orlemann, director of mental health, Lehigh County; and
- Jim Presto, Greater Lehigh Valley chapter chairman, American Federation for Suicide Prevention.



HEARING TESTIMONY IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/POLICYCOMMITTEE](http://WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/POLICYCOMMITTEE)



## About the House Democratic Policy Committee

Rep. Mike Sturla is chair of the House Democratic Policy Committee. The Policy Committee holds public hearings and meetings across the state, and serves as the catalyst to enacting major policy initiatives put forth by members of the House Democratic Caucus.

You can find details about upcoming hearings, hearing testimony from previous hearings and Chairman Sturla's Policy Point of the Day by visiting [www.pahouse.com/PolicyCommittee](http://www.pahouse.com/PolicyCommittee).

## Members of the Policy Committee

|                            |                             |                           |
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| Rep. Ryan A. Bizzarro      | Rep. Daniel Deasy           | Rep. Michael O'Brien      |
| Rep. Kevin Boyle           | Rep. Tony DeLuca            | Rep. Joseph A. Petrarca   |
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| Rep. Tina Davis            | Rep. Maria P. Donatucci     | Rep. Adam Ravenstahl      |
| Rep. Madeleine Dean        | Rep. Michael Driscoll       | Rep. Harry A. Readshaw    |
| Rep. Pamela A. DeLissio    | Rep. Florindo J. Fabrizio   | Rep. James R. Roebuck Jr. |
| Rep. Edward C. Gainey      | Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald    | Rep. Mark Rozzi           |
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| Rep. Sid Michaels Kavulich | Rep. Robert L. Freeman      | Rep. Mike Schlossberg     |
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| Rep. Mark A. Longietti     | Rep. Neal P. Goodman        | Rep. Brian K. Sims        |
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| Rep. Steve McCarter        | Rep. Patrick J. Harkins     | Rep. Jared G. Solomon     |
| Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski   | Rep. Patty Kim              | Rep. W. Curtis Thomas     |
| Rep. Donna Bullock         | Rep. William C. Kortz       | Rep. Greg Vitali          |
| Rep. Frank Burns           | Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky | Rep. Perry Warren         |
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| Rep. Mary Jo Daley         | Rep. Daniel McNeill         |                           |
| Rep. Margo Davidson        | Rep. Dan Miller             |                           |