

State Representative ■ 179th Legislative District

JASON DAWKINS



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FALL 2017

Committees: Aging & Older Adult Services, Health, Human Services, Insurance, Judiciary, PA SAFE Caucus, PA Black Caucus

I'M HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Who says lawmakers take the summer off? My staff and I have been hard at work serving the community over the summer months. Between June and August, we logged more than 6,000 individual interactions with constituents. Whether it was by phone, in person at our district office or out at a community event, my staff and I have been able to connect with and serve constituents from all corners of the district. As we head into the fall and winter months, I look forward to meeting with more constituents and assisting everyone to the best of my ability.

¡ESTOY AQUÍ PARA AYUDARTE!

¿Quién dijo que los legisladores tienen vacaciones de verano? Mi equipo y yo seguimos trabajando duro y sirviendo a la comunidad. Entre los meses de junio y agosto interactuamos con más de 6,000 personas a través de llamadas telefónicas, visitas a mi oficina y asistencia a eventos. Ahora que entramos en la época de otoño e invierno, espero conocer más personas de nuestro distrito y continuar ayudando a todos de la mejor manera.

SUMMER CLEANUP PROGRESS

This summer, my office was honored to host a group of high school interns from the Philadelphia Youth Network's Work Ready Program. With the assistance of these motivated students, we were able to turn our focus beyond our office walls and spend time each day in the community.

My staff guided these students on how to inform our constituents about the services my office can provide them, as well as events that I had coming up.


Not only did this opportunity allow us to know the community better, it allowed us to help improve it. My office was able to lead several neighborhood cleanup events, and for what we couldn't do first-hand, the city of Philadelphia graciously helped out.



PARDON EVENT

My office partnered with Community Legal Services, Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, and X-Offenders for Community Empowerment to help provide information about pardons and expungements for certain offenses. With St. Mark's church as a gracious host, we gave presentations to a packed house. Constituents eligible for the pardon or expungement process were given further information and next-step instructions for how to proceed.





LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE PTSD TESTING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Being in law enforcement is a very demanding and stressful job. These brave men and women put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and communities safe. That demand can certainly take a mental toll on a police officer and with dangerous consequences.

That's why I drafted legislation that would assist with maintaining the mental health of law enforcement officers in Pennsylvania. House Bill 1804 would require police to undergo Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder evaluations every other year and within 30 days of an incident in which lethal force is used.

There are numerous incidents that can cause PTSD in police officers, such as hostage situations, dangerous drug busts, fatal crashes and other cases that involve serious injury or death to the people involved. Other stressful situations that could trigger PTSD include working long hours, handling people's attitudes, waiting for the next call and not knowing how the situation will play out, and even politics within the police department.

Under my legislation, the required testing would contribute to the safety of communities by ensuring officers are not serving with such dangerous symptoms of PTSD as insomnia, fatigue, loss of appetite, recurring nightmares, anxiety, depression, numbness or fear for their own safety.

PROYECTO REQUERIRÍA EXÁMENES DE TEPT PARA POLICÍAS

Valientes hombres y mujeres ponen su vida en riesgo para mantener a nuestras familias y a nuestras comunidades seguras. Ser un oficial del orden público conlleva grandes episodios de estrés. Ese reto puede causar peligrosas consecuencias en nuestros policías.

Por esa razón, he presentado legislación que nos ayudaría a mantener una buena salud mental entre los oficiales de la policía de Pensilvania. El proyecto de la Cámara 1804 requeriría que los oficiales se sometan a evaluaciones de trastornos por estrés postraumático (TEPT o PTSD, por sus siglas en inglés) cada dos años y dentro de los primeros 30 días en los que se haya registrado un incidente donde el oficial haya utilizado fuerza letal.

Existen numerosos factores que pueden causar TEPT en los oficiales de la policía, tales como situaciones de rehenes, redadas o arrestos, accidentes fatales y otros casos que impliquen lesiones graves o la muerte de alguna persona. Otras situaciones estresantes que podrían provocar TEPT incluyen trabajar largas horas, manejar las actitudes de la gente, esperar la próxima llamada para una intervención y no conocer la situación, e incluso la política dentro del propio departamento de policía.

Bajo mi legislación, las pruebas requeridas contribuirían a la seguridad de las comunidades al asegurar que los oficiales no están trabajando con síntomas peligrosos como insomnio, fatiga, pérdida de apetito, pesadillas recurrentes, ansiedad, depresión, entumecimiento o temor por su seguridad.

LEGISLATION WOULD RENAME BRIDGE AFTER FALLEN OFFICER

I recently introduced legislation to honor a Philadelphia police officer who was shot and killed in Frankford while on duty.

House Bill 1778 would designate a bridge on a portion of State Route 1005, also known as Castor Avenue, as the Officer Gary Frank Skerski Memorial Bridge.

In May 2006, Officer Skerski was responding to a reported armed robbery at a café near the intersection of Arrott and Adams avenues when he was shot and killed. He was 46.

He served with the Philadelphia Police Department for 16 years and was assigned to the 15th District. Officer Skerski

was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, the League of Sacred Heart of Jesus, and was a parishioner of Saint Adalbert Roman Catholic Church in Port Richmond.



Officer Skerski was a hero in the truest sense of the word. He devoted and gave his life to protect people. I will always remember his sacrifice and I will work to keep his legacy alive.

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

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

 /RepDawkins •  @RepDawkins •  RepDawkins@pahouse.net

HOUSE PASSES BILL TO ADDRESS 'STOP AND GO' NUISANCES IN PHILADELPHIA

I co-sponsored a bill that passed the House in June that would address "stop and go" nuisance alcohol-selling businesses in Philadelphia.

Under House Bill 1547, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board would look at the number of citations, police incidents, objections to liquor license renewals and conditional license agreements of eatery and restaurant licensees to determine if a ZIP code area should be deemed a saturated nuisance market location.

In neighborhoods designated as saturated nuisance market areas, violations would be subject to enhanced penalties, fines and suspensions, and the Liquor Control Board would be able to remove licenses from those areas. Saturated nuisance market areas also would have added community input and would be subject to additional conditions such as transaction scan devices and enhanced food preparation requirements.



HOUSE PASSES RECOVERY-HOUSE BILL THAT INCLUDES MY AMENDMENT

In June, the House of Representatives passed a bill that includes my amendment which would ensure all drug and alcohol recovery houses in Pennsylvania comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

My amendment to House Bill 119 would prohibit drug and alcohol recovery houses throughout the commonwealth from discriminating against people with a physical or mental disability, including substance abuse disorders.

To receive taxpayer funding and be deemed compliant, drug and alcohol recovery houses would have to meet the new standards set forth within the bill by the amendment.

House Bill 119 is currently in the state Senate.

GROCERY STORE AT SHOPPES AT WISSINOMING

I am excited to announce a supermarket will be coming to the new Shoppes at Wissinoming development at Harbison Avenue and Tulip Street. The supermarket is anticipated to open late this winter and will fill a valuable and much needed role in our community.



AROUND THE 179TH DISTRICT

FRANKFORD COMMUNITY DAY



The third annual Frankford Community Day event was held in August at Gambrel Recreation Center. My office collaborated with the Frankford Community Development Corporation to bring area non-profits and other local resources to the event, and provided food, fun, and games for families and children. We were able to give away a record number of book bags and books to young scholars to help them prepare for the academic year ahead.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Left: During the first day back for the School District of Philadelphia, I toured Olney Elementary School with Principal Michael Roth and Dr. William R. Hite, Jr., the district superintendent.



It was great to see the Olney Elementary Tigers in their classrooms ready to start the new year and excited to learn!

BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION IN OLNEY

August was a busy month! I spent my weekends at community events throughout the 179th Legislative District, including Olney, where I distributed backpacks and other school supplies to eager students.



HOPE4PHILLY

My office was proud to participate in the Hope4Philly event in Frankford in September. We partnered with a variety of community groups and religious organizations, as well as other elected officials, to provide resources for our neighborhoods. Hundreds of people came out to learn about services and enjoyed food and prayer, and there was plenty of fun for the kids.



OXFORD CIRCLE DRUG BUST

After police broke up a large drug ring in September in the Summerdale neighborhood, I joined local elected officials to host an emergency community meeting to address constituents' questions and concerns. All citizens are entitled to clear and transparent information about events and incidents in their communities.



OLNEY APPRECIATION DAY

The warm, summer weather provided my team and I with the opportunity to spend quality time in our communities, providing constituent services on-the-go! We held two Olney Appreciation Days outside the Free Library of Philadelphia – Olney Branch. We are holding satellite office hours Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Olney library.



OXFORD CIRCLE TOWN HALL MEETING

In August, I hosted a town hall event at Houseman Recreation Center in the Oxford Circle neighborhood. It was a pleasure to meet with constituents from across the community and to share updates on policies and news from Harrisburg.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

5th Annual Olney Youth Arts Festival
Saturday, Oct. 7th

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
500 Block of West Chew Ave.

Harvest Resource Festival and Children's Fright Night
Tuesday, Oct. 31st

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Wissinoming Park
5773-5945 Frankford Ave.

Thankful for the Community Winter Resource Distribution
Saturday, Nov. 18th

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Wynne Senior Residences
2001 N. 54th St.

FUNDS BROUGHT INTO DISTRICT

Since taking office, I have worked tirelessly to advocate for the 179th District, both through my policies and through fostering community revitalization and development efforts. I am proud to say more than \$80 million has been brought to our community, supporting new commercial developments such as the Shoppes at Wissinoming Shop-Rite, and critical transportation projects, such as the SEPTA construction at Arrott Transportation Center and Frankford Transportation Center. I know the importance of every dollar brought into the district, and that is why I will continue to join in the fight for a fair and equitable budget.



OLNEY PARKING DAY

The weather couldn't have been better for North 5th Street Revitalization Project's Park(ing) Day! It was great to spend some time chatting with constituents on the busy North 5th Street commercial corridor in Olney.



MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Issues with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Any state government-related matters!

SALVATION ARMY REVITALIZATION

I was fortunate to get a sneak-peek at the newly revitalized Frankford Avenue Salvation Army building. While touring the property, I was reminded of my youth when I spent countless afternoons and weekends socializing and playing basketball at that very same

recreation center. I am proud to work on developing and restoring recreation spaces throughout the district to provide greater opportunities for our youngest community members.



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INSIDE:

- Legislation to honor fallen police officer
- Proposed PTSD testing for police officers

¡INFORMACIÓN
TAMBIÉN
EN ESPAÑOL!

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LOCAL STUDENT RECEIVES PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS SCHOLARSHIP

In June, the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus recognized nine high school seniors and current undergraduate students of color as recipients of the PLBC scholarship program.

Among the recipients was Manthita Diawara, a young lady from my district who is now attending LaSalle University.

The scholarship is intended to assist students with their college financial obligation and to foster a relationship between students and PLBC members. Recipients received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend an accredited two- or four-year college or university in Pennsylvania. Exceptions apply for students attending any historically black college or university. Recipients were selected based on their academic success, demonstrated leadership abilities, extracurricular and community participation, and financial need.

