



State Representative

WINTER 2018

Stephen Kinsey



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
201st Legislative District

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Ending the opioid epidemic in Pa.

In January, Governor Tom Wolf declared a state of emergency on the heroin and opioid epidemic that has wreaked havoc across Pennsylvania. In 2016, 4,642 Pennsylvanians died from drug overdoses, with more than eight out of 10 of these drug overdoses involving opioids.

In Philadelphia, it has been reported that 907 people died from drug overdoses in 2016, with more than 80 percent of them being opioid-related deaths. This means that 18.5 percent of all opioid-related deaths in Pennsylvania took place right here in the City of Philadelphia.

I have been speaking out and working with my colleagues from across the aisle to find solutions to this addiction that consumes too many of our family, friends and neighbors. In 2015, I was one of the prime sponsors of a bipartisan package of bills aimed at tackling this epidemic. A year later, the House of Representatives adopted my resolution to establish a task force dedicated to examining access to addiction treatment through health care and other resources.

Since then, I have been working tirelessly with Governor Wolf and my colleagues in the legislature to expand resources aimed at treatment and rehabilitation for those who fall victim to addiction. This includes the Pathways to Housing PA in Logan becoming a Center of Excellence location to offer treatment services and securing a \$1 million state grant to assist with the development of WES Corporation, a state-of-the-art medical facility that will provide resources to residents dealing with addiction.

This year, I vow to reaffirm my commitment to ending this epidemic once and for all. In the meantime, if you or someone you know is suffering from a prescription drug or opioid addiction, please call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) to receive information on available treatment resources. The hotline is completely confidential, staffed by trained professionals who can assist you in both English and Spanish, and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



In 2016, I joined my colleagues and Governor Tom Wolf to outline our efforts to tackle the opioid epidemic.

Keeping our neighborhoods and our kids safe

Standing up against bullying

In 2017, bullying became a major headline here in Pennsylvania and across the nation. After Mark Smith, a man with intellectual disabilities, was attacked by teenagers in broad daylight on a main business strip in northwest Philadelphia, I knew that it was time to take action.

I joined Mark and his caregiver, Pamela Pendleton, along with several elected officials, law enforcement officers and community organizations to host a news conference bringing awareness to the consequences that bullying has on young people and our most vulnerable residents. I also announced my resolution (H.R. 450) that recognized October 2017 as Bullying Prevention Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

In addition, I have also introduced legislation (H.B. 2009) that would require bullying education to be taught in Pennsylvania schools across all grade levels. We know that children are not born to hate or bully others. These

are actions that are taught and learned. My hope is that this legislation will help us change that culture.



Stop-and-go legislation update

Last March, state Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald and I hosted the first public meeting on the issues associated with stop-and-go establishments that operate outside of the law. To better address this public health issue, we brought in representatives from the Northwest Police Division, the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. After hearing your concerns, we brought this to the attention of our colleagues in the House and Governor Tom Wolf.

In November, Governor Wolf signed a bill (H.B. 674, now Act 44 of 2017) that finally cracked down on these establishments. This new law allows the Liquor Control Board to immediately shut down a stop-and-go if it does not meet the Liquor Code's seating, square footage, food or health requirements.



Speaking with Rep. Fitzgerald and Capt. Ransom of the 35th Police District at my public hearing on how best to address the crime and loitering that take place outside of stop-and-gos.

We need peace on our streets

Following the July shooting of an innocent young woman in the Logan area, I hosted my Stop the Violence and Peace March to rally our community together. It's time we find solutions to the violence that has been occurring throughout Philadelphia.

In 2017, for the first time since 2012, Philadelphia ended the year with more than 300 homicides – with many of them caused by gun violence. I believe that everyone has the right to own a firearm, but I am also a strong supporter of commonsense solutions to gun violence, which include universal background checks, requiring lost and stolen guns to be reported, as well as keeping guns out of the hands of people subject to protection orders from abuse.

I have also introduced legislation that would prohibit a person from participating in or attending a public demonstration if they are in possession of a firearm or other dangerous articles. After the events that took place in Charlottesville, Va., and Las Vegas, we must do all that we can to ensure that our communities are safe and that our children live in a peaceful environment.



Rallying for peace on our streets at my August Stop the Violence and Peace March in northwest Philadelphia.

AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH

Feeding 1,000 for Thanksgiving



I was excited to host the Feeding 1,000 for Thanksgiving event in November. I was able to provide residents in our district with a free meal right before the holidays.



In August, I hosted Dennis M. Davin, secretary of the state Department of Community and Economic Development, for a tour of the historic houses, destinations, and museums in northwest Philadelphia.



In June, I stood with unions and Governor Wolf as we rallied to protect Pennsylvania families from anti-union "right to work" legislation and other unjust attacks on workers' rights.

Annual Senior Health Fair



I was excited to host my annual Senior Health Fair and provide residents with information on state-related programs and how to live a healthier lifestyle.

It was a pleasure to host the Tuskegee Airmen at our state Capitol and honor them for their heroism.



Real ID update

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has granted Pennsylvania an extension, through Oct. 10, 2018, on Real ID enforcement. This means Pennsylvania residents will be able to enter federal facilities and board commercial aircraft using current Pennsylvania driver's licenses and non-driver's ID cards, neither of which are Real ID-compliant yet, through that date.

PennDOT anticipates that Real ID-compliant licenses will be available in Pennsylvania in the spring of 2019. Until then, PennDOT will continue to request extensions from DHS until Real ID-compliant licenses and ID cards are available for purchase.

No Pennsylvania resident is required to get a Real ID-compliant driver's license or ID card — you don't need a Real ID-compliant license to drive, for instance. But if you choose to get one, you will be able to use it to board a plane and enter federal buildings when DHS ultimately enforces the Real ID Act requirements.

PennDOT will implement a one-time \$30 fee in addition to the current standard driver's license/photo ID fee for a Real ID Act-compliant license or ID card. Renewing a Real ID Act-compliant ID, however, won't cost anything extra.

NOTE: If your driver's license expires before Real ID-compliant licenses are available in Pennsylvania, you will have to pay to renew your license and, if you choose to, pay again to get a Real ID-compliant license when it's available.

To learn more about the Real ID Act and its requirements, visit www.dmv.pa.gov or simply call my office at (215) 849-6592. My staff and I are ready to answer questions about this or any other state government-related matter.

#SRCyaLater

Our children are entitled to the best education possible. That's why I consistently fight for the School District of Philadelphia to receive the funding it deserves. Last year I voted to increase that funding by more than \$34 million. I have also fought to return our schools back to local control.

In November, at the urging of Governor Tom Wolf, Mayor John Kenney, and the Philadelphia County Delegation in the state House, the School Reform Commission voted to dissolve itself. This means that the Philadelphia school district will no longer be under state control and will be able to make its own crucial funding decisions. This also means that we can hold one person accountable for the state of our schools: our mayor.

In the past, I have supported legislation (H.B. 654) that would eliminate the SRC and implement an elected board to oversee the operation of Philadelphia schools. I will continue to advocate on behalf of the best interests of our children.

Major investments in the 201st District

Philadelphia Schools

- Supported an additional \$30,223,014 in basic education to bring the total amount to \$1,067,174,076.
- Supported an additional \$4,004,692 in special education to bring the total to \$142,461,691.

Logan Triangle

- Since 2016, I have assisted Logan Triangle in securing \$3 million in funding through the Commonwealth Financing Authority. This funding will help transform the blighted neighborhood east of North Broad Street into a vibrant commercial and community center. The project is expected to include retail and professional office space, as well as a youth sports and education facility.

WES Corporation

- Secured a \$1 million grant from the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to develop a state-of-the-art medical facility/business service hub. This new building will house mental health programs that include outpatient behavioral health, targeted case management and substance abuse programs serving youth, as well as a medical clinic, and day care center.

Logan Pointe

- Secured a \$2 million state grant to the Logan Pointe Roadway Improvements Project to redevelop the land and improve access in the area of Ninth Street and Wyoming Avenue.

Eye Institute of Salus University

- Secured a \$1 million state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant to develop a patient-centered medical home within the facility.

Rep. Kinsey's 2017-18 Legislation

H.B. 486: Would require all schools in Pennsylvania to close for Martin Luther King Jr. Day in recognition of the life of Dr. King and his contributions to American life.

H.B. 868: Would require any restaurant, hotel, or club liquor licensee in Philadelphia County to submit an application with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board if the licensee wishes to make substantial changes to the licensed premises or business model.

H.B. 872: Would require food service employees of retail food establishments to obtain first aid training in CPR and the Heimlich maneuver.

H.B. 874: Would return local control of the Philadelphia Parking Authority back to the City of Philadelphia.

H.B. 875: Would create the Office for People with Disabilities Act as a permanent entity within the Office of the Governor.

H.B. 1271: Would amend Pennsylvania's Public School Code by adding dyslexia to what constitutes a disability and require specially designed instruction for students with dyslexia.

H.B. 1498: Would require all school districts to adopt policies and procedures for parental notification to parents of students involved in incidents that occur on school property. Currently, school entities are only required to report incidents to the Office of Safe Schools.

H.B. 1713: Would authorize the Pennsylvania Auditor General to conduct audits of local authorities to ensure the best use of their funds and to serve as a deterrent to potential misuse of funds.

H.B. 1709: Would require people to complete a firearm safety training and receive a firearm safety certificate certified by the Pennsylvania State Police to buy a firearm.

H.B. 1735: Would authorize the state Secretary of Revenue to withhold lottery prizes won by convicted sex offenders.

H.B. 1740: Would require local law enforcement departments to develop official policies surrounding the use of body cameras and make these policies available to the public via the Internet.

H.B. 1985: Would make it illegal for a person participating in or attending a public demonstration to possess a firearm or other dangerous articles.

H.B. 2009: Would require bullying education to be taught in Pennsylvania schools across all grade levels.

Pa. House Democrats have a plan to put you first

I'm excited to join my colleagues in fighting for good jobs, quality schools and a fairer tax system. House Democrats have created the Plan for Pennsylvania to put you – the people – first. The Plan for PA is a comprehensive plan that puts the needs of hardworking Pennsylvanians over the interests of the wealthy few. Our plan has four crucial components:

Putting Pennsylvanians first: Putting people first means protecting your health and quality of life, not restricting it. House Democrats want you to have access to safe affordable housing, earn a living wage, and retire with dignity. This is why we support legislation that would raise the minimum wage, ensure equal work for equal pay, provide child-care tax deductions to assist you with the cost of childcare, as well as give working Pennsylvanians a safe and easy way to save for retirement.

Investing in good-paying jobs: When it comes to expanding Pennsylvania's economy, I am a strong believer in investing in the worker and not the well-connected and corporate special interests. We have to instead invest in small businesses so that they can create more jobs, provide entrepreneurs and startups with the capital they need to successfully launch, and keep our young people in Pennsylvania by providing them with family-sustaining jobs.

Fighting for quality schools: Every child deserves a quality education, no matter what his or her ZIP code is. To better prepare our students for college, trade school and the workforce, we must invest in them early by providing access with skills needed for in-demand jobs and access to pre-kindergarten programs to at-risk and middle-income families. We must also reduce the burden that student debt has placed on our students and assist them in purchasing their first home.

Working towards a fairer tax system: Hardworking families should not be forced to pay more in taxes than multi-million-dollar companies. It's time to level the playing field and ease the burden on Pennsylvania families. This includes passing a fair severance tax as every other major natural-gas state already has done, basing people's taxes on what they can afford, and reducing income inequality by treating all types of income equally for tax purposes.

The Plan for PA would put people first by fixing a system rigged for the powerful and the wealthy. It's time to hold those accountable and lift up our most vulnerable residents.

For more information and to stay up to date on the Plan for PA, please visit planforpa.pahouse.com.



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Reclaiming control of the PPA

Following the 2001 state takeover of the Philadelphia Parking Authority, there have been serious concerns regarding the leadership and operation of the PPA. These concerns were confirmed following an audit conducted by our state Auditor General. This report found that the PPA's former executive director sexually harassed employees, manipulated leave records, ignored outdated employment policies, and caused the School District of Philadelphia to lose out on more than \$77 million in revenue.

Last March, I introduced legislation (H.B. 874) that would return control of the PPA to the City of Philadelphia as soon as June 30, 2018. My bill currently sits in the House Urban Affairs Committee and I look forward to working with my colleagues to see that it is sent to Governor Wolf's desk and signed into law.

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
- Problems 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
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies

Stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the district by signing up for my email updates. Go to www.pahouse.com/Kinsey to sign up.