

THE POLICY RECAP

A Summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings..... March 20-23, 2018

House Democrats have a Plan4PA, a new way forward that puts people first with good jobs, quality schools and fair taxes. The House Democratic Policy Committee held a series of hearings to further discuss the Plan4PA's focus on fair taxes, putting people first and good jobs.

Additional information about the Plan4PA is available at planforpa.pahouse.com.



Rep. Pat Harkins

Workplace Safety — Jake's Law Erie | March 20

Rep. Pat Harkins hosted a roundtable discussion at Teamsters Local #397 on his House Bill 1082 that would improve workplace safety in Pennsylvania by extending OSHA regulations to public sector employees. The bill was introduced after the untimely passing of Jake Schwab due to an accident while performing his duties as a mechanic for the Erie Mass Transit Authority.

Panel participants included:

- Tiffany Schwab, Jake Schwab's widow;
- Chad Trainer, legislative director, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO;
- Dave Henderson, director, AFSCME District Council 85;
- John Renwick, president, Amalgamated Transit Union-Local 568;
- Diane Stein, labor advocate; and
- Jack Lee Jr., treasurer/director of land development/assistant roadmaster, Summit Township Board of Supervisors.



Rep. Ryan Bizzarro

Community Planning

Erie | March 21

Rep. Ryan Bizzarro hosted a roundtable discussion at Tom Ridge Environmental Center on community planning, including economic development and revitalization. Participants showcased how collaborative governmental efforts to improve the 8th and 12th Street Corridors would result in great jobs, dramatically reduce blight and make Erie a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

Participants included:

- Amy Murdock, planning director, Erie County;
- Kathy Wyrosdick, planning director, City of Erie;
- Matt Waldinger, director of planning and development, Millcreek Township;
- Mark Nicholson, P.E., civil engineer manager, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation;
- Joe Schember, mayor, City of Erie;
- Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive; and
- John Morgan, supervisor, Millcreek Township.



Rep. Pat Harkins

Improving Community Health

Erie | March 22

Rep. Pat Harkins hosted a roundtable discussion at UPMC's Health Plan Building on improving community health. Policy Committee members learned about telemedicine and behavioral patterns that contribute to positive health outcomes. Additional discussion was held on Blue Zone Projects, which visited Erie in November 2017, and how the community can work together to transform into a region with improved longevity by incorporating concepts like the Life Radius (people, places and policy).

Panelists included:

- Melissa Lyon, director, Erie County Department of Health;
- Bill McCarthy, recently retired CEO of a large behavioral health organization; and
- Dr. Christine Peoples, clinical assistant professor of medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



Additional information about Blue Zones is available at www.bluezones.com

Rep. Dan Miller

5th Annual Disability Summit

Pittsburgh | March 23

Rep. Dan Miller closed out his 5th Annual Disability Summit at the Beth El Congregation with a legislative panel to discuss state policies and initiatives that need to move in the General Assembly in order to better serve those living with disabilities. The legislators heard testimony about House Bill 2069 (support service provider program for deafblind) and policies surrounding kids with autism and crime.

Panelists included:

- U.S. Congressman-elect Conor Lamb;
- State Sens. Jay Costa, D-Allegheny; Camera Bartolotta, R-Washington/Greene/Beaver, and Wayne Fontana, D-Allegheny; and
- State Reps. Ryan Bizzarro, D-Erie; Jason Ortitay, R-Washington/Allegheny; and Dom Costa, Paul Costa, Austin Davis, Dan Frankel, Ed Gainey, Anita Kulik and Joe Markosek, all D-Allegheny.



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.