

# THE POLICY RECAP

A Summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings..... March 27 – 29, 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](http://planforpa.pahouse.com).

## Rep. Pam Snyder

### School Safety

#### Brownsville | March 27

Rep. Pam Snyder hosted a public roundtable discussion at the Brownsville Elementary School on how the community, state and local school officials can work together to improve school safety. Snyder also gave a briefing on her H.B. 381, which would give the state Department of Human Services the authority to issue guidelines and adopt regulations to clarify a minor's right to mental health treatment.

#### Discussion panelists included:

- Carol Kuntz, director of Safe Schools Office, state Department of Education;
- Dr. Keith Harbauer, superintendent, Brownsville Area School District;
- Michael Timko, director of security, Brownsville Area School District;
- John Menhart, superintendent, Carmichaels Area School District; and
- Brian Tanner, mayor, Waynesburg Borough.



# Rep. Dom Costa

## House Bill 1197

### Pittsburgh| March 28

Rep. Dom Costa hosted a hearing at the Ross Township Municipal Building on his H.B. 1197, which would add animal fighting to the list of offenses enforceable under Title 18. The discussion focused on why animal fighting should be categorized under Title 18 and the impact that changing the law would have on animals, violators and the community.

#### Hearing participants included:

- Mary Kennedy Withrow, executive director of Pittsburgh Aviation Animal Rescue Team and member of the state Department of Agriculture Office of Dog Law Advisory Board;
- K. Michelle Welch, senior assistant attorney general and director of the Animal Law Unit, Virginia Attorney General's Office; and
- Erin Cassidy, police officer with Pennsylvania Humane Society and member of All But Furgotten Humane Animal Rescue Board of Directors.



Visit [www.pahouse.com/policycommittee](http://www.pahouse.com/policycommittee) for hearing testimony, photos, videos and events.





## Rep. Jake Wheatley Emerging Business Industries Pittsburgh | March 29

Rep. Jake Wheatley hosted a roundtable discussion at the Pittsburgh Technology Center on how Pennsylvania can best support emerging business industries. The discussion focused on how the state can build a favorable tax environment that supports the growth and future workforce of emerging business industries.



### Roundtable panelists included:

- Audrey Russo, president and CEO, Pittsburgh Technology Council;
- Jennifer Beer, senior director – government affairs, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce; and
- Jennifer Wilhelm, assistant director of Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.





## 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

Rep. Mike Sturla <i>Chairman</i>	Rep. Donna Bullock	Rep. Maureen E. Madden
Rep. Ryan A. Bizzarro <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rep. Thomas R. Caltagirone	Rep. Joseph F. Markosek
Rep. Kevin Boyle <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rep. Paul Costa	Rep. Dan Miller
Rep. Frank Burns <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rep. Mary Jo Daley	Rep. Ed Neilson
Rep. Dom Costa <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rep. Jason Dawkins	Rep. Michael O'Brien
Rep. Margo Davidson <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rep. Madeleine Dean	Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski
Rep. Tina Davis <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rep. Daniel Deasy	Rep. Joseph A. Petrarca
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Rep. Stephen Kinsey <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rep. Maria P. Donatucci	Rep. James R. Roebuck Jr.
Rep. Robert Matzie <i>Vice Chair</i>	Rep. Michael Driscoll	Rep. Mark Rozzi
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	Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald	Rep. Mike Schlossberg
	Rep. Dan B. Frankel	Rep. Peter G. Schweyer
	Rep. Robert L. Freeman	Rep. Brian K. Sims
	Rep. Edward C. Gainey	Rep. Pam Snyder
	Rep. Neal P. Goodman	Rep. Jared G. Solomon
	Rep. Michael K. Hanna Sr.	Rep. W. Curtis Thomas
	Rep. Patrick J. Harkins	Rep. Greg Vitali
	Rep. Patty Kim	Rep. Perry Warren
	Rep. William C. Kortz	Rep. Jake Wheatley
	Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky	Rep. Rosita C. Youngblood
	Rep. Mark A. Longietti	