

THE POLICY RECAP

A summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings..... April 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

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.com.



Rep. Jason Dawkins Gun Violence and Domestic Abuse Philadelphia | April 24

State Rep. Jason Dawkins hosted a public hearing on gun violence and domestic abuse issues at the Northeast Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

The committee discussed how to reduce gun violence, protect victims of abuse and Dawkins' House Bill 2097, which would create a statewide notification system to alert victims of domestic violence, the general public, and law enforcement agencies when a known domestic violence abuser attempts to purchase or transfer a gun at a licensed firearms dealer.



Testifiers included: Julie Brancroft, director of public affairs, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Patty McGlone, social worker and community education coordinator, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia; and Susan Pearlstein, supervising attorney of Family Law Unit, Philadelphia Legal Assistance.

Rep. Morgan Cephas

House Bill 2210

Philadelphia | April 25

State Rep. Morgan Cephas hosted a public hearing at the Overbrook Library on her House Bill 2210 that would expunge student disciplinary records for nonviolent offenses.

Testifiers included: Jeff Hullrung, school board president, Unionsville-Chadds Ford School District; James Plunkett, executive director of admissions, La Salle University; Reynelle Brown Staley, policy attorney, Education Law Center; Tara Murtha, associate director of strategic communications, Women's Law Project; Amy Warner, deputy director-juvenile probation, First Judicial District; Gregg Volz, director of Youth Court Support Center, EducationWorks; and Elzat Erken, youth commissioner, Philadelphia Youth Commission.





Rep. Emilio Vazquez Alcohol Poisoning Prevention and Education Philadelphia | April 26

State Rep. Emilio Vazquez hosted a public hearing at Temple University to learn more about prevention and education efforts to reduce alcohol poisoning. Vazquez and policy committee members talked with stakeholders about how they can come together to introduce legislation that would improve public health and safety while expanding alcohol safety amnesty programs.

The committee heard testimony from: Mary Ciammetti, founder, the CTC Wellness Foundation dba “Don’t Stall, Just Call”; Dr. Robert McNamara, professor and chair of emergency medicine, Temple University’s Lewis Katz School of Medicine; Stephanie Ives, dean of students, Temple University; and Eileen Behr, vice president of public safety/chief of police, Drexel University.





Rep. Brian Sims

House Bill 1243

Philadelphia | April 27

State Rep. Brian Sims hosted a public hearing at the Kimmel Center on his House Bill 1243 which calls for equal pay regardless of gender or other factors.

Sims requested the hearing to spark discussion on strengthening the Equal Pay Law to provide additional protections for all employees and to ensure wages are based on education, training and experience. The measure is part of House Democrats' Plan4PA focusing on putting People First with good jobs and family sustaining wages.

The committee heard testimony from: Rebecca Rhynhart, Philadelphia City Controller; Melissa Robbins, Delegate, Pennsylvania NOW; Andrea Mead, Chief of Staff to the First Lady, Office of Governor Tom Wolf; Susan Carty, President, League of Women Voters Pennsylvania; Terry Fromson, Managing Attorney, Women's Law Project; Heather Arnet, CEO, Women & Girls Foundation; and Barbara Price, Public Policy Co-Chair, American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Pennsylvania Susan Carty, President, League of Women Voters Pennsylvania.



Chairman Mike Sturla

Food Banks

Harrisburg | April 30

Policy Committee Chairman Mike Sturla and Democratic Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Chairman Eddie Day Pashinski hosted a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing in the House Democratic Caucus Room to take an in-depth look at food banks in Pennsylvania. They were joined by legislators from across the state and stakeholders to discuss the importance of food banks, food security and access to healthy and fresh foods across the state.

The committee heard testimony from (L-R) Erin Smith Wachter, director of advocacy and public policy, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank; Joe Arthur, executive director, Central Pennsylvania Food Bank; Andy Figart, sales and marketing manager, Hess Brother's Fruit Co.; Deborah Bentzel, associate director for community food systems, The Food Trust; Eric Saunders, executive director, New Hope Ministries; and Maria Welch, senior wellness specialist, Geisinger Fresh Food Pharmacy and Geisinger Health Plan.





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.

Members of the Policy Committee

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