



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Rosita C. Youngblood

WINTER 2018

198TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WEBSITE: www.pahouse.com/Youngblood • EMAIL: RepYoungblood@pahouse.net

DISTRICT OFFICE: 310 W. Chelton Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19144 • (215) 849-6426 • Fax: (215) 849-5476

CAPITOL OFFICE: 331 Main Capitol Bldg. • P.O. Box 202198 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2198
(717) 787-7727 • Fax: (717) 772-1313

www.pahouse.com/youngblood • /RepYoungblood • @RepYoungblood

Fighting to end ‘stop-and-gos’



I am a huge advocate for cracking down on stop-and-gos in Philadelphia and I am grateful that our commonwealth finally has a law in place to handle these nuisance establishments.

I have been advocating since 1994 to bring an end to so-called “stop-and-go” nuisance establishments that are plaguing my district and our great city. The day finally arrived when Gov. Tom Wolf signed the bill into law that will crack down on these businesses.

I had an integral role in helping to draft H.B. 674, now Act 44 of 2017. This law will give the Liquor Control Board the power to immediately shut down a stop-and-go if it does not meet the Liquor Code’s seating, square footage, food or health requirements. It also allows local government entities, such as Philadelphia License and Inspections, to make recommendations to the Liquor Control Board on which establishments are believed to be violating these requirements. This bill enforces a common set of business standards and lets the community identify which establishments are bad.

Stop-and-gos have been a danger for far too long, specifically putting our children at risk. These businesses will finally be held accountable for their actions. This is a huge victory in the ongoing fight to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Philadelphia closer to becoming home for Amazon’s HQ2

I am thrilled that Amazon selected Philadelphia as one of the top 20 cities in North America to house its second headquarters. Pittsburgh is the other in-state location vying to become the future home.

I joined some of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in co-sponsoring H.R. 571, which encourages Amazon to choose a location in the commonwealth to set up shop.

The HQ2 campus is estimated to be up to 8 million square feet and would be an economic boon for the entire commonwealth. It would create construction jobs and employ 50,000 full-time workers once it’s in operation.

Hopefully Amazon will agree Pennsylvania is a good fit for the HQ2 campus, despite yet another credit downgrade given to the commonwealth last year because of Republican-driven budget delays and issues.

Plan For PA puts people first

I have always been an advocate for putting people first and I am proud to support the House Democratic Caucus' Plan for PA. This comprehensive strategy truly puts people first, supports good jobs, fights for quality schools and promotes a fairer tax structure.



The House Democratic Plan for PA focuses on four components:

1. A People First Plan for PA that would protect the safety, health, financial security, dignity and opportunity that every Pennsylvanian deserves, not just those at the top.
2. A Jobs Plan for PA that would attract good jobs that support families, move the economy forward, expand opportunities for working people, and protect the financial security of the middle class.
3. A Quality Schools Plan for PA that would give every child access to a safe school and a quality education, and allow adults to gain the skills and training they need to do the jobs businesses are looking to fill.
4. A Fair Taxes Plan for PA that would ease the tax burden on working people and homeowners and prevent corporations and the wealthy from exploiting the middle class.

Unfair taxes in Pennsylvania mean that working families pay more while big businesses can pay less. We must pass a severance tax that finally makes drilling companies pay their fair share. But because these big businesses write lots of checks to bankroll political campaigns, most legislators in the Republican majorities at the Capitol are not willing to hold them accountable. It's time for that to change.

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

Successful Back-to-School Event



It was a joy to host my back-to-school event to provide backpacks to children and beneficial information to families.

The beginning of the new school year is a time of promise and all kids deserve a good start when they head back to school. Every year, I enjoy helping students and seeing the smiles on their faces when they get their new school gear.

I hosted my traditional Back-to-School event to provide school supplies and make sure families and kids have the proper resources to thrive during the school year. I discussed ideas and gathered feedback from parents on how to improve our schools performance and safety. My staff was also there providing information on state-related programs.

Honoring the legacy of a great leader

Frank Oliver may have been small in stature, but his impact was as tall as a giant. His commitment to his constituents was larger than life, and at times, seemed as if it could not be contained within him.

He dedicated his life to serving and protecting his community and our commonwealth, representing the 195th Legislative District honorably from 1973 to 2010. He retired as the most senior African-American elected official in the commonwealth and the longest-serving member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly after 37 years of service. He was a staple in the community, well-known and much admired by his colleagues and constituents.

Frank played an active role in promoting the building of new supermarkets in Philadelphia and other communities throughout the commonwealth. In 2003, he introduced a resolution that called for the Health and Human Services Committee to study the problem of the lack of supermarkets in urban and under-served communities in Pennsylvania. After many hearings held across the commonwealth, and as a result of Frank's efforts, then-Gov. Ed Rendell designated \$150 million for the development of supermarkets throughout the state.

During his tenure in the state legislature, Frank introduced legislation that enhanced First Amendment freedoms and benefits for women and minority civil service employees.

His inspirational fight to protect our most vulnerable populations ended in much needed laws being passed. A public servant his entire life, Frank Oliver served his community and this commonwealth faithfully, with integrity – and I am proud to have worked with him on behalf of the people of Philadelphia.

Raising awareness for diaper need in Pa.



Such a wonderful response from the public, state workers and lawmakers during the diaper drive at the state Capitol.

Thank you to this wonderful group of ladies for their support during my diaper drive. From left: Rep. Joanna McClinton, Pat Kennedy from the Philadelphia Diaper Bank, Amanda Barnes from the Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, Alison Weir from the National Diaper Bank Network, and Rep. Carol Hill-Evans.

You may not be aware of the need for diapers not only here in Philadelphia, but across the country. It is estimated that 1 in 3 families in the United States has difficulty in providing enough diapers to keep a baby or toddler consistently clean, dry and healthy.

Because of this need, I once again partnered with regional and national diaper banks in the fall for a diaper drive at the state Capitol. In addition, I introduced a resolution, which the state House of Representatives adopted, that designated the week of Sept. 25 through Oct. 1 as "Diaper Need Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

The basic, yet essential, necessity of having a reliable stream of clean diapers for babies, and incontinence products for adults, is often overlooked by many lawmakers and government officials. Access to a reliable supply of clean diapers is a necessity for the health and well-being of Pennsylvania's children and incontinent adults, but, unfortunately, across our commonwealth and across this



country, there is a growing epidemic as many working families and seniors on fixed incomes are simply unable to afford disposable diapers and undergarments. The long-term implications could be life-changing.

I am truly thankful to everyone who made contributions during the diaper drive.

Helping to grow interest in reading

It's crucial for our young people to be able to read and have access to books. To ensure both of these things happen, I partnered with some barbershops in my district for my "Books to Barbers" campaign. This effort provides donated books to barbershops to encourage boys and girls to develop a love for reading.

I hope to eventually bring "Books to Barbers" to all barbershops and salons in my district. I also plan to work with lawmakers from across Philadelphia to expand the campaign to their districts.



It was a delight to join local barbershops in distributing books to some boys as part of my "Books to Barbers" campaign.



State Representative

Rosita C. Youngblood

310 W. Cheltenham Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144

lpo.kaf.0318

Celebrating the Eagles' contributions both on and off the field

The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus welcomed players from the Philadelphia Eagles to the state Capitol to discuss criminal justice reform efforts in the commonwealth.



Our city truly has something to celebrate after the Eagles beat the Patriots in the Super Bowl. We are all proud of the team's hard work and dedication during its big game.

I applaud the players' contributions not only on the field, but off the field, as well. In October, Eagles players Malcolm Jenkins, Torrey Smith and Chris Long visited the state Capitol to discuss criminal justice reform efforts taking place in Pennsylvania. Beyond being stellar athletes, they were a vital

part of the conversation around this reform.

Too many people, especially in Philadelphia, have difficulty finding gainful employment, adequate housing or a path to pursue a post-secondary education because of mistakes in their past. Instead of punishing people for life, we should focus on finding ways to reduce recidivism and get people the resources needed to succeed after a conviction.

Pa. must strengthen sibling visitation rights

The bond between siblings is unique and powerful, and provides a structure beyond all other relationships critical to a child's development. Recognizing the importance of those relationships, I have reintroduced legislation to strengthen sibling visitation rights.

My legislation (H.B. 1768) would simply provide standing in court to siblings who wish to petition for visitation rights, similar to grandparents' rights already provided under state law. The decision to grant sibling visitation rights would still rest in the hands of a judge.

The state already acknowledges the importance of sibling relationships with regard to adoption and foster care by doing everything possible to keep siblings together in those difficult circumstances. The same protection should be extended to all children separated from their siblings, especially in situations where the family structure has significantly changed. Once sibling relationships are established, the bond is an essential

part of a child's life and we need to make sure that they have an opportunity to keep that relationship.

I have been working on this legislation since 2013. And with the help of many stakeholders, we've made some necessary adjustments to alleviate some of the concerns expressed during the legislative process in recent years. I hope these changes will help move the legislation through in 2018. The bill already has close to 20 co-sponsors, including Democratic and Republican members.

We need to do what is in the best interest of our children. It is time for Pennsylvania to once again put people first. We need to focus on policies that help families succeed, and that means looking at issues that will have a direct positive impact on our children. This is one area that has strong bipartisan support, and I am hopeful it will pass the legislature this session.