

# THE POLICY RECAP

A summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings..... July 2018

## Rep. Ed Gainey

### Law Enforcement Training and Diversity Education Wilkinsburg | July 17

State Rep. Ed Gainey hosted a joint House and Senate Democratic Policy Committees' public hearing on law enforcement training and diversity education at the Hosanna House in Wilkinsburg.

The hearing was aimed at finding ways to boost training opportunities and enhance community-police relations. Legislative proposals were discussed regarding law enforcement hiring practices, use of deadly force, public oversight and resource sharing.

#### Testifiers included:

- Chief Scott Schubert, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police
- Sgt. William Slaton, commander, Pennsylvania State Police
- Coleman McDonough, Allegheny County Police Superintendent
- Ophelia Coleman, Wilkinsburg Chief of Police
- Dr. Cyril Wecht, forensic pathologist
- Chad Dion Lassiter, executive director, PA Human Relations
- Elizabeth Randol, legislative director, ACLU of PA Commission
- La'Tasha Mayes, executive director, New Voices for Reproductive Justice
- Elizabeth Pittinger, executive director, Pittsburgh Citizen Police Review Board





## House Bill 2444 – PA Promise Act Pittsburgh | July 18

House Bill 2444, known as the PA Promise Act, was the focus of this public hearing at the University of Pittsburgh.

The committee discussed H.B. 2444's potential impact on students and their families by removing substantial financial burdens associated with higher education, and making college more affordable for those attending one of the commonwealth's community colleges, state universities and state-related institutions.

The committee heard testimony from Dr. Kenneth Mash, president of the Association of Pennsylvania State College & University Facilities; and Dr. Diana Polson, policy analyst for the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center.



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](http://PlanforPA.com).**





## Rep. Mike Hanna

### Retirement Security

Bellefonte | July 23

State Rep. Mike Hanna hosted a public hearing on retirement security at the Bald Eagle Area High School.

Hanna's legislation (H.B. 465) was discussed as a way to provide private sector employees without access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan the opportunity to save for retirement through automatic payroll deduction.

The committee heard testimony from Keith Welks, deputy treasurer, Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office; Wendy Young Carter, vice president and D.C. practice director, public sector, The Segal Group; and Ray Landis, government relations manager, AARP Pennsylvania.





## Rep. Jeanne McNeill

### Human Services for the Disabled Community Bethlehem | July 24

State Rep. Jeanne McNeill hosted a public hearing on human services for the disabled community at the Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg.

McNeill requested the hearing to discuss the importance of state and local services in helping those with physical and intellectual disabilities.

#### The committee heard testimony from:

- Sheila Theodorou, director of Bureau of Supports for People with Intellectual Disabilities, PA Department of Human Services
- Ed Norris, Department of Psychiatry Chair, Lehigh Valley Health Network
- Shane Adams, supports coordinator supervisor, Service Access and Management, Inc.
- Josh Bridges, administrator of Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities, Lehigh County
- Mike Paulik, Deputy Administrator for Mental Health, Lehigh County
- Ned Whitehead and Tom Caraiti, advisors for PA Waiting List Campaign
- Panel of Parents





## Rep. Peter Schweyer

### House Bill 2552

Allentown | July 25

State Rep. Peter Schweyer hosted a public hearing on his House Bill 2552 at the Lehigh County Government Center.

Schweyer's legislation would prohibit health insurers in Pennsylvania from denying or excluding coverage based on a pre-existing medical condition in the event the entire Affordable Care Act is invalidated by the courts.

The committee heard testimony from Allison Beam, chief of staff, PA Insurance Department; Ken Bertka, family physician and vice president of clinical integration, St. Luke's Care Network; Doug Furness, senior director of government and regulatory affairs, Capital Blue Cross; and Alvaro Castillo, community engagement specialist, PA Health Access Network.





## 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

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