

THE POLICY RECAP

A summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings..... August 6 – 9, 14 – 15, 2018

Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky Connecting Workers to Real Jobs Aston | August 6

State Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky hosted a public hearing at Neumann University about matching workforce development efforts to the real jobs that Pennsylvania businesses need to fill.

The committee discussed policy efforts to help build a better pipeline from schools to jobs as well as reforms to build a stronger and more diverse workforce.

The testifiers were:

- Joy Gates Black, president, Delaware County Community College
- Karen Kozachyn, dean of workforce development and community education, DCCC
- Jim DiNunzio, executive vice president of business development, Eastern Controls
- Cathy Cardillo, board member, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce
- Vanessa Salazar, representative, Keystone Mountain Lakes Regional Council of Carpenters





Rep. Morgan Cephas

Janus vs. AFSCME Decision's Impact on Women of Color Philadelphia | August 7

State Rep. Morgan Cephas hosted a public hearing at the District 1199 Union Hall about how the *Janus vs. AFSCME Council 31* decision threatens worker rights and all working families, particularly women of color.

Testifiers included:

- Amal Bass, staff attorney, Women's Law Project
- Chris Woods, executive vice president, District 1199C
- Bonnee Breese Bentum, board member, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers
- Gabe Morgan, vice president and PA/DE state director, 32 BJ SEIU
- Nicole Hunt, president, Unite Here Local 634
- Ethelind Baylor, vice president, AFSCME District Council 47
- Janay Hawthorne, member, AFSCME District Council 47
- Sylvia Hovington, member, UFCW Local 17776



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. Joanna McClinton

Probation Reform

Philadelphia | August 8

State Rep. Joanna McClinton hosted a public hearing on probation reform at Philadelphia City Hall.

The committee discussed initiatives and potential legislation that would update Pennsylvania's probation policies, reduce recidivism, create reforms and give returning citizens a second chance and save taxpayer dollars.

The committee heard testimony from:

- Christian Stephens, deputy secretary for field services, Pa. Department of Corrections
- Helene Placey, executive director, County Chief Adult Probation & Parole Officers Association
- Holly Harris, executive director, Justice Action Network
- Mike Lee, assistant district attorney, Office of the Philadelphia District Attorney
- Mark Houldin, policy director, Defender Association of Philadelphia
- Leslie Jones, policy and advocacy director, Montgomery County Public Defender Office
- Panel of parolees





Rep. Jim Roebuck

House Bill 2444 – PA Promise Act

Philadelphia | August 9

State Rep. Jim Roebuck hosted a public hearing on his House Bill 2444, known as the PA Promise Act, at Temple University.

The committee held its second hearing on this bill to get the Philadelphia region's input on how it could remove substantial financial burdens associated with higher education while 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:

- Mark Price, labor economist, Keystone Research Center
- Tyrell Mann-Barnes, student, Temple University
- Dr. Chae Sweet, dean of liberal studies, Community College of Philadelphia
- Ivan Turnipsdee, Professor, Cheney University of Pennsylvania
- Mark Rimple, APSCUF Chapter President, West Chester University of Pennsylvania



Rep. Ryan Bizzarro Tourism's Economic Impact Erie | August 14

State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro hosted a public hearing on the economic impact of tourism at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

Testifiers included:

- Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive
- Chris Temple, director of communications, VisitErie
- Jonathan D'Silva, attorney and small business consultant, MMI Intellectual Property
- Dr. James Wertz, associate dean of College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Edinboro University
- Sean Candela, owner, Sara's Restaurant.



Rep. Pat Harkins

Technical Education and Career Readiness

Erie | August 15

State Rep. Pat Harkins hosted a public hearing technical education and career readiness at the Erie County Technical School.

Harkins, who served as Democratic chairman of the Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness, requested the hearing because expanding and improving career readiness education is needed in order to meet the demands of the future workforce.

The committee heard testimony from Dr. H. Fred Walker, director, Erie County Technical School; Joe Tarasovitch, principal, Erie County Technical School; and Pam Mackowski, director of career and technical education/adult education, Erie's Public Schools/Erie High School.



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.