



State Representative | 181st Legislative District

# MALCOLM KENYATTA

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Spring  
2019

## Keeping Up with Kenyatta!



### SENIOR HEALTH & WELLNESS BREAKFAST

I've hosted three Senior Health & Wellness Breakfast events in Philadelphia, including one at the RW Brown community center, and I couldn't be happier with the turnout! I plan on doing more for our older population.

Aside from being treated to a hot breakfast of pancakes, grits, turkey bacon, fresh fruit and more, seniors also enjoyed getting their photos taken for SEPTA Senior ID cards, and checks to their blood pressure and strength by members of Independence Blue Cross. My staff also assisted them in filling out Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications.



## KENYATTA CLEANS UP!

On March 9th, I joined up with the North Philly Community Roundtable Network to host a Community Clean Up. Neighbors, friends, organizations and volunteers helped to clean and transform the community and beautify our neighborhood, starting at the corner of 12th and Huntingdon streets!

## KNOWING YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS

On Feb. 26th, I helped constituents learn about their rights at my Housing: Know Your Rights event at the Berean Presbyterian Church, located at 2101 North Broad Street in Philadelphia. Thank you to Berean Presbyterian Church for allowing us to host this workshop!

We know that adequate housing is a basic need and human right. Renters and homeowners received information on their rights, as well as information on a number of state-related programs, such as how to help heat your home and assistance with rent or property taxes. Several experts were available to provide information on government-related programs and services.

For more information about this event or any government-related issues, please don't hesitate to contact me.



# LOCAL OPEN HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA DELEGATION, COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

On Jan. 8th at the John F. Street Recreation Center, I welcomed residents to visit my office and website, Facebook and Twitter pages in order to stay up to date on constituent services.

Shortly after my election to the State House, I was elected as vice chairman of the House Philadelphia Delegation and asked to serve on several key House committees to take on leadership roles in order to better serve and provide for my constituents for the 2019-20 legislative session.

The Philadelphia Delegation has said its top priority is working toward a better Philadelphia. This includes investing in education and schools, criminal justice reform, health care for all, strengthening commercial corridors, and alternative energy methods. I plan to focus my efforts on criminal justice reform.

For too long, our criminal justice system has been an injustice system for the mentally ill, the poor and people of color. While we've made progress, our prisons remain overcrowded, inmates mistreated and mental health problems ignored. I stand with my Philadelphia colleagues to address this mental health crisis by pushing for the proper medication instead of incarceration. We can and must bring fairness and compassion to incarcerated individuals, especially women of color. It is the moral and just thing to do.

I am beyond excited to take on more significant leadership positions as chairman of the new Subcommittee on Automation and Technology on the Commerce Committee; chairman of the Subcommittee on Licensing with the Liquor



Control Committee; secretary of the State Government Committee; and chairman of the Subcommittee on Travel Promotion, History and Heritage with the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee.

I am grateful to Democratic Leadership for allowing me to lead the Subcommittee on Automation and Technology after pushing for the creation of this new subcommittee.

Reach out and let us know how we can provide better services and represent the interests of north Philadelphia in Harrisburg.

## HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING!

Family and friends joined me at the Capitol for my swearing-in day to serve the residents of the 181st Legislative District.





## TOXIC POVERTY PUBLIC POLICY HEARING

Eradicating poverty is the moral and economic issue of our time. Toxic poverty systemically diminishes educational opportunities for our kids and in communities hardest hit by it. Securing a family-sustaining job that can build generational wealth and lift folks out of this cycle is too often out of reach.

I joined with Rep. Danilo Burgos to host a House Democratic Policy Committee public hearing to discuss the health impacts of deep poverty and how we can work to reverse this trend.

Our discussions during the hearing further emphasized that eradicating poverty is the moral and economic issue of our time and brought light to how we can work together to invest our resources in educating our communities, children and adults, and reduce the need for correctional and unnecessary medical costs.

The hearing was able to shed light on how toxic poverty is an issue that deeply impacts families. Those experiencing poverty and growing up in poverty face challenges that those without money issues simply don't have. Children especially face developmental issues that follow them into adulthood. This year, we

want to work on helping to address Adverse Childhood Experiences, also known as ACEs, to empower schools and communities to come together and address the needs of these children who are experiencing hardships. Addressing these experiences will ultimately help them overcome them. Governor Tom Wolf has mentioned this in his budget address and it is a top priority of our caucus.

The meeting is one in a series being held across the state on House Democrats' Plan4PA, which is focused on putting people first, good jobs, health care access, quality schools and jobs training, and a fair economy. Additional information about the plan is available at [www.plan4pa.com](http://www.plan4pa.com).

Testimony and video from the hearing is available at [www.pahouse.com/policycommittee](http://www.pahouse.com/policycommittee).

We brought together legislators from across the state, including Policy Committee Chairman Mike Sturla, and local officials and advocates to discuss how they can work together to create better opportunities to break the cycle of toxic poverty.

# 'FIGHTING CHANCE' BILL

I'm partnering with Rep. Andrew Lewis, R-Dauphin County, to introduce bipartisan legislation to address issues of regulatory reform, criminal justice and outdated government mandates in a meaningful way.

The "Fighting Chance Act" would put Pennsylvania on a path toward sustained economic growth and do more to ensure that every single resident has a chance at achieving their American Dream and pursuing happiness. Our bill would require the agencies overseeing occupational licensure, and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, to reduce red tape by 25 percent over the next three years, with the intent to eliminate unnecessary barriers for folks trying to get into important occupations.

Pennsylvania has a myriad of systemic, government red tape and barriers in place that keep workers, small-business owners, and returning citizens from achieving success, obtaining gainful employment and pursuing their



dreams. Specifically, our state has thousands of outdated regulations governing occupational licensure that have kept good people out of the workforce. This must end. Consider that in Pennsylvania, it is illegal to be an auctioneer, barber or even to braid hair, without a license. These are just a few examples of the many occupations you cannot enter in our state without going through an often grueling and expensive licensing process.

People who are incarcerated perform all of the work functions in

the corrections institutions in which they are based. Many take on roles as electricians, plumbers, barbers and a long list of other trades. However, once they have paid their debt to society there are far too many barriers to them getting gainfully employed in the very trades in which they are trained. This makes no sense. These citizens have paid their debt to society and now just want a path to redemption and a family-sustaining job. They are willing to work hard, and all they need is a fighting chance.

## CYBERSECURITY INNOVATION COMMISSION

With the ongoing cyberattack attempts targeting Pennsylvanians, I have introduced legislation that would help protect the commonwealth's cyber infrastructure.

During recent House Appropriations Committee budget hearings, officials with the Governor's Office of Administration testified that while they follow national federal guidelines and best practices to defend the commonwealth against cyberattacks, they still have seen an increase in the number of threats, with 18 billion in 2018.

House Bill 225 would create a Cybersecurity Innovation Commission to safeguard Pennsylvania's data by conducting cybersecurity audits, improving security and privacy standards and analyzing the protocols. The commission also would work with businesses to make sure they are up-to-date on the newest technology.

Between email and phone scams trying to breach our personal data, it is imperative that we protect our personal information and the creation of a Cybersecurity Innovation Commission would do just that!



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## STAY INFORMED! JOIN MY EMAIL UPDATE LIST

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive weekly updates from me about public meetings, traffic alerts, community events, state and local programs and services, and other items of interest to the community. If you would like to be added to that list, please email my office at [RepKenyatta@pahouse.net](mailto:RepKenyatta@pahouse.net).