



Winter
2023

State Representative | 164th Legislative District

GINA H. CURRY

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Hello Neighbors, Community Members and Friends,

2023 has been an exciting year around the 164th Legislative District and in Harrisburg. My office has helped over 2,100 constituents and provided over 4,000 services this year. And, we have secured more than \$4.7 million in funding throughout the 164th district!

I am honored to be given another opportunity to represent you in Harrisburg and here in Delaware County. Since joining the legislature, I have worked tirelessly to deliver equity for all in the Commonwealth. This year, I was involved in delivering fair education funding, economic development, and health equity with a special focus in bringing Black Maternal Health issues to light.

We made history this year with the launch of the PA Black Maternal Health Caucus and Black Maternal Health Week in Harrisburg. In the district, we empowered our youth by organizing a Youth Job Fair, Youth Legislative Council, and hosted our Second Annual Inspi-HER'd youth girls' event. Additionally, we also distributed over 700 backpacks to students throughout the 164th Legislative District.

This year has been good to Delaware County so far with many groundbreaking, ribbon cuttings, and other ceremonies to commemorate the great projects and initiatives helping people throughout the 164th and beyond!

I encourage everyone to stay connected to my office. Call, make an appointment to visit, and follow my weekly e-blasts and social media updates for information regarding my legislation, and upcoming events. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to continue serving the 164th Legislative District.

In Service,

Gina H. Curry
State Representative | 164th Legislative District

Legislative Update

Sex abuse survivors bill

It's been a productive 2023 in Harrisburg! After much debate, debacle, and distraction, my colleagues and I have done the right thing in getting House Bills 1 & 2 passed and moved on to the Senate as one of our first orders of business. Survivors have waited long enough, that is why we are urging the Senate to pass these bills swiftly, and without any further unnecessary delays.

The budget and Appropriations hearings

Following those votes, we heard Governor Shapiro introduce his proposed budget which is an investment that will help all Pennsylvanians. In this budget, the commonwealth is providing unprecedented resources to its people. I thank Governor Shapiro for listening to the people and empowering everyone.



Legislative Update

Introduced Legislation

HB 1074: In 2022, the Delaware County Memorial Hospital shuttered its emergency department, maternity ward, operating rooms and intensive care units at the direction of its for-profit parent company, Prospect Medical Holdings, leaving nearly 85,000 residents of the community without access to health care. Unfortunately, this lack of care for the community was resultant of the company's financial liability of a \$1.12 billion loan – a debt previously undisclosed. Blaming high labor costs and other variables, Prospect Medical Holdings was not required to report this debt under state law or share its full financial portfolio until it was too late and the damage to the community had been done. To avoid this happening again, I introduced legislation to require hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities to report financial statements related to their owning corporations. Under this bill, every one of these institutions licensed by our state would be required to report its financial position, including costs incurred from providing health services and total payroll, among other items.

HB 1331: For aspiring teachers, student teaching is the culmination of years of hard work in the college classroom. It provides the opportunity to gain critical experience in their field while providing a much-needed service to their community. But for many college students, student teaching presents significant challenges, because these semester-long placements are unpaid and often leave students struggling to afford tuition costs and basic living and commuting expenses. This legislation would provide student teaching stipends of \$15,000 to help remove financial barriers for aspiring teachers wishing to enter this profession and ensure that aspiring teachers' focus, and energy are on the student teaching classroom and their own course requirements – not the stack of unpaid bills or the student debt they are accruing. I'm pleased to report this measure has become law in an education code bill we passed in December.

HB 1484: With Pennsylvania's maternal mortality rate on the rise, it is our responsibility to protect the health outcomes of pregnancies for our constituents. Prenatal and postpartum services are vitally important to those outcomes and should be subject to stringent health and safety requirements from qualified professionals. This legislation would align the regulations of the Health Care Facilities Act to cover all providers of pregnancy related services. This legislation would ensure that there are safeguards and securities for any organization offering pregnancy-related services by requiring all organizations to meet healthcare related regulations and patient safety provisions. This bill would also ensure that organizations receiving taxpayer dollars to disclose the use of those dollars in advertisement and information provided during the provision of their services is medically accurate. People who are seeking family planning support deserve the highest level of care that meets the standards of health and safety.

HB 1417: In 2011, crucial dental coverage was cut from the state's Medical Assistance Program. This meant procedures like root canals, periodontal disease treatments, emergency exams, and more were not attainable for low-income families. In my community and throughout Pennsylvania, there are many constituents whose only access to dental and healthcare is through medical assistance. For decades, we have seen the devastating results for families when medical and healthcare inequities continue to plague those who suffer the most vulnerabilities when it come to their health. This bipartisan bill is a step forward in our legislature working together to create a more equitable and fair healthcare system, which ensures better outcomes for patients and providers.

Breast Cancer Law

In a shining example of bipartisanship, the House and Senate proudly passed legislation to provide free breast cancer screenings in Pennsylvania. That piece of legislation went on to become the first bill signed into law by Governor Shapiro. This is a first-of-its-kind law in the country that will require insurers to cover preventative breast and ovarian cancer screenings for high-risk women at no cost. I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate for passing this important bill unanimously in our respective chambers.



Maternal Mortality

Maternal health matters. That's why I voted for Senate Bill 262. This legislation brought forward by State Senator Judy Schwank adds severe maternal morbidity to the list of reportable events within the Pennsylvania Department of Health. By having accurate and regular tracking of data, we can have comprehensive research on maternal mortality in the Commonwealth.

Big Events

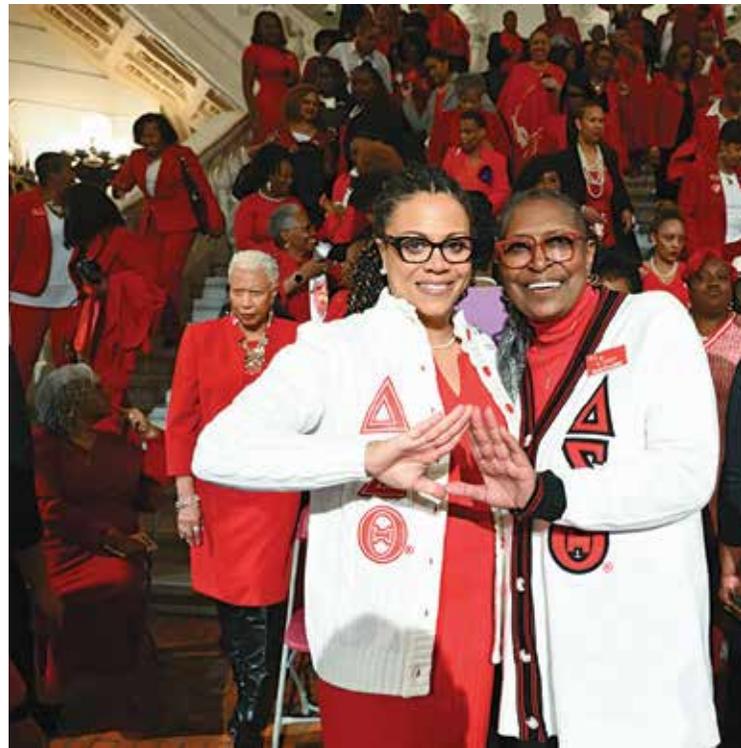
Delta and AKA Day

I was proud to co-host Delta Day at the Capitol with Reps. La'Tasha D. Mayes and Morgan Cephas. Delta Day is celebrated by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, which was founded in 1913 by 22 collegiate women on the campus of Howard University. Today, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated is one of the preeminent service-based sororities, with predominantly more than 300,000 Black members and more than 1,000 chapters worldwide. The sorority has maintained a commitment to social activism, academic excellence and civic engagement.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated has 29 chapters in Pennsylvania. On Delta Day, members from throughout the Commonwealth come to the Capitol to connect with elected officials, advance legislation and serve as a voice for others.

The women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated continue to be magnificent examples of servant-leaders with their commitment to their communities. That is why I introduced H.R. 100 to recognize and honor the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated on Delta Day.

We also welcomed members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority during their day of advocacy. We were honored to host them including 100-year-old Mrs. Hattie Simmons!



Black Maternal Health Day in Harrisburg

I was honored to host Black Maternal Health Day in Harrisburg! We heard speeches from fellow state Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes; Second Lady Blayre Holmes Davis; regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of the Mid-Atlantic, founder of the Black Doctors Consortium and founder of the Center for Health Equity, Dr. Ala Stanford; president of Once Upon a Premie, Jenn Johns; and Owner of A Sacred Womb Inc., Gillian Lawrence. A huge thank you to all of these women and the many who came to support us throughout the day and continue to show their support throughout Black Maternal Health Week.

Later in the day, we held a hearing to explore the vision for Black Maternal Health in Pennsylvania. It was a privilege to hear from Dr. Sharee Livingston, an OB/GYN from Lancaster County & founder of Patients R Waiting; and Jada Shirriel, the CEO of Healthy Start Pittsburgh Inc.



Black Maternal Health Caucus

The historical launch of the Pennsylvania Black Maternal Health Caucus was a huge success with the support of leadership, the stakeholders and the grassroots maternal health organizations. I was also honored to stand with my colleagues and cherish the hard work of my co-chairs, Representative La'Tasha D. Mayes and Representative Morgan Cephas and our staff as we prepared for the launch. This caucus will be narrowly focused on educating and advancing important legislation with future plans of introducing the PA MOMNIBUS package of bills that will improve maternal healthcare and outcomes for Black mothers and birthing people of color across the state.

Inspi-HER'd 2023

Inspi-HER'd 2023 was amazing on so many levels. We had more exhibitors, more activities and more opportunities for young girls to learn about health, wellness and positivity while enjoying time outdoors! A huge thank you to all the people who helped make this possible!



Equity in Education Conference

I joined members of the William Penn School District, some of my colleagues from the House and the Senate, education advocates, and students and supporters for a news conference on the Commonwealth Court's ruling that the state's educational funding system is unconstitutional.

Our goal for the press conference was to celebrate the decision with our students and to let them know that we hear the outcry from our parents, students, teachers, and families that have been enduring these conditions for decades. This landmark decision answers the echoing calls of generations of courageous students and stakeholders who have been heavily invested and dedicated to the WPSD community and to communities across the Commonwealth.



Education Funding Press Conference

I joined my colleagues for a press conference on the state of education funding in the commonwealth at Penn Wood High School. I was grateful to be able to step into my husband Rap Curry's legacy space and to be able to acknowledge his hard work around his controversial logo "Do more with less" that is prominently displayed on the basketball gym floor. As a member of the Pennsylvania House Legislature and a member of the Democratic House Education Committee, I am working to move equitable resources forward and working to preserve the legacy of our communities and the work that we have been continuing to move forward. Thank you to all of the teachers, staff, administrators and families who have been gracious to carry the burden for years of "doing more with less" but we are here to LEVEL UP!!!



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Upcoming Events

<p>Veterans Brunch and Resource Fair Saturday, Jan. 27 Upper Darby Post 214 American Legion</p>	<p>Blood Drive with Kearney Friday, Feb. 9 East Lansdowne Borough Hall</p>	<p>Senior Rent Rebate Tour Thursday March, 28 Municipal Library</p>
<p>SCORE/Small Business Resource Fair Thursday, Feb. 8 Twentieth Century Club Lansdowne</p>	<p>Black & Diverse with Kearney Saturday, Feb. 24 DCCC</p>	<p>Spring Fling/Meet and Greet Thursday, April 4 Llanerch Hills</p>
	<p>Shredding Event with Rep. Boyd Saturday, March 23 Upper Darby High School Parking Lot</p>	<p>Youth Job Fair Saturday, April 13 YMCA Lansdowne</p>

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- Birth, death, and marriage certificates
- SEPTA Senior Key Cards
- PHEAA & FAFSA
- Unemployment payment and assistance programs
- PA529 Savings Program
- PA prescription assistance programs
- And more!