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Stay Connected!

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Twitter: @RepPashinski

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Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
(570) 825-5934

CAPITOL OFFICE:
203 Irvis Office Building
P.O. Box 202121
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2121
(717) 783-0686

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Any problem with state government!

Pashinski opposes gimmick-filled state budget

The 2014-15 budget was filled with more of the same ill-conceived policies that placed the state in its current fiscal predicament. The administration’s inaction on the big issues continues to cost Pennsylvania families. Gov. Tom Corbett and the Republicans have failed to lead. After three years with Republican majorities in both chambers, there’s really no excuse for the gimmick-laden budget that passed on partisan lines.

If we would have had a serious discussion about Marcellus Shale and implemented a reasonable extraction tax on our natural resources, we could have generated enough funds to adequately fund our schools.

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Pashinski resolution celebrates Workers’ Memorial Day

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Patients before profits – Rep. Pashinski joins local nurses and Rosie the Riveter, a symbol of working women from World War II, on the Wilkes-Barre Hospital lawn to demonstrate in support of fair and safe working conditions for those who care for patients. Short staffing ratios and high nurse turnover rates are dangerous to both workers and patients.
over $30 billion in economic activity over the next 10 years. Instead, the governor continues to tinker with his “HealthyPA” plan that has not received federal approval. Consequently, there are no federal dollars, no new jobs and hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians without adequate health care.

Our schools are in dire need of funding-formula reform. Again, this administration failed to give ALL Pennsylvania children a fair chance and has forced local tax increases three years in a row.

House Democrats have advocated for these solutions for four budget sessions, but unfortunately our solutions continue to be rejected. The Corbett administration and Republican-led House and Senate prefer to rely on gimmicks and speculative accounting tactics that are fiscally detrimental to our Commonwealth. That is why I could not support their budget.

**Pay-equity bills (continued from page 1)**

The legislation would update the conditions under which employers could pay different wages because of a factor other than sex. These factors would include specific, job-related attributes such as education, training and experience. The bills would also strengthen anti-restitution protections for employees attempting to bring a pay-equity lawsuit against their employer and those who share information about their pay.

Making these significant changes to the law is the right thing to do. It will not only eliminate a form of discrimination, it will also give a boost to our economy. Women will have increased buying power and the ability to better provide for themselves and their families.

The pay-equity bills are a part of a larger package of bills supported by the bipartisan, bicameral Women’s Health Caucus of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, of which I am a member.

---

**Pashinski resolution designates March 2014**

**Music in Our Schools Month**

I am proud to report the state House unanimously adopted my House Resolution 719 designating March 2014 as Music in our Schools Month in Pennsylvania.

The resolution acknowledges the academic and creative benefits music provides to our students and recognizes the importance of music in schools. Outstanding performances by our Pennsylvania children echoed through the Capitol halls throughout March and displayed the hard work and dedication by music educators and their students.

I have an undeniable passion for music and educating our children. I sincerely believe that the two go hand in hand in helping children develop and learn.

Music in Our Schools Month is a great time to highlight the importance of comprehensive, sequential music education taught by exemplary music educators for all to enjoy and appreciate. As a proud member of the Arts and Cultural Caucus in the General Assembly, I work with the caucus to recognize arts education as essential to the development of all Pennsylvania students.

Music education must be an integral part of Pennsylvania’s overall education system and I am grateful to music educators throughout the Commonwealth.

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**Pashinski welcomes students to the Capitol**

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**House committees discuss grandparents raising grandchildren**

As a member of the House Committee on Aging and Older Adult Services, I took part in a hearing to discuss grandparents’ rights when raising grandchildren.

Over 81,000 Pennsylvania children live in homes with grandparents who are responsible for their well-being and over 30,000 children live just with their grandparents. Often, grandparents are not prepared financially or emotionally to provide for their grandchildren. When grandparents take on the role of a parent, they are also often faced with custody battles that are costly, time consuming and complicated.

Qualified support and guidance is required to help these grandparents navigate the complexities of the system. Each scenario is different and requires varying degrees of support and expertise.

John and Tracy Calomino, Brenda Saba and Beth O’Boyle were among the testifiers who came forward and shared their personal experiences navigating through the legal system and the challenges they face as primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

These grandparents are doing an amazing service for their families and keeping children out of state custody. We have to improve our system so that we can keep families together and better protect our children from abuse and neglect.

As we work to improve laws for these families, I strongly urge you to visit www.aging.state.pa.us for information on state programs and services that provide support to grandparents raising their grandchildren. Information about the Family Caregiver Support Program is available at www.PCACares.org or by calling 215-765-9040.

Visit my website and click on the video link or visit http://is.gd/RaisingGrandkids to hear more from me and the Calomino and Saba families on this important issue.

I have been working on legislation to address some of the concerns expressed by those who testified.
Pay-equity bills (continued from page 1)

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