

THE POLICY RECAP

A Summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings.....April 3 – 6, 2018

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.pahouse.com.



Rep. Sid Michaels Kavulich

Tourism

Scranton | April 3

Rep. Sid Michaels Kavulich requested a roundtable discussion with the Lackawanna County Visitors Bureau to learn what more the state can do to help support and spur tourism in the region and statewide. The meeting was held in Rep. Marty Flynn's district at the Lackawanna County Trolley Museum, home to the infamous train set built by Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.





Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski Affordable Health Care Access Wilkes-Barre | April 4

Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski hosted a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing at King's College to discuss affordable health care for Pennsylvanians.

Pashinski said that Congress should consider assembling a task force of experts from all health care industries including doctors, nurses, insurance agents, pharmacists, hospital executives and patients to conduct an in-depth audit of the system as a whole and how it can better function while reducing costs and meeting consumer needs.

Testifiers included: Cor Catena, CEO, Commonwealth Health and Wilkes-Barre General Hospital; Leesa Allen, executive deputy secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services; Alison Beam, chief of staff, Pennsylvania Department of Insurance; Ashley Weale, RN, emergency room nurse, Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals; and Marc Stier, director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center.



Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

Healthy Food Access

Philadelphia | April 5

The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus and House Democratic Policy Committee hosted a joint hearing on healthy food access at the Walter Biddle Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences. The focus of the hearing was on how communities can gain access to fresh foods at reasonable prices to ensure families can provide nutritious meals for their children.

Testifiers included: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding, Fox Chase Farms, the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, The Food Trust, The Port of Philadelphia, Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Penn Agriculture Industries Association, American Dairy Association, the Center for Dairy Excellence Foundation of Pennsylvania, and students and staff from Saul High School.



Rep. Maria Donatucci

House Bill 962

Philadelphia | April 6

Rep. Maria Donatucci hosted a hearing at Temple University to discuss House Bill 962, which would establish the Safe Campuses Act. The legislation, part of the overall PA Agenda for Women's Health, would require all post-secondary schools, colleges and universities in the state to adopt policies and establish programs to make students, staff and officials aware of the risks of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Institutions would also be mandated to report the number of instances of sexual assault and intimate partner violence on campus annually.

Testifiers included: Stephanie Ives, dean of students, Temple University; Penelope Ettinger, executive director, Network of Victim Assistance; and Monique Howard, executive director, Women Organized Against Rape.



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.