



State Representative Harry A. **READSHAW** 36TH DISTRICT **report**



1917 Brownsville Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15210 • (412) 881-4208 • www.pahouse.com/readshaw

THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN FOR EQUAL PAY THE GENDER PAY GAP IS REAL AND HURTS WOMEN AND FAMILIES

I am an avid supporter of equal pay for equal work for women in the work force.

WHAT IS PAY EQUALITY?

Pay equality refers to the elimination of sex and race discrimination in the setting of wages. It means fair pay for work. Pay equity encompasses:

- Equal pay for equal or the same work where identical jobs are compared.
- Equal pay for work of an equal value or comparable worth for jobs that are not identical but are of an equal value, for example, a nurse and a carpenter.
- Strategies that address women's low pay and promote a living wage.
- Ending discrimination in pay scales and systems.

Over 50 years have passed since the Equal Pay Act was signed. Unfortunately, only small gains have helped white and minority females move from the 59 cents of 1963 to the 77 cents of 2012 on the dollar comparison of men's earnings. While women hold nearly half of today's jobs, and their earnings account for a significant portion of the household income, they are still experiencing a major gap in pay compared to men. That gap represents hundreds of thousands of dollars lost in wages, and for African-Americans, Asians and Latinos, the pay gap is even greater.

Education has an effect on the pay gap which begins early in women's careers, right out of high school, if they graduate, and continues up the ladder, from associate's, bachelor's, master's and professional, to the doctoral level. Statistics show that higher degrees lead to higher median salaries, but men still earn more than women.

The wage gap exists across all occupations, no matter if it is in management, business, financial, blue collar or manual labor jobs.

This also applies to women who are trying to establish their



own businesses. Once confined mainly to the home, women now have a range of opportunities out in society.

Pennsylvania needs to do better at allowing women to secure credit and provide networking and mentoring opportunities for these future business owners.

Why we need equal pay

In this struggling economy, the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act are important laws, but are hard to enforce. In the current economic crisis, many people are facing financial problems, stagnant wages and unemployment. Women in Pennsylvania already have a higher rate of economic insecurity than men. In the past 2 1/2 years of recovery since the recession, the high unemployment rate for men has fallen, but the women's unemployment rate remains higher in comparison to the men.

I will continue my efforts, working to secure that women across Pennsylvania have equal rights for equal pay.

Chronic conditions

According to the Pew Research Center, 45 percent of U.S. adults report that they live with one or more chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, but also less common conditions like lupus and cancer. They are more likely than other adults to be older, to have faced a medical emergency in the past year, and contribute to the explosion of health care costs in the United States.

Tax relief for seniors

Property Tax/Rent Rebate

If you are:

- (1) 65 or older
- (2) Widow or widower between age 50 and 64
- (3) 18 or older and permanently disabled; and
- (1) If homeowner, income (for you and your spouse) is \$35,000 or less*
- (2) If renter, income (for you and your spouse) is \$15,000 or less*

Then you may qualify for a state rebate ranging from \$250 to \$650 or more on your property tax bills.

Allegheny County Homestead Exclusion

Homeowners can sign up for this program, which will lower the assessed value of their primary residence by \$18,000 for tax purposes only. You only need to sign up once, and the benefit will continue as long as you stay in

your home. However, if there is a name change to a deed, you must file a new Act 50 application.

Allegheny County Senior Citizen Tax Relief

Allegheny County homeowners who are (1) age 60 or older, (2) had less than \$30,000 in income last year,* and (3) have lived in their home for at least ten years may qualify for a 30% discount on their county tax bill. Seniors must apply, but will stay enrolled every year as long as income is less than \$30,000.

Tax Relief from Gaming Revenue

Each year, school districts receive funds from casino revenue and this money is automatically used to offset your school taxes. No sign up is necessary.

***Income is calculated by taking half the value of Social Security and Railroad Retirement Tier 1 benefits.**

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE

	PACE	PACENET
Drug Cost	\$6 Generic \$9 Brand Name	\$8 Generic \$15 Brand Name
Income Limit	\$14,500 Single \$17,500 Married	\$23,500 single \$31,500 Married
Age	65+	65+

REDUCED AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION

If you are:

Retired, and have a total income of less than \$19,200, you may qualify for a \$26 discount on your yearly automobile registration.

DOG LICENSES

Senior citizens in Allegheny County are eligible for a \$2 discount on dog licensing fees.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Those who meet income guidelines can get help paying their heating bills in the winter through LIHEAP.

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

Those 65 or older are eligible for reduced hunting and fishing license fees.

FOR INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS AND TO SIGN UP, PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE.

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Rep. Readshaw working for seniors.

New permit options available with multi-year fishing licenses

New permit options are available for customers who buy multi-year fishing licenses. Beginning this year, anglers can add a single-year Trout/Salmon Permit, Lake Erie Permit, or Combination Trout/Salmon/Lake Erie Permits to a multi-year license. Previously, anglers were required to buy a multi-year permit which matched the expiration date of the license.

Anglers must fold the printed permit and place it in front of their multi-year base license.



2014 MULTI-YEAR FISHING LICENSES

Type of license or permit	Age	Cost
3-year resident	16-64	\$64.70
3-year senior resident	65 & up	\$31.70
3-year trout/salmon permit	16 & up	\$25.70
3-year Lake Erie permit	16 & up	\$25.70
3-year combo trout/salmon/Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$43.70
5-year resident	16-64	\$106.70
5-year senior resident	65 & up	\$51.70
5-year trout/salmon permit	16 & up	\$41.70
5-year Lake Erie permit	16 & up	\$41.70
5-year combo trout/salmon/Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$71.70
1-year trout/salmon permit	16 & up	\$9.70
1-year Lake Erie permit	16 & up	\$9.70
1-year combo trout/salmon/Lake Erie Permit	16 & up	\$15.70

Gas tax is harmful to taxpayers – Why I voted ‘No’

In late November, Gov. Corbett signed into law legislation that is supposed to raise \$2.3 billion over five years for roads, bridges and mass transit. Unfortunately, to raise the money needed, this law significantly increases the gas tax and hikes fees for more than 150 driver-related services. I voted against that massive tax increase because taxpayers will be nicked and dined to cover this incredible expense.

The gas tax increase equals 28 cents per gallon for gasoline and 39 cents per gallon for diesel. This law removed the cap on a tax that gas stations must pay, which means their tax on the gasoline they purchase wholesale is not limited. As a result, they will pass on that increase to consumers at the pump. Pennsylvania is now in line to have one of the highest gas taxes in the nation.

One serious flaw is that **PennDOT can sell your personal information, putting you at risk for identity theft.**

This outrageous provision in the law allows PennDOT to sell our driver’s license information to insurance companies who in turn can sell it to others. As if a massive tax increase wasn’t enough, it is unconscionable that this law allows the state to invade Pennsylvanians’ privacy.



All drivers in the commonwealth will also see increased costs for more than 150 driver-related services, including driver’s licenses, vehicle registrations and fines, including:

- **Vehicle registration fees** for cars, trucks and motorcycles are tied to the rate of inflation, as are **driver’s license fees**. These fees will be automatically adjusted – without legislative approval – every two years. The first fee increase, slated for July 1, 2015, is anticipated to be about \$2 per card issued by PennDOT.
- The **fine for “failure to obey traffic signals,”** a common citation for drivers stopped for running a stop sign or other infraction, increases from \$25 to \$150.
- **Traffic violation surcharges** that are applied to other types of moving violations, including speeding, increased by 50 percent in January.
- **Motorists who let their insurance lapse** will pay \$500 instead of being subject to a three-month suspension.
- Counties now may charge a **new \$5 annual county registration fee** for each vehicle their residents own.
- **Replacement driver’s licenses** will cost \$19 starting in April, an increase from \$13.50.
- **Vehicle title** fees more than double from \$22.50 to \$50.
- **Vanity plates** increase from \$20 to \$76.
- **Photo ID cards** increase by from \$13.50 to \$19 plus cost of photograph.

There is hardly a tax, fine or fee contained in the vehicle code that wasn’t increased under this law.

In addition, the owner-operated truck drivers, small trucking companies and small businesses also see an increase in the fees making the above mentioned increases just a drop in the bucket. These increases will put our businesses and self-employed at risk and increase the cost to you, the consumer.

I am very concerned about the condition of our roads and bridges, and I believe Pennsylvania should have a long-term funding solution to our crumbling infrastructure problem. But I could not support a funding scheme in which the working and middle class are the only ones paying the price, **especially since there was no consideration for any alternative sources for funding.**

House passes child safety bills

In 2013, the House unanimously passed a series of bills aimed to protect our children:

H.B. 90 would grant administrative subpoena power to the attorney general and district attorneys in the fight to identify sources of child pornography.

H.B. 112 would create a specific crime, sexual assault by a sports official. This bill would establish a

felony punishable by a fine of up to \$15,000 and up to seven years in prison for a coach or sports official who engages in indecent or sexual contact with a minor participating in a youth sports program of any type.

H.B. 350 would make it a felony to knowingly or recklessly cause serious injury to a child under the age of 12.

H.B. 663 would make human trafficking of a minor a first-degree

felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. This bill would also make it a second-degree felony for a parent to knowingly sell or transfer custody of a child for commercial sex purposes.

These four bills would help give our children more protection from child predators and abusers. All four bills are currently under review in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



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*Read why I
voted against
the gas tax
increase.*



lpo.kaf.0314

Remembering Rocco

Rocco, the hero police K-9 who was killed in the line of duty, is leaving a proud legacy behind.

The brutal attack on Rocco has led to the recent introduction of H.B. 2024 by Rep. Dom Costa.

The bill, which I am honored to co-sponsor, would make the crime of cruelty to police animals an aggravated offense when a person willfully injures, poisons or kills a police dog in the performance of their duty. The attack would be classified as a first-degree felony.

These fearless animals put their lives at risk just like humans, and the law must be updated to show the value of their lives as law enforcement officers.

Police dog Rocco, who died in the line of duty in January.



Tuesday, April 8, 2014 is Equal Pay Day

*The Wage Gap...
it's not just about women anymore!*



The wage gap isn't just a women's issue. Equal pay for women raises family income, and the whole family benefits.

In 2012, women earned 77 cents for every dollar men received. That's \$23 less to spend on groceries, housing, child care and all other expenses for every \$100 worth of work done. Nationwide, working families lose \$200 billion of income annually to the wage gap. At the current rate, equal pay won't be realized until for another 50 years.

The wage gap is even worse for most women of color. Latinas earn 58 cents and African American women earn 69 cents for every dollar men earn, while Asian American women earn 92 cents.*

* CPRE, 2012

\$ Wear RED on Equal Pay Day to symbolize how far women and minorities are "in the red" with their pay! \$

If only women had a coupon like this...

23% off

All Goods and Services for Any Female Bearer

Valid for purchases in the USA only. Excludes. Expires 2063.

...they wouldn't suffer from the wage gap.

VALUE FAMILIES — Support Equal Pay

Sponsored by the National Committee on Pay Equity • For more information on equal pay, visit www.pay-equity.org