



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE Donna Bullock

**195th Legislative District**

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**Fall 2017**

## House passes 'Stop and go' legislation

On June 12, I introduced legislation that would hold "stop and go" establishments in our communities accountable. "Stop and gos" are nuisance bars and stores that are known to sell alcohol to minors and are often hubs for crime in our communities. House Bill 1547 overwhelmingly passed the House on June 27 and is currently in committee in the Senate. With the support of my colleagues, similar enforcement language has also been included in a proposed budget implementation bill that passed the Senate.

My bill would create saturated nuisance market areas where violators would be subject to enhanced penalties, fines, and suspensions. It would also allow the state Liquor Control Board to remove their licenses.

I introduced this legislation after hearing from countless residents in my district about nuisance activity in and around these businesses. On April 20, I held an informational meeting at the Cecil B. Moore Library to meet with residents and local officials. We drafted language which would address many of the concerns residents have and provide additional enforcement tools for local agencies.

I look forward to moving "stop and go" reform through the state Senate and onto the Governor's desk.

At a "stop and go" informational hearing, I reviewed photographs of a nuisance business with Captain Massaquoi from the 22nd Police District and a resident.



## Keeping our neighborhoods and our kids safe

In May, I held an emergency meeting at Redeem Baptist Church after one of our younger residents in Strawberry Mansion went missing. I was relieved when she was found safe, but shortly thereafter we learned of an assault on two young brothers. At the meeting, residents and community partners shared information about programs and resources to keep our children engaged and safe. Times like these are a reminder that we must watch out for each other and be our neighbor's keeper. I would like to thank the Philadelphia Police Department and the entire community for working together.



On August 26, I hosted my Sister to Sister Back-to-School Safety Brunch with young ladies from the district. In addition to providing them with book bags and school supplies, they also gained crucial tips on social media safety and how to have a productive school year.

# PA budget impasse continues

On June 30, I voted to pass a spending plan that would increase education funding in Philadelphia by \$34 million. Shortly thereafter, the Speaker of the House sent us home without passing a revenue package to pay for it. The GOP-controlled legislature put politics over people and decided to go into recess. When Pennsylvanians are relying on state services to be there when they need them most, that is not the time to be in recess. So, I spent my summer demanding that the Speaker brings us back to fulfill our constitutional duty.

## THERE ARE THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO DO THIS:

- Raise the minimum wage
- Tax Marcellus shale
- Close the Delaware tax loophole

An overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanians agree that these three simple solutions will close our budget deficit and save taxpayers money. There is no amount of spending available to cut that will responsibly balance our budget. We need new and more reliable streams of revenue and a budget that is not balanced on the backs of the poor and working people of Pennsylvania.



**DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell, DEP staff, and members of the Philadelphia environmental community attended the Environmental Justice Listening Tour at Fairmount Water Works on May 25.**

## Keeping our environment safe

I continue to be a voice on environmental issues that impact our natural resources and our public health. Bad environmental policies have a negative impact on our public health, resulting in increased asthma rates, greater exposure to lead, and many other health risks. Good policies can increase affordability and access to renewable energy, as well as generate job opportunities in the green economy. Earlier this year, the Speaker of the House appointed me to the Joint Legislative Conservation Committee and I also joined the newly created House Climate Caucus. In May, I hosted the secretary of the state Department of Environmental Protection for an environmental listening session because environmental practices affect urban communities and communities of color. In late August, I joined PennEnvironment at a press conference about how cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency threaten the safety of waterways like the Schuylkill River, a drinking source for more than 1.5 million people.

Through listening sessions, news conferences, and similar events, I am able to hear directly from residents about their concerns on environmental issues. I am also considering initiatives and legislation that will enable all our communities to benefit from green jobs and clean energy options like solar.



# Putting an end to lunch shaming in Pa.

In May, I introduced legislation that would prohibit the practice of lunch shaming throughout our Commonwealth. Far too often, children who are unable to pay for school lunch are denied a meal. Many schools throw away the meal after it is served if a student cannot pay for it. Other schools go so far as to make children wear a wristband to identify them as behind on payments, or force them to work in exchange for a school lunch. My bill would prohibit all of this, as well as require schools to communicate directly with the parent regarding a student's meal debt and not the student.

I held a news conference in June to bring attention to lunch shaming right here in Pennsylvania. We heard from Stacy Koltiska, a former cafeteria worker in the Canon-McMillan School District in Washington County. Stacy resigned after she was forced to throw away a hot meal because an elementary school student was unable to pay for it. These policies are counterproductive, cruel, and inhibit a child's ability to learn. For many children, school lunch is one of the few guaranteed meals of the day. This is why I plan on addressing policies that will make school lunch and breakfast more accessible.

I look forward to working with the Department of Education and local school districts to explore alternative school breakfast policies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's community eligibility provisions, and summer lunch programs. For information on any of these, please call my office at 215-684-3738.



In March, I invited Lt. Gov. Mike Stack to join me at a community meeting on how to improve our commonwealth's pardon process through accepting more cases, taking online applications, increasing staff size, and improving process time. We met at the Philadelphia Technical Training Institute. While there, we met with staff and learned how technical training plays a vital role in deterring recidivism.



It's my goal to meet my constituents where they are. That's why during the week of July 17, I hosted a Playground Pop-Up Office tour in the 195th Legislative District. My staff and I made stops to various playgrounds and recreation centers to hear directly from residents right in their neighborhoods.



Our seniors are important to me. That's why in March I hosted a Senior Spring Fling Luncheon for seniors in the 195th Legislative District. We were able to inform residents of the types of services that are available to them as well as keep them up to speed on what has been going on in Harrisburg. I shared information on legislation I introduced to help strengthen programs for our seniors: the PACE and the Property Tax & Rent Rebate programs. These two programs provide stability to seniors living on fixed and limited income. For more information about these programs, contact my office at 215-684-3738.



I introduced House Resolution 141 to recognize May 2017 as "Mental Health Awareness in the Black Community Month" in Pennsylvania. During National Mental Health Awareness Month, I also hosted a community

conversation with the Black Brain Campaign to foster a space for open dialogue about the stigma and disparities in mental health services in the African-American community.



Pre-K Champion by the dedicated staff and the Pre-K for PA Campaign.

In May, I toured the Community Concern No. 13 Multi-Purpose Learning & Day Care Center. This resource has been a treasure in our community for generations. I was honored to be recognized as a



Our second annual summer open house was a success. My staff and I greeted constituents and welcomed our new neighbors, the Fairmount Community Development Corporation, to the block. I look forward to working with them to improve the quality of our neighborhoods.



## Diaper Awareness Week: Sept. 25 – Oct. 1

More than 5 million children under age 3 lack a sufficient supply of diapers. During the month of September, my office will be collecting donations of infant and adult diapers and wipes. Donations will be distributed to families and shelters in our district. To make a donation, please stop by my district office at 2835 W. Girard Ave.

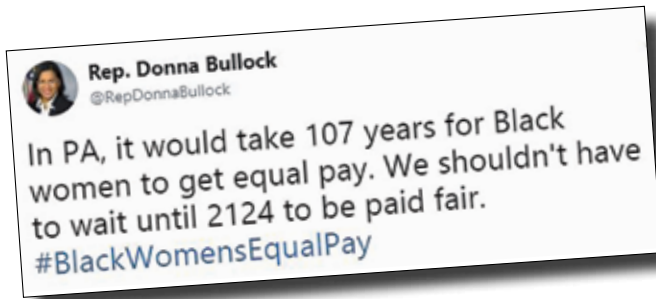


# #BlackWomensEqualPay Day

On July 31, I joined a Twitter storm to bring attention to Black Women's Equal Pay Day – the day in 2017 when Black women's pay finally reached that of their white male counterparts for 2016. According to the National Women's Law Center, Black women make 63 cents out of every dollar white men make. Reports show that it would take Black women 107 years to achieve equal pay at the current slow rate of progress.

Pay discrimination is an economic justice issue and I will continue to speak up until we receive our full dollar. It is also important to have conversations at the intersection of race and gender to point out the disparities that impact women of color. I have advocated and will continue to advocate for legislation to close the pay gap affecting women. In February, I introduced House Bill 931 — a salary history bill that would prohibit employers from paying their employees different wages for the same job based on their gender.

Now more than ever, we need stronger state laws to close the wage gap. On Aug. 30, the Trump Administration made closing the wage gap even more difficult. Employers with 100 or more employees are no longer required to provide pay data by race, ethnicity, and gender. This is an intentional attempt on behalf of the Trump White House to undo all the progress we have made. We will not be silenced and we will continue to demand that women get equal pay for equal work.



In June, my staff and I hosted a free shredding event to help constituents avoid the threat of identity theft. Shredding events provide residents with a safe way to dispose of important and confidential documents they no longer need. In 2014, more than 330,000 Pennsylvanians were victims of identity theft.

I was pleased to see constituents of the 195th Legislative District attend the event. I hope that through hosting these events we are able to drastically reduce the number of Philadelphians who are victims of identity theft.

## My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Departments of Health and Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

***Any problem with state government!***

Stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the district by signing up for my email updates.

Go to [www.pahouse.com/Bullock](http://www.pahouse.com/Bullock) to sign up.



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## INSIDE:

- Fighting school lunch shaming
- Diaper donation drive
- 'Stop and go' legislation



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**State Rep. Donna Bullock • 195th Legislative District**

# Girard Avenue Street Festival

**Saturday, October 14 • Noon to 6 p.m.**

*Join State Representative Donna Bullock and local businesses for an informative day of family fun that will include live entertainment and information on state-related programs and services including CHIP, birth certificates, unclaimed property, human services and more.*

*For more information, please call Rep. Bullock's constituent service office at (215) 684-3738.*

**On Girard Avenue,  
between 26th  
& 29th Streets  
Philadelphia, PA  
19130**

**RAIN DATE  
OCTOBER 21**



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