

THE POLICY RECAP

A summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings.....August 20, 21, 23, 27, 29, 30, 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.com.

Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski

Tax Fairness

Wilkes-Barre | August 20

Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski hosted a public hearing on tax fairness at King's College.

Pashinski requested the hearing to gather insight on how the state can level the playing field and ensure that business and corporations pay their fair share while looking out for Pennsylvania's middle class.

The committee collected testimony from Stephen Herzenberg, executive director, Keystone Research Center; Jim Rodkey, Pennsylvania Coalition of Taxpayer Associations; Ron Boltz, president, Pennsylvania Liberty Alliance; and Tony Grieco, executive director, Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18.





Rep. Maureen Madden School Safety Stroudsburg | August 22

Rep. Maureen Madden hosted a public hearing on school safety at the Hughes Library.

Madden requested the hearing because ensuring that Pennsylvania schoolchildren can learn and teachers can teach in a safe and secure environment is vital to the learning process. She also discussed the new school safety initiatives being funded in the 2018-19 state budget.



The committee heard testimony from:

- Marcus Brown, deputy chief of staff, Office of Gov. Tom Wolf
- Derin Myers, acting executive director, PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency
- Lt. Joseph Sparich, Troop N Stroudsburg station commander, PA State Police
- Trooper Kevin Jancewicz, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, PA State Police
- Jill Shoemith, educational director, Evergreen Community School
- Sarah Henry, student, Evergreen Community School
- Olivia DeRosa, member, The Acceptance Project
- Taha Vahanvati, member, The Acceptance Project
- Dr. Donna Hamilton, CEO and chief wellness officer, Manifest Excellence
- Helena Tuleya-Payne, coordinator of School Psychology Program, Millersville University





Rep. Gerald Mullery Technical Education and Career Readiness Nanticoke | August 23

Rep. Gerald Mullery hosted a public hearing on technical education and career readiness at the IBEW 163 JATC Training Center.

Mullery requested the hearing to discuss how students can better prepare themselves to meet the demands of the jobs of the future.



The committee received testimony from Allyson Knox, director of education policy and programs, Microsoft; Carrie Amann, deputy secretary of Policy and Planning, Office of Gov. Tom Wolf; and Jeanne Miller, co-lead of the Carbon, Schuylkill, Luzerne STEM Ecosystem.

Rep. Helen Tai

#MeToo

Richboro | August 27

State Rep. Helen Tai hosted a public hearing on #MeToo at the Free Library of Northampton Township.

Tai requested the hearing to discuss ways in which the legislature can pass laws to prevent sexual harassment and to hold offenders accountable.

Testifiers included:

- Penelope Ettinger, executive director, Network of Victim Assistance
- Christa Hayburn, coordinator of marketing and social media communications, Women Organized Against Rape
- Samantha Koch, policy director, Gov. Tom Wolf's Office of Policy and Planning
- Terry Fromson, managing attorney, Women's Law Project
- Nadia Hewka, staff attorney, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia



Rep. Pam DeLissio House Bill 1688 Bala Cynwyd | August 29

State Rep. Pam DeLissio hosted a public roundtable on her House Bill 1688 at the West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

DeLissio's legislation would create the Pennsylvania Health Care Plan, a Medicare-for-all style single-payer plan.

Roundtable participants included:

- Mary Miller, human resources professional
- Wendell Potter, former head of corporate communications for health insurance company
- David Steil, founding member of HealthCare4AllPA
- Sam Marshall, president and CEO of Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania
- Robin Stelly, organizer for Pennsylvania Health Access Network
- Sara Atkins, consumer



Rep. Stephen Kinsey & Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald

Victim Support Services Philadelphia | August 30

Rep. Stephen Kinsey and Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald hosted a public hearing on victim support services at Tabor Services.

They requested the hearing to learn more about how the state can offer better assistance to victim support services.

The committee heard testimony from:

- Timesha Banks, president and CEO, Tabor Services
- Melany Nelson, executive director, Northwest Victim Services
- Dr. Kevin London, director of behavioral health, Greater Philadelphia Health Action
- George Timbers, care manager, Greater Philadelphia Health Action
- Mike Lee, assistant district attorney, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office
- Victoria Greene, founder/ executive director, Every Murder Is Real
- Chantay Love, program director, Every Murder Is Real
- Kimberly Tameria, parent/ advocate



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.