

March 4-7, 2019

POLICY RECAP

A Summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Hearings



REP. MARGO DAVIDSON | THE QUEST FOR A NON-TOXIC WORKPLACE: STOPPING DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

MARCH 4 | LANSDOWNE

Rep. Margo Davidson hosted a public hearing at East Lansdowne Borough Hall titled, “The Quest for a Non-Toxic Workplace: Stopping Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct.”

Davidson was joined by legislators from across the state including state Sen. Tim Kearney and Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon. The legislators discussed with stakeholders how Pennsylvanians can work to eradicate misconduct in the workplace. As a tireless advocate for those who’ve experienced discrimination and victims of sexual misconduct, Davidson has repeatedly introduced and co-sponsored legislation addressing this issue.

The committee heard testimony from: Morgan Williams, assistant chief counsel, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; and Harold Goldner, Esq., Kraut Harris, P.C. and Stephanie Klein, a mediator.





REP. MALCOLM KENYATTA & REP. DANILO BURGOS | TOXIC POVERTY MARCH 5 | PHILADELPHIA

State Reps. Malcolm Kenyatta and Danilo Burgos hosted a hearing at Warnock Village to discuss the health impacts of deep poverty and how to reverse the trend. Local officials and advocates talked to the committee to discuss how they can work together to create better opportunities to break the cycle of toxic poverty. Kenyatta emphasized that eradicating poverty is the moral and economic issue of our time and brought light to how we can work together to invest our resources in educating our communities, children and adults, and reduce the need for correctional and unnecessary medical costs.

Testifiers included:

- Dr. Loren Robinson, deputy secretary for Health, Promotion and Disease Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health;
- Octavia Howell, officer, Philadelphia Research Initiative, The Pew Charitable Trusts;
- Susannah Anderson, assistant professor, Temple University College of Public Health; and
- Bella Zuzel, resident, Project HOME.





REP. JOE HOHENSTEIN | MENTAL HEALTH IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT AND RECOVERY MARCH 6 | PHILADELPHIA

Rep. Joe Hohenstein hosted a hearing at Friends Hospital focused on the role of mental health in substance use disorder treatment and recovery.

Local officials and advocates discussed how they can work together to provide better treatment to those with substance abuse problems. The conversation included ways that the legislature can help pave a path to provide better help to successful long-term recovery.

- Lynn Kovich, deputy secretary for the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services;
- Ellen DiDomenico, deputy secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs;
- Steven Datlof, board-certified psychiatrist and

distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association;

- Michael Blank, professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine;
- David Como, executive director, Northeast Community Center for Behavioral Health;
- Ken Martz, psychologist, Gaudenzia Inc.;
- Elvis Rosado, education and community outreach coordinator, Prevention Point Philadelphia;
- Mitali Patnaik, medical director, Friends Hospital Crisis Response Center;
- Devin Reaves, executive director, Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition;
- Dawn Holden Woods, CEO, Turning Points for Children; and
- Rebecca Bonner, director, The Bridge Way School.





REP. MELISSA SHUSTERMAN | COMMONSENSE GUN REFORM AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION MARCH 7 | PHOENIXVILLE



Rep. Melissa Shusterman hosted a public forum at the Phoenixville Borough Building to discuss commonsense gun reform and violence prevention efforts.



Legislators, stakeholders and the public discussed legislative efforts that could improve violence prevention efforts and help forge a path toward realistic policy goals.



Panelists included:

- Shira Goodman, executive director, Ceasefire PA;
- Marybeth Christiansen, state legislative lead, Moms Demand Action;
- Erin Buchner, Chester County local lead, Moms Demand Action;
- Star Cummin Bright; gun violence survivor and legislative lead, Gun SenseUs;
- Daniel Navin, military veteran;
- Peter Urscheler, mayor, Borough of Phoenixville;
- Laila Norford and Isabella Butera, high school student activists.

ABOUT THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Rep. Mike Sturla is chairman 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.

PLAN4PA

House Democrats have a **Plan4PA**, a new way forward that puts people first with *good jobs, affordable health care, quality schools* and a *fair economy*.

