

August 2019

POLICY RECAP



A Summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Meetings



REP. DAN WILLIAMS AUGUST 12 | COATESVILLE FAIR EDUCATION FUNDING

State Rep. Dan Williams hosted a hearing on fair education funding and its effect on property taxes at the Spackman Center. Testifiers included senior citizens, local school officials, and education policy experts.





REP. MALCOLM KENYATTA AUGUST 13 | PHILADELPHIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta hosted a hearing on environmental justice at the Lutheran Settlement House. Members and testers discussed how to ensure the fair treatment and involvement of all people, regardless of race or income, in the development and implementation of environmental policies.



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REP. STEVE MALAGARI

AUGUST 14 | SOUDERTON

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Rep. Steve Malagari hosted a hearing on transportation infrastructure at the Souderton Borough. Top executives from SEPTA and PennDOT as well as a panel of local government officials talked about how the state can better support efforts to improve infrastructure in a coordinated manners.



REP. LIZ HANBIDGE

AUGUST 15 | LANSDALE

REDUCING HCBS WAIVER WAITLIST

Rep. Liz Hanbidge hosted a hearing on the Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Waitlist at the Towamencin Township Building. DHS and advocates explained the importance of reducing this waitlist of 13,000 to ensure these critical services are provided to individuals with disabilities who are saving PA billions of dollars by waiving their right to institutional care.



REP. JAKE WHEATLEY, JR. AUGUST 16 | PITTSBURGH FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR PENNSYLVANIANS

Rep. Jake Wheatley, Jr. hosted a roundtable discussion on the financial future of Pennsylvanians at BNY Mellon. The committee heard about efforts from the PA Treasury Department, local credit unions, the City of Pittsburgh, and local non-profits to help people of all ages save and budget better.





REP. BOB MERSKI AUGUST 19 | ERIE TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE

Rep. Bob Merski hosted a public hearing on technology workforce at Mercyhurst University. The committee learned how Erie is become a center of cyber security education efforts that will enhance local job opportunities in the technology sector.



REP. SUMMER LEE & REP. ED GAINEY AUGUST 27 | RANKIN USE OF POLICE FORCE

Rep. Summer Lee and Rep. Ed Gaaney hosted a hearing on their House Bill 1664 at Hawkins Village. Their legislation would eliminate effectuating an arrest as a justification for the use of deadly force. It also would mandate that de-escalation and non-lethal force options be exhausted prior to lethal force being deployed and that lethal force only be used and justified to prevent imminent threat to life. Testifiers provided valuable feedback on the bill.





REP. AUSTIN DAVIS
AUGUST 29 | MUNHALL
MINIMUM WAGE

Rep. Austin Davis hosted a hearing on the minimum wage at Munhall Borough Hall. L&I officials and various advocates talked about the economic benefits of raising PA’s minimum wage.



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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.

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