



State Representative Maria P. Donatucci



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Working toward equal pay for women

In Pennsylvania, many women are still paid less than their male counterparts for the same work, which is why I continue to fight for pay equity. Recently, I joined Gov. Tom Wolf as he signed Executive Order 2018-18-03, Equal Pay for Employees of the Commonwealth, which directs state agencies under the governor's jurisdiction no longer to ask job applicants their salary history during the hiring process.

Gov. Wolf's order also requires that these agencies base salaries on job responsibilities, position pay range, and job knowledge and skills, while clearly explaining the pay range on all job postings. The bill only impacts state agencies, but it's an important step in the right direction, as it provides an example to others.

I have also introduced H.B. 931 with Rep. Donna Bullock. Our bill would ban the payment of different wages to employees based on their gender for the same or comparable job. The legislation is modeled after the Massachusetts Pay Equity Law which received unanimous and bipartisan support in the legislature there.

As you know, on average an American woman makes 79 cents for every dollar an American man makes for performing the same job. Our bill would prohibit discriminatory pay based on gender and place new penalties on employers who practice these discriminatory wage practices.



I stood next to my colleagues as Gov. Wolf signed his executive order.

Our legislation seeks to correct this economic injustice by allowing employees the ability to inquire about wages and disclose information about wages, and by banning retaliatory actions against workers who discuss or file a complaint regarding pay inequities. By creating an atmosphere that allows for the discussion of wages, we can make strides in narrowing the pay gap between the genders.

Offering a second chance to offenders

Many vulnerable populations suffer far-reaching consequences for committing non-violent misdemeanors, long after they have served their sentences. By providing second chances, we can break harmful cycles, strengthen families and restore harmony to our communities.

I recently hosted a Pathways to Pardons event for citizens to learn how the pardon process works in Pennsylvania and how they can overcome past convictions. This event was a resource for those in need of a second chance to better themselves and support their families. One of the reasons for holding the Pathways to

Pardons workshop is because 3 million Pennsylvanians, more than a third of the state's working-age population, have criminal records, with many carrying misdemeanor records or arrests without conviction. I am looking forward to planning more of these events in the future.

I was also delighted to co-sponsor Clean Slate, a landmark criminal justice reform bill that received overwhelming bipartisan support. Recently signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf, this legislation seals low-level offenses from public access. I believe Clean Slate will reduce recidivism and

benefit workers by improving housing, employment, and educational opportunities.

Some criminal records, including older second- and third-degree misdemeanors and arrests that didn't result in a conviction, will be automatically sealed beginning June 2020. To learn more about your eligibility under this new law, contact the county court where your case was heard and ask whether you owe any outstanding fees.

If you wish to seal a conviction that occurred within the past 10 years, you may file a petition with the corresponding court starting in January 2019. You can contact the court to learn more about their filing process.

New budget delivers more for Pa. education

The budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year passed on time, and I am pleased to announce there are no tax increases and there's additional funding to improve education for all students across the state.

We allocated record high amounts in a number of areas:

- \$140 million more for basic, special and early education
- \$60 million block grant program for school and community safety
- \$40 million for career and technical education
- Higher education institutions will see a 3 percent increase in funding

Earlier this summer, Gov. Wolf announced a \$7.6 million state investment for lead, mold and asbestos cleanup in 59 Philadelphia schools. The School District of Philadelphia will match those funds for a total of \$15.7 million. Penrose Elementary School and John Bartram High School are among the schools going through lead paint stabilization to make the schools safer for students.

With the 2018-19 budget, we replenished the Rainy Day Fund, which was empty after balances were spent during the past two recessions. This



I stood alongside Gov. Wolf and our Democratic colleagues as we announced the lead remediation funding for Philadelphia schools.

money is an important sign of fiscal responsibility and good health, and it's intended to mitigate the impact of economic downturns on our budget.

The 2018-19 state budget lays a solid foundation to build a better Pennsylvania – a Pennsylvania that welcomes and provides opportunities for ALL.

Janus decision weakens unions and puts workers at risk

Just this year, 1,500 airport workers at the Philadelphia International Airport secured their first union contract, more than doubling their wages in the process and ensuring workplace protections for the men and women who make the airport work. Thousands of health-care workers across the commonwealth have joined SEIU Healthcare PA in recent years and adjunct faculty members at colleges and universities across the state have been joining unions in droves. Unions have been integral in ensuring we have an eight-hour work day, rules limiting underage labor and workers who truly believe in what public service is all about.

The high court's decision in the Janus v. AFSCME case was a step in the wrong direction for our families and the working class. This outcome will harm public servants such as nurses, teachers, school district workers, police, firefighters and social workers, in addition to driving down wages for everyone, eliminating health insurance for many working families and making workplace accidents and deaths more likely.



I hosted a hearing along with my colleagues to discuss the impact of the Janus decision on workers across the state.



On May 24th, I attended the 30th Anniversary of the South West Community Development Corporation at Bartram Gardens, joined here by Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and Donna Henry, Director of the Southwest CDC.



On April 24th, I had the pleasure of joining Mayor Jim Kenney, Philadelphia SD Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite, Jr., colleagues and students of Bartram High School in a ground breaking for their new athletic field.



On April 12th, I was in Penn's Landing for an "Advancing Women in Transportation" panel discussion with legislators from neighboring states as well as Transportation Committee Chairman Rep. John Taylor.

SEPTA Key Replacing Transit Payment Methods

SEPTA plans to fully transition to the new electronic fare-payment SEPTA Key card on its transit lines (buses, trolleys, and subways) by the end of the summer, replacing most other forms of senior identification and commuter payment.

Token sales stopped at SEPTA locations on April 30 and will phase out at non-SEPTA retail locations this summer. Magnetic stripe Trans/TrailPass and paper transfer sales also ended as of Aug. 1.

SEPTA Key cards include a reloadable Travel Wallet, which allows customers to pay-as-you-ride and can also be loaded with SEPTA passes. SEPTA Key cards may be purchased for \$4.95, but as a special promotion, SEPTA will credit that fee to a customer's Card Travel Wallet if the card is registered within 30 days at <http://SEPTAKey.org/> or by calling 1(855) 567-3782.

Seniors will no longer be able to use paper Pennsylvania Senior Citizen Transit ID Cards for SEPTA travel as of Sept. 1, and SEPTA no longer accepts Pennsylvania driver's licenses issued after July 2017 or Medicare cards.

Those 65 and older can apply for a free SEPTA Senior Key Card at my district office, eliminating the need to travel to SEPTA headquarters. SEPTA will then mail you the photo ID card. To make sure that there is someone in the office who can take your picture, and prevent a wait, please call my Philadelphia office at (215) 468-1515 and ask for Michelle to make an appointment for your photo.

Pennsylvania Disability Transit ID cards will no longer be accepted starting on Oct. 1. They'll be replaced by the SEPTA Key Reduced Fare Card. The application for that card must be completed by a physician and applied for in-person at SEPTA headquarters or at the Accessible Travel Center at Suburban Station.

SEPTA is currently testing the rollout of SEPTA Key on Regional Rail, which is expected to occur later this year. For more information about SEPTA Key and sale locations, please visit www.septa.org/key/.

\$1.5 million grant to make local intersection safer for everyone

The intersection at 20th Street and Penrose, Moyamensing and Packer avenues will be realigned with the help of a \$1.5 million grant from the state's Automated Red Light Enforcement funding program. The City of Philadelphia is moving in the right direction as we continue to support important infrastructure projects to ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available.

I'm glad that we were able to secure a grant for this particular intersection, not only for the safety of our community, but also for the people who drive around on a daily basis. This funding will help make the intersection more efficient, facilitate better traffic flow, increase pedestrian safety, and decrease or eliminate potential traffic crashes.



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185th Legislative District

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INSIDE:

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- New budget delivers more for Pa. education
- Progress on equal pay for women

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Register and Vote! Important 2018 General Election Deadlines

- **Oct. 9:** Last day to register to vote or update registration due to name or address change – you can do this online at www.votespa.com.
- **Oct. 30 (by 5 p.m.):** Last day to apply for an absentee ballot.
- **Nov. 2 (by 5 p.m.):** Last day for county election offices to receive absentee ballots.
- **Nov. 6:** General Election Day.

You may vote by absentee ballot if you're unable to make it to the polls because of illness, disability, or if you'll be out of your municipality on Election Day.

Applications for absentee ballots are available at my district office, through Philadelphia voter services (215-686-1591), or online at www.votespa.com.

Contact my Office...

For help with any state related issues, contact my office:

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As a lifelong Eagles fan, it was a dream come true to stand next to the Lombardi Trophy in my Eagles jersey.