



Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania
House of
Representatives

Majority Policy Committee
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“With nearly \$1 trillion spent nationwide combatting poverty coupled with 46 million Americans still living in poverty, clearly we must readjust our focuses.”- Rep. Dave Reed



Today, approximately 1.6 million Pennsylvania residents live in poverty. From urban and suburban settings to the state’s most rural communities, poverty continues to grip far too many Pennsylvania families.

To address this issue, the House Majority Policy Committee launched the **Empowering Opportunities** initiative in July 2013. The effort includes a public policy agenda that centers on supporting effective gateways out of poverty. Through discussions with groups on the front line of fighting poverty and those who live with it daily, Empowering Opportunities has developed five areas for a deeper focus. These topics will seek to establish effective and sustainable policy and legislative solutions to serve as the greater gateways out of poverty:

- ***Outcomes That Matter***

Far too often, government seeks to measure program results merely by counting the number of people participating in a program. Unless policy makers establish long-term visions for anti-poverty programs, where agencies are held accountable for the success of an individual, Pennsylvania will only continue to provide short term solutions for our neediest citizens.

Rep. Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) Rep. George Dunbar (R-Westmoreland)

- ***Life Skills 101***

A competitive economy requires a workforce that not only understands the rules of the workplace, but also the rules of life. From basic understanding of finances, to the soft skills needed for employment, individuals from all income brackets continue to be in need of basic skills necessary for financial security and successful careers.

Rep. Rosemary Brown (R-Monroe/Pike) Rep. Dan Truitt (R-Chester)

- ***Benefits That Work***

There is a serious need for a comprehensive evaluation of our public assistance programs in the Commonwealth. Aimed at both protecting our hard-earned taxpayer dollars while encouraging families to earn their way out of poverty, a new perspective is necessary to assess the downfalls and incentivizes in our current benefits’ structure.

Rep. Tom Murt (R-Montgomery) Rep. Tim Kreiger (R-Westmoreland)

- ***The Essentials***

Any conversation on poverty in Pennsylvania must first begin by addressing the basic needs of life: food, shelter, and clothing. By first meeting the basic necessities of life, we provide a first step in the transformational experience from poverty to self-sufficiency.

Rep. Becky Corbin (R-Chester) Rep. Tommy Sankey (R-Clearfield)

- ***Educating for Opportunity***

Access to quality education has the potential to be the great equalizer in our society. From early childhood learning opportunities to appropriate training in postsecondary atmospheres, education provides the essential foundation for gainful employment.

Rep. Todd Stephens (R-Montgomery) Rep. Jim Christiana (R-Beaver)