

HOUSE REPUBLICAN

POLICY

COMMITTEE



2023 Q3 REPORT
JULY–SEPTEMBER

JOSHUA D. KAIL, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



HOPE

Republican Policy Committee

As Fall descends on Harrisburg, the Republican Policy Committee continues on its mission to listen and respond to the needs of our state. The Committee has heard ever-growing calls to preserve our freedoms, unlock our ingenuity, and enhance our opportunities. These calls combine to inspire optimism and prosperity in Pennsylvania's future. As the Democrat-controlled Legislature fails to deliver real-world accomplishments for the Commonwealth, House Republicans are busy preparing a framework to combat the status quo and exalt the voices and desires of our constituents.

With the Capitol continuing on its crawl through a slow and unproductive legislative session, the Policy Committee has moved forward by traveling the state to discuss legislative priorities that inspire **HOPE** in all Pennsylvanians.

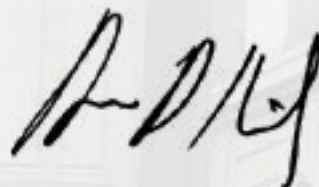
Hope for Pennsylvania families through innovative policy solutions that are people driven and future focused.

Opportunity for family-sustaining jobs. We must harness the ample resources offered right here in Pennsylvania, from a highly skilled workforce and abundant energy portfolio to our manufacturing might and agriculture prowess, we must foster the opportunities found here so we can continue to grow as a state.

Prosperity for working families. We need to promote Pennsylvania as open for business by removing burdensome taxation, easing the regulatory climate, and addressing overbearing bureaucracy.

Excellence in Government. Government should work for the people in an efficient and effective manner. Too often we see Government as a hurdle to success. Government must promptly react to the needs of its people and allow citizens and the market to guide sound policy.

The following report is a summary of all hearings, tours and events pursued by the 2023-2024 Republican Policy Committee from July through September 2023. This Q3 report will provide a glimpse into the wide range of issues and concerns addressed by the Committee and potential solutions to the obstacles to opportunity. Further information to build upon what is included in this report, such as testimony, testifier biographies, and videos, can be found at www.pagoppolicy.com.



Chairman Joshua D. Kail

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HOPE

ADDRESSING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES



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EDUCATION: A LIFELINE TO OPPORTUNITY



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Rep. Jamie Flick

"We've just scratched the surface today, and I think everyone knows that."

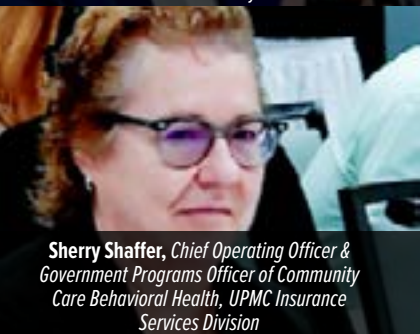
TESTIFIERS

Keith Wagner, Executive Director,
Lycoming Clinton Joinder

"I know that the men and women who work in the mental health system are doing all they can to keep the system afloat."

Ryan Gardner, Lycoming County
District Attorney

"Until and unless the financial resources of this Commonwealth are distributed to our rural community, this epidemic-type situation will only continue to worsen."

Sherry Shaffer, Chief Operating Officer &
Government Programs Officer of Community
Care Behavioral Health, UPMC Insurance
Services Division

"People experiencing mental health problems often have underlying unmet needs."

Dr. Eric Briggs, Superintendent,
South Williamsport Area School District

"Optimal learning environments are only possible when students' mental health needs are met."

Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Rural Communities

September 7, 2023

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Hosted by Rep. Flick

As the saying goes, "there can be no health without mental health" and our rural communities face many obstacles when it comes to caring for their mental wellbeing. To draw attention to the concerns of our rural communities, the Policy Committee traveled to Williamsport to learn about rural mental health from local leaders and experts. Obstacles to care were heard, requests for assistance were made, and available resources were brought to light for the betterment of our rural communities.

TAKEAWAYS

NAVIGATING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

LYCOMING CLINTON JOINDER

- ▶ **Between 2010 and 2020 the Lycoming County suicide rate has increased by 65%.**
- ▶ The most significant barriers to rural mental health services are population, access, and funding.
- ▶ The two primary funding sources for mental health services in PA are the State Mental Health Base Allocation and Medicaid.
- ▶ **40% of the total inmate population in the Lycoming County Prison has an active mental illness.**
- ▶ **What can be done?**
 - **Increase base funding for mental health.** Lycoming-Clinton's mental health allocation today is less than it was in 2006.
 - **Move mental health budgeting to a needs-based model** similar to Child Welfare.
 - **Mental health workers need further incentives to work in the field.** Student loan relief, tuition reimbursement, and stipends would encourage young people to enter into careers as mental health workers.



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

- **Modify education/licensing requirements** to enable those with master's degrees to operate as mental health specialists – especially child psychologists.
- **Conjoin mental health funding between existing systems** to enable greater cooperation and access.

LYCOMING COUNTY D.A.

- ▶ **When dispatched to a scene with a person experiencing mental health issues an officer's only option is to make an arrest in order to protect the individual from harm.**
- ▶ Mental health-related criminality is often only a misdemeanor, but the lack of fitness for arraignment, lack of residence, or the unavailability of a "safe drop-off location" leaves little option other than incarceration.
- ▶ Defendants suffering with mental health ailments must often be incarcerated for longer periods of time than non-mental health defendants.
- ▶ County jails lack the necessary staff and resources to counsel defendants and provide oversight for medication compliance.
- ▶ **There is a severe lack of long-term care group home facilities.** These facilities are needed to provide structure and care for those afflicted with mental health issues and those leaving the criminal justice system.

EMPOWERING MENTAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

UPMC

- ▶ Pennsylvania's current mental health funding model integrates mental health and substance use disorder services into county-directed human services systems.
- ▶ **Alternatives to incarceration must be attempted for people addressing substance use and/or mental illness. Community-based support and intervention efforts are key.**
- ▶ Services for youth must be expanded to involve both the child's school AND their homes/families.
- ▶ Behavioral health is just as important as mental health. Through home visitation and coordination with health care providers, common physical and mental health ailments can be proactively addressed, namely diabetes, hypertension, addiction, and depression.
- ▶ **Mental health problems often stem from underlying unmet needs such as unemployment, food insecurity, and lack of affordable housing.**

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT AREA S.D.

- ▶ Rural school districts face five core issues concerning mental health:
 - **Limited Access to Services**
 - » Lack of simple data management and local mental health facilities leaves children with limited targeted assistance and excessive travel distances to receive supports.
 - **Stigma**
 - » Bullying and repression of mental health concerns is experienced to a greater degree in rural communities. Students and families must know that reaching out for help is OK, and the perspective of mental health care is slowly changing for the better.
 - **Awareness**
 - » Student suicides are on the rise, and research is being conducted to address the root of these issues. Without data it is difficult to properly address these concerns.

- **Educator Training**

- » Teachers are expected to counsel students, but there is a lack of preparatory coursework and training within teacher preparation programs.

- **Economic Hardship**

- » Poverty exacerbates stress within a family and places immense strain on children. Remote mental health support is welcomed, but is only a dream for many students lacking reliable internet access.





Rep. Martina White, Caucus Secretary

"We have a duty to help students trapped in consistently under-performing schools."

TESTIFIERS



Andrew Brady, President,
West Catholic Preparatory High School

"I see the desperation in parents who want nothing more than what is best for their kids."



Joy Converse,
Former Public School Teacher

"Unless parents can afford to send their child to the school of their choice, they're stuck."



Jaslin Vasquez-Gonzalez,
Student, St. Joseph's University

"No kid deserves to be stuck in a failing school that makes them feel scared and alone, and with Lifeline scholarships they won't have to."



Keemah Brewington, Parent

"Just the thought of my child going to the neighborhood public school made me cringe."

Education:

A Lifeline to Opportunity

September 12, 2023

IUPAT District Council 21, Philadelphia

Hosted by Rep. White

Students trapped in the bottom 15% of PA schools are in need of a lifeline to opportunity. Pathways are possible, legislation has been proposed, and the time for action is NOW. To learn more about the necessity of PASS/Lifeline Scholarships for our children the Policy Committee traveled to Philadelphia to hear directly from school officials, students, and parents.

TAKEAWAYS

FROM OUR SCHOOLS

WEST CATHOLIC PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ If PASS/Lifeline Scholarships were made available, private schools would see an influx of students. The interest is there; the current challenge is affordability.
- ▶ PASS/Lifeline Scholarships would not negatively impact the finances of public schools. **The scholarships do not change current school funding via existing taxation.**
- ▶ Though PASS applicability is limited to families with incomes below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines, approximately \$70,000, Mr. Brady argued that the families and students within that demographic need the most assistance to find new educational opportunities.

FORMER PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

- ▶ No Child Left Behind, along with developmentally inappropriate expectations such as knowing how to read by age 5, turned Mrs. Converse away from public school teaching.
- ▶ **The needs of ESL (English As A Second Language) students are often not met by public schools,** and ESL/international children struggle not because of intelligence but due to language barriers. **A student MUST comprehend the English language before attempting Pennsylvania's standardized tests.**
- ▶ Schooling is more than tests and academics. Children must play and create sacred memories that will influence their mindset and future decisions.



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

TESTIFIERS



Shannon Mitchell, Parent

*"We need a chance.
That's what we deserve.
We need a chance."*



Click on the testifier picture above to view their testimony.



- Schools cannot educate without the involvement of parents. **Parents MUST be involved in their child's education to ensure growth and future success.**

JASLIN: STUDENT

- The idea of attending the local Philadelphia public school terrified Jaslin. She saw extreme violence at the school beside her childhood home. **It is hard to excel when you are more worried about surviving than succeeding.**
- Affording alternatives to public school is incredibly stressful for families and children. Children should not be concerned with the money needed to provide for their basic education.
- Students in Philadelphia without the opportunity provided to Jaslin often do not graduate and get trapped in low-wage jobs.
- Many of Jaslin's classmates from her time in a Philadelphia public school had no concept of how to apply for college or further their education past high school.
- Jaslin's friends and classmates would overwhelmingly accept and use PASS/Lifeline Scholarships.
- Jaslin believes the lack of proper education, opportunity, and hope for the future is fueling youth violence in Philadelphia.

FROM OUR HOMES**KEEMAH: PARENT**

- Keemah is a self-described "hard-core Democrat" but sees school choice as an issue that impacts ALL families of varied politics.
- **Philadelphia does not allow elections for school board members**, which Keemah believes does not enable parents to properly advocate for their children.
- **Philadelphia School District's "School Select" system disallows parents to apply directly to the public school of their choice**, and instead uses test scores and behavior to make the determination for the parents. This initially benefited Keemah's high-achieving daughter but was a major obstacle for her son.
- Encouraging school choice will force public schools to "up their game" and be accountable to parents and students who have the option to leave.

► **Mothers and fathers in Keemah's community would OVERWHELMINGLY utilize PASS/Lifeline Scholarships to provide opportunity for their children.**

► The \$70,000 threshold for PASS/Lifeline applicability may be too low considering inflation and the rising cost of living in Philadelphia.

SHANNON: PARENT

► Shannon is the mother of three, with two of her children having significant disabilities.

► Even though Shannon's home is within the ZIP code of a blue-ribbon school, her children were forced to attend a separate school as her home bisects two school districts.

► The public school assigned to Shannon's children severely limited the assistance they could receive in the classroom, even when Shannon offered to pay for aides herself.

► **Shannon believes her assigned public school is not educating her children, but rather acting as a day care.**

► Through in-home tutoring, paid for out of pocket, Shannon's children developed greater language acquisition and knowledge. She saw tremendous growth when her children were given the education that worked with their needs and abilities.





OPPORTUNITY

CREATING EDUCATIONAL PIPELINES TO PROSPERITY



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THE COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION



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Rep. Joe Adams

"Given our location in the Northeast corridor and the rapid population growth, these areas need a skilled workforce."

TESTIFIERS



Mary Beth Wood, Executive Director,
Wayne Economic Development Corporation

"We need educational infrastructure to address the 'people side' of economic development."



Joann Hudak, Chairperson of the Board,
Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance

"We know that we must build these pipelines for young people to achieve family-sustaining jobs."



Keith Gunuskey, Superintendent,
Wallenpaupack Area School District

"There is recognition that today's skill-based economy demands technical training, and there is a will within the communities of Wayne and Pike counties to address this demand at the highest level."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.



Creating Educational Pipelines to Prosperity

September 19, 2023

Wallenpaupack Area High School

Hosted by Rep. Adams

The Policy Committee traveled to the Poconos to draw attention to a community in need of opportunity. Pike and Wayne counties are two of the last counties without a Career and Technical Center (CTC). Given their location in the Northeast corridor and rapid population growth, these areas require a skilled workforce to empower their future. To do so, Pike and Wayne counties must acquire the facilities necessary to provide a significant career and technical education (CTE) program to meet students' and industry's demands.

TAKEAWAYS

WAYNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

- ▶ The Pocono region lags significantly in Manufacturing and the Professional & Technical Services industries. These good-paying careers are possible in the region, but a Career & Technical Center is urgently needed to prepare a workforce.
- ▶ Though unemployment in Wayne County is low, the labor force decreased by 12.5% since 2008, largely via those aged 25 – 54 disengaging from pursuing work.
- ▶ In 2005 Wayne County had NO chartered CareerLink®, NO Career & Technical Center, and NO Community College.
 - Today, there is still NO Career & Technical Center and only college satellite campuses in Wayne County.

WAYNE PIKE WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

- ▶ Adults in PA's Northeast need outlets for postsecondary education and training. The planned CTC will be open to adults after 3 p.m. to facilitate adult education and furthering of career potential.
- ▶ Women in the Poconos region are now employed to the same degree as women were in the 1970s, largely due to lost careers in childcare during Covid.
- ▶ For every one advanced degree, our society needs two bachelor's degrees and seven technical certifications for efficient production and growth.

- ▶ Today's kids are less inclined to hold part-time jobs where career skills are developed. Less than 20% of PA kids hold part-time jobs.

WALLENPAUPACK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ▶ Wayne & Pike counties are two of the last counties in PA without Career and Technical Centers.
- ▶ **Pocono area school districts first petitioned the State for a Wayne/Pike CTC in 1970!**
- ▶ The most significant regional barrier, outside of cost, is the significant distance students must travel for access to a CTC.
- ▶ Currently, students in regional school districts only have access to limited CTE programs and must travel to other far-away schools for more options. Students prefer to remain in their home district, with their friends, and close to their communities.

THE PLAN

- ▶ CTC feasibility studies, interest inventories, prospective siting locations, and implementation phases have already been completed.
- ▶ A CTC is most feasible within Wallenpaupack Area School District, and will operate alongside three satellite campuses in the region using pre-existing facilities. The final remaining obstacle, cost, is estimated to be \$30 million – \$40 million.
- ▶ The proposed CTC will be open to students and the public 24/7 — offering CDL certification, first-responder training, nursing programs, and more for adult education.





Chairman Joshua D. Kail

"We can't manage what we can't measure."

TESTIFIERS



Dr. Daniel Greenstein, Chancellor, PASSHE

"Maintaining affordable, high-quality, financially-sustainable operations requires a portfolio approach."



Tom Foley, President, AICUP

"We should invest in programs that allow students to obtain college credits while in high school, particularly through dual enrollment."



Dr. Quintin Bullock, President, Community College of Allegheny County
On behalf of PA Commission for Community Colleges

"What we pride ourselves on is the ability to work very closely with business and industry to ensure that the programming that we offer aligns and supports the needs in our various communities."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.



The Cost of Higher Education

September 27, 2023

Republican Caucus Room

Hosted by Chairman Kail

Higher education is expensive, and the cost to pursue a degree increases with each passing year. All Pennsylvanians should have access to higher education, and the price of pursuing a degree should not impede our best and brightest. Before this issue is addressed, we must first understand why higher education carries such expense.

TAKEAWAYS

PASSHE (PA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION)

- ▶ PASSHE is composed of 10 universities serving more than 80,000 students.
- ▶ PASSHE's educational and general budget is comprised of student tuition/fees (56%), state appropriations (34%), and other miscellaneous sources (10%).
- ▶ **Student and state-generated revenues typically result in a 2:1 ratio.**
- ▶ A vast majority, 72% of the educational and general budget, is spent on personnel-related expenditures.
- ▶ **Personnel cost growth is almost entirely driven by pension costs**, which have risen 250% in the last decade.
- ▶ Facility maintenance is a frequent expense, but existing aging facilities are not receiving the upkeep they require.
- ▶ Declining enrollment following COVID has not enabled universities to generate the revenues needed to support student housing investments made in recent years.
- ▶ **60% of PA careers require a college degree, while only 51% of Pennsylvanians hold a degree.**

PASSHE COST-SAVING SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ **Require financially sustainable management** with clear and measurable expectations.

- ▶ **Universities should utilize system-wide procurement** to decrease the cost of buying goods and services as part of a procurement collective.
- ▶ **Universities should share academic programming** — degree programs, majors, and minors — to offer more options than could be provided by a single institution.
- ▶ **Share staff appointments** to decrease faculty costs and enable talented people to fill vital roles at multiple institutions.
- ▶ **Share services** such as labor relations, legal, payroll, human resources, data analytics, etc. to share the cost across universities.
- ▶ **Demolish unused/underused buildings** to eliminate maintenance costs.

AICUP (ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES OF PA)

- ▶ AICUP is composed of 90 independent nonprofit colleges and universities, serving half of all four-year degree seeking students in PA.
- ▶ **The “sticker price” of a degree is rarely the actual cost paid by students at an AICUP educational institution.** About 90% of all AICUP students receive direct or indirect aid from the school, grants, or scholarships.
- ▶ The average net tuition and fees paid by AICUP students has only risen by 0.4% in the last decade.

AICUP INFLATIONARY/ECONOMIC COSTS

- ▶ **General Living Expenses** — Food, water, sewage, and housing costs have risen significantly due to inflation.
- ▶ **Energy** — Gas and electricity costs are extensive for large universities.
- ▶ **Technology** — Computers and system upgrades. Our universities need the most modern tools and equipment.
- ▶ **Debt Costs** — Bond yields decrease as inflation eats away at the interest potential.
- ▶ **Transportation** — New vehicles and increases to university-provided transportation carry significant expense.
- ▶ **Personnel Costs** — Retirements, benefits, and health care. Health care costs are expected to dramatically increase in 2024.

AICUP INSTRUCTIONAL/STUDENT SUPPORT COSTS

- ▶ **Mental Health** — Post COVID, universities saw rapid expansion in much-needed mental health care offered to students.
- ▶ **Learning Loss** — K-12 students experienced significant loss in their educational offerings during COVID, and the impact is now being felt in our universities which must provide increased remedial services and support.
- ▶ **Changing Student Profile** — Students today differ in the opportunities and affluence of past generations. Schools have found that they must assist with food insecurity, housing concerns, and lack of transportation to facilitate an education for students of varied means and backgrounds.
- ▶ **Overall Expectations** — College campuses are a 24/7 living and lived-in environment. The responsibilities and services of what a university should provide has grown, and has led to increased costs.

AICUP COST-SAVING SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ **Expand PHEAA'S Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS) Program** and remove or adjust current GPA limitations to increase access.

- ▶ **Encourage collaboration between higher education institutions** to decrease costs and provide greater access to their student bodies. Collaboration can include cyber-security programs, energy procurement, bond financing, software licensing, group purchasing, benefits/health insurance, retirement programs, student textbooks, and more.
- ▶ **Invest in high school dual enrollment opportunities** to enable high school students to earn college credits and jumpstart their pursuit of higher education.
- ▶ **Reduce legislative, regulatory, bureaucratic, and unfunded program requirements placed on institutions.** Data reporting requirements are duplicative, time consuming, and require additional staff.
- ▶ **Invest in financial literacy efforts for both students and parents.** Some schools have begun to require a financial literacy course for all incoming freshmen students to discuss budgeting, borrowing, and loan repayment.

PA COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- ▶ Pennsylvania hosts 15 community colleges which collectively are the largest provider of public postsecondary education in the Commonwealth.
- ▶ **Community college students that transfer to a baccalaureate-granting institution save on average tens of thousands on the cost of their degree.**
- ▶ **High school dual enrollment programs are most often partnered with local community colleges** to enable high school students to jumpstart their college path while saving both time and money.
- ▶ State funding constitutes 22%, and tuition constitutes more than 60%, of community college budgets for FY 2021-2022.
- ▶ To avoid raising tuition, community colleges have eliminated programs, increased efficiency, and decreased their workforce by 29% in the last decade.
- ▶ Community colleges enable continued learning opportunities for career advancement and skill refinement. **A degree is not always the student's goal at a community college.**
- ▶ COVID decreased student enrollment, required the purchase of remote learning equipment, and encouraged the expansion of mental health supports for students.
- ▶ Expansion of the transfer of college credits between institutions is integral to retaining the cost-saving potential of community colleges.
- ▶ **Community college students can transfer to a PASSHE school, begin with full junior standing, and retain up to 60 credits.**



PROSPERITY

RECLAIMING OUR POTENTIAL: PA RARE EARTH MINERALS



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Rep. Mike Armanini

"If we miss the boat with these rare earth minerals we are going to jeopardize our dominance in the world."



Rep. Dallas Kephart

"We are missing an opportunity to not only address an environmental concern but decrease — if not end — our dependence on a foreign power."

TESTIFIERS



Dr. Pete Rozelle, Ph.D., Advisor, Pennsylvania State University College of Earth & Mineral Sciences, Retired Program Manager, U.S. Department of Energy

"The same skillsets in producing coal tie in directly with rare earth minerals."



Dr. Sarma Pisupati, Ph.D., Professor of Energy & Mineral Engineering; Professor of Chemical Engineering, Director of the Center for Critical Minerals, Pennsylvania State University

"You can't grow solar panels; you need to mine for them!"



Anthony Marchese, Chairman, Texas Mineral Resources Corp.

"The United States needs to take more of a lead in this area."

Reclaiming Our Potential: PA Rare Earth Minerals

August 22, 2023

River's Landing & Event Center

Hosted by Rep. Kephart & Rep. Armanini

The Commonwealth's rich history of mining has an opportunity to extend far into the future. Orphaned mines, coal refuse along our landscape, and acidic waters offer immense potential for rare earth mineral mining and refinement. These minerals, necessary for the technologies of the modern day, can be found trapped in the wastes of the past and used long into the future. Environmental concerns can be addressed, and new resources can be found, all right here within Pennsylvania.

TAKEAWAYS

EXPLAINING RARE EARTH MINERALS

DR. PETE ROZELLE

- ▶ Rare earth minerals are composed of 17 different elements, all distributed in very low concentrations throughout the world.
- ▶ Rare earth minerals are needed in all modern technologies: smart phones, computers, cars, defense systems, etc.
- ▶ **The U.S. supply chain is dependent on the accessibility of rare earth minerals.** Our electric grid, energy storage infrastructure, cybersecurity, IT, and vehicles require continuous access to rare earth minerals.
- ▶ Key to increasing extraction is further geologic exploration. Once our reserves are better determined, private capital will be attracted to the opportunities.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY: CENTER FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

- ▶ **The US is 100% reliant on the import of 15 of 51 total minerals needed for nationwide manufacturing and industrial needs.**
- ▶ China was responsible for more than 80% of rare earth imports in 2022.
- ▶ The U.S. has limited primary ore reserves, only 1% of the worlds total. Our native reserves stem from secondary resources such as mining waste, coal mine drainage, and fly ash.



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

TESTIFIERS



James Swistock, President and Co-Founder, Penncara Energy, LLC

"The industry wants to grow and prosper, but you can't do that with a boot on your neck!"



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.



- ▶ The process to remove rare earth minerals from acid mine drainage and coal refuse piles both cleans the environment and provides much needed materials.

TEXAS MINERAL RESOURCES CORP.

- ▶ **The federal government is not encouraging upstream production and the creation of new mines.**
- ▶ All federal support currently focuses on processing for rare earth minerals, not the mining of minerals themselves.
- ▶ **Environmental groups and state agencies are vehemently opposed to new mines in America but turn a blind eye to the mines overseas that supply our industries.**
- ▶ To encourage private capital and growth in the rare earth minerals industry, the state or federal government may want to explore underwriting pilot plants to bring further investments.

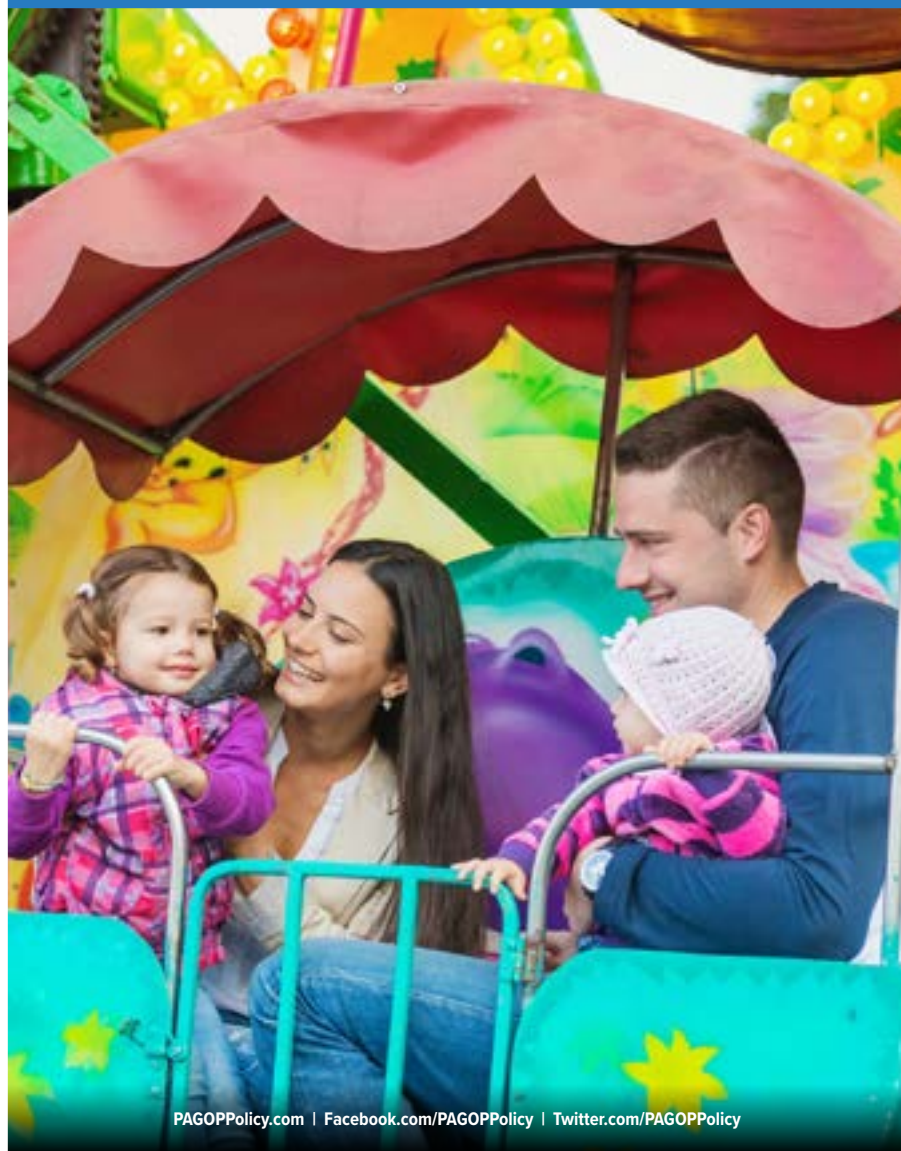
PENNCARA ENERGY, LLC

- ▶ Penncara refines pitch, derived from coal, for the manufacture of battery anodes, nuclear grade graphite, carbon fiber, solar panels, semiconductor chips, and more.
- ▶ The U.S. consumes 30% of global pitch production, but only produces 3%. More production is needed for national security and for our supply chains.
- ▶ **It may be time to limit the funding of further research and begin direct funding of production facilities.** Penncara is ready to construct a new pitch plant within 15-18 months. State and federal support will assist in growing this industry.
- ▶ Regulations should be amended to encourage the remining and reclamation of abandoned mines and waste piles.



EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT

DISCOVERING PENNSYLVANIA



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Rep. Ann Flood

“Supporting the tourism industry is paramount to providing every Pennsylvanian hope for a prosperous tomorrow.”

TESTIFIERS



Alex Michaels, President and CEO, Discover Lehigh Valley

“The tourism and hospitality industry in the Lehigh Valley is an undeniable force.”



Kassie Hilgert, President and CEO, ArtsQuest

“We need to have cultural amenities that will keep people here, start families, and potentially start businesses.”



Jessica Naderman, Vice President and General Manager, Dorney Park

“Dorney Park is invested in the Lehigh Valley.”



Amanda Shurr, President and CEO, Lehigh Valley Zoo

“We are a nonprofit that gives back to the community we live in. And we want to see our community, like us, grow and thrive.”

Discovering Pennsylvania

August 9, 2023

ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks

Hosted by Rep. Flood

Pennsylvania holds untapped wonders and immense culture that attracts attention from all corners of the world. People want to live in vacation destinations, and Pennsylvania has plenty to offer. To both highlight the attractions of the Commonwealth and uncover the obstacles facing our hospitality industry, the Policy Committee convened in the Lehigh Valley to hear from those that offer fun and excitement to residents and visitors alike.

TAKEAWAYS

REGIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

DISCOVER LEHIGH VALLEY

- ▶ The Lehigh Valley sees 16 MILLION visitors annually — which provides thousands of local jobs and economic growth to the region.
- ▶ **Statewide Initiatives to Boost Tourism, Hospitality, and Opportunity:**
 - **Statewide Marketing Campaign:** A state-sponsored campaign to highlight opportunity for visitors, businesses, and talent.
 - **Talent Attraction Campaign:** Share the state’s attractive job opportunities, quality of life, and cultural amenities.
 - **Infrastructure:** Improved roads and transportation invite visitors and benefit residents. Trolley systems, bike lanes, clear signage, and free WiFi all bring opportunity to local attractions.
 - **Clean Roads:** Specifically highways. Community and road beautification projects welcome both tourists and residents.

ARTSQUEST

- ▶ MusikFest has a financial impact of \$77 million within 10 days and supports food vendors, artists, and local businesses.
- ▶ Cultural amenities like MusikFest are job creators that encourage residents to stay in PA.



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

TESTIFIERS



Kurt Landes, President and General Manager, IronPigs

“No minor league baseball team across the country has drawn more fans to its operation than the Lehigh Valley IronPigs and Coca-Cola Park.”



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.



- ▶ Starting cultural celebrations is the most difficult task. **Investments by the state in the initial years of an event or activity through “risk capitol” investments will encourage new events and activities by providing the financial flexibility needed to become sustainable.**
- ▶ The 10-day “special occasions permit” is what makes MusikFest possible, but an expansion on the permit would enable new events and opportunity throughout the state.

LOCAL TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

DORNEY PARK

- ▶ Dorney Park provides a 5% amusement tax to South Whitehall Township.
- ▶ 3,000 seasonal employees are needed each year, with 150 full-time staff as well.
- ▶ **A majority of full-time staff began their careers as seasonal employees.**
- ▶ An “employee pipeline” has been established through a partnership with Bowling Green State University.
- ▶ **Infrastructure, namely the roads visitors rely upon to travel to the park, remain of utmost importance to encouraging and enabling tourism in the region.**
- ▶ Some entry-level jobs at the park begin at \$18 per hour, but increases to the minimum wage or amending youth-labor laws would cause significant strain on the park and their ability to employ thousands of Pennsylvanians.

LEHIGH VALLEY ZOO

- ▶ The Lehigh Valley Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums — an honorable and rigorous undertaking — and cooperates with zoos across the nation.
- ▶ The zoo receives nominal Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) funding — \$15,000 per year — which is not enough to meet its needs.
- ▶ The zoo operates as a nonprofit and relies on many volunteers, interns, and entry-level positions. Though zoo staff make above minimum wage, some of the increases being proposed would greatly harm the opportunities made available through the zoo.
- ▶ DCED’s tourism goal focuses on overnight stays in PA, but the zoo is more inclined toward day-trip visitors. **Daily recreational tourism should also be prioritized by DCED.**

IRONPIGS BASEBALL

- ▶ **The IronPigs stadium is far more than just baseball** — the venue hosts an average of 119 events per year including music, dining, yoga, and so much more.
- ▶ A vast majority — 86% — of stadium employees stem from Lehigh and Northampton counties.
- ▶ Beyond entertainment, opportunity, and tax dollars, IronPigs operate a 501c3 nonprofit.
- ▶ IronPigs, along with other outdoor venues, have expressed concern over sensationalized weather reporting and overblown weather concerns encouraging patrons to stay within their homes.



AUGUST 8, 2023

CALPINE POWER PLANT

Hosted by Rep. Wendy Fink & Rep. Eric Nelson

Immense energy is generated in PA to power the state and our neighborhoods. The Policy Committee visited the Calpine gas-powered electricity generating station to see for themselves how PA natural gas is used to keep our lights on and meet ever-increasing energy demands.



AUGUST 9, 2023
MUSIKFEST
Hosted by Rep. Ann Flood

The Bethlehem Steel Stacks, once used to make the steel needed to grow our nation, is now home to an incredible music venue, entertainment offerings, and multi-day festivals. To see how PA's past has transformed to meet the needs of today, the Policy Committee visited MusikFest and witnessed the growing potential of PA's hospitality industry and world-renowned cultural attractions.



Photo Credit to Jeff Auger

ARTSQUEST



Photo Credit to Marcia Smith

AUGUST 21, 2023

CAMERON ENERGY

Hosted by Rep. Joshua D. Kail

Oil and gas extraction began in Titusville over 150 years ago, and the legacy lives on through the tireless work of conventional oil and gas operations in the forests and farmlands of the Commonwealth. To understand the nature of well drilling and extraction, well plugging, and the future potential of the industry the Policy Committee saw firsthand how a well is drilled and the science of plugging decades-old orphaned and abandoned wells. The men and women who drive this industry care tremendously about their communities and their natural surroundings, and work each day to power our lives and provide the feedstocks necessary to provide life's necessities.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
WALLENPAUPACK AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Hosted by Rep. Joseph Adams

Wayne and Pike counties lack a Career and Technical Education Center, but this has not stopped Wallenpaupack High School from developing extensive options for their students. The Policy Committee witnessed students training to be firefighters and EMS operators, building hotrods and planes, constructing miniature homes, training for medical careers, working with young children, and cooking exquisite meals. The offerings of Wallenpaupack High School are extensive, but a centralized career and technical center for the students and adults of the Poconos is in high demand and would be heavily utilized.



IN THE NEWS

DISCOVERING PENNSYLVANIA

Washington Examiner

Op-Ed: Tourism is the keystone to a prosperous tomorrow

by Ann Flood | Pennsylvania House of Representatives | August 16, 2023 08:16 AM

THE MORNING CALL

Your View by Rep. Ann Flood: Pa. is losing population. Tourism is the way to stop it.

RECLAIMING OUR POTENTIAL: PA RARE EARTH MINERALS



LOCAL NEWS

Rare earth minerals could bring new industry to Pennsylvania

by Tristen Kinschke

Posted: Aug 22, 2023 / 04:33 PM EDT
Updated: Aug 23, 2023 / 09:13 PM EDT

COURIER EXPRESS

Reps. Kephart, Armanini hold conference on essential elements

By Jacob Hirsch jhirsch@courierpress.com Aug 24, 2023

Connect FM
96.7 99.7
YOUR ONLY LOCAL NEWS RADIO

Local State Representatives offer opportunity to learn about rare-earth minerals

Mon, August 21, 2023 by Louise Bennett

The Bradford Era
Unearthing our potential

By REP. MIKE ARMANINI Sep 12, 2023 Updated Sep 12, 2023

The Bradford Era

Rare-earth minerals, energy independence topics at Armanini event

ADDRESSING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE Mental health issues subject of House Republican policy committee hearing



FRANKLIN COUNTY
FREE PRESS

Rural Pennsylvania Faces Mental Health Care Challenges Amid Economic Pressures

Staff Report September 17, 2023 Health News

EDUCATION: A LIFELINE TO OPPORTUNITY



School vouchers called a solution to '19th century' problem

By Anthony Parnell The Center Square Sep 12, 2023



BROAD + LIBERTY

GOP Policy Committee hears testimony from Philadelphians on the need for school choice

September 14, 2023



BROAD + LIBERTY

Guy Ciarrocchi: Parents make the common sense case for Lifeline Scholarships

September 14, 2023

Bedford Gazette

Published Continuously Since 1823 One of America's Oldest Newspapers

State House GOP still pushing for vouchers



PASS Scholarships are a bipartisan path to
better education for Pennsylvania's youth |
Opinion

CREATING EDUCATIONAL PIPELINES TO OPPORTUNITY



Wayne, Pike Counties fight for CTC program

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Support, but not funding, for vocational schools in Pennsylvania, lawmakers hear

TRI-COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Four northern Pocono school districts want to share a career/tech education center

Peter Becker Tri-County Independent

THE COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION



More money means more transparency in higher ed, lawmakers say

DEPUTY POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS



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(District 193, Adams/Cumberland)



Deputy Policy Chair
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Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Ann Flood
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(District 62, Indiana)



Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Craig Staats
(District 145, Bucks)



Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Parke Wentling
(District 7, Mercer)

Testifiers who joined the Policy Committee have shared insight and ideas which the Legislature may act upon this session. Republicans have heeded the call, and proposed legislation to address the obstacles to opportunities expressed by experts, industry, and our workforce. The following compilation of legislative proposals are supported by Policy Committee testimony, build upon the legislative action items of the previous two quarters, and are current as of October 2, 2023.

Inclusion of legislation within this compilation is for general informational purposes only and is not indicative of caucus-wide support.

EDUCATION

FUNDING

Our schools and students require responsible funding to ensure a fruitful education. Significant work must be undertaken to address education funding throughout the state.

- *HB890 — Grove — Requiring School Districts to Reduce their Millage Rates as They Retire Debt*
- *HB52 — Owlett — Career and Technical Education Investment Incentive Program*
- *HB1513 — White — Expanding EITC and Scholarships for Students Attending an Economically Disadvantaged School*
- *HB311 — M. Mackenzie — Education Money to Follow the Child*
- *HB1110 — Gaydos — Equity in Education: Compiling Gifted Student Expenditures*
- *HB446 — Gaydos — School Savings in Contracting*
- *HB668 — Ortity — Tuition Waivers for Kinship Care Families*

CHOICE

A child's education should not be beholden to their ZIP code. Options for students and families encourage higher classroom participation, facilitate greater control over curriculum, and increase a child's ability to have a fulfilling education.

- *HB1507 — Topper — Providing Our Students Flexible Instructional Time in School*
- *HB557 — Zimmerman — Private Academic Schools Act*
- *HB1432 — Owlett — Lifeline Scholarships*
- *HB1370 — Mercuri — Pennsylvania Opportunity Pathways Program*
- *HB1414 — Ryncavage — Geolocation Student Attendance System for Cyber Schools*
- *HB884 — Grove — Innovation Schools*

STANDARDS

Curriculums today are nebulous, our student's performance has fallen significantly due to COVID policies, and families have been sidelined in the education of their children. House Republicans hold our educational institutions in high esteem, and demand that students and classrooms meet rigorous standards.

- *HB887 — Grove — Student Centered Assessment Pilot Program*
- *HB1372 — Marcell/Cooper — Curriculum Transparency*
- *HB45 — Owlett — Cyber Charter School Attendance Accountability*
- *HB798 — Mercuri — PSAT and AP Expansion*
- *HB216 — Gleim — Protect Women's Sports Act*
- *HB211 — Gleim — Honesty In Teaching Act*
- *HB896 — Topper — Parents Added to the PA State Board of Education*
- *HB1556 — Klunk — Strengthening the Right to Know Law for State-Related Universities*
- *HB1720 — R. Mackenzie — Civics Education Graduation Requirement*
- *HB147 — Ortity — Keystone Exam Alternative Feasibility Study*
- *HB1708 — Mihalek — Amending Juvenile Justice in the Schools Act*
- *HB1555 — Mihalek — Juvenile Justice — Ensuring Equitable Responses to Youth Behavior in Schools Act*

BUSING

Safe and effective student transportation is key to a child's education. Proposed changes to how our children get to and from school pose significant risk to our communities, and we must ensure that the workforce and equipment necessary to transport our students meets the needs of our communities.

- *HB1306 — Scheuren — School Bus Driver Tax Credit*
- *HR57 — Ecker — Resolution Urging the U.S. Department of Transportation to Ease CDL Regulations*

RECRUITING/RETENTION

Entering the field of teaching is noble, but often difficult and time intensive. Teacher recruitment and retention is of utmost importance to our students, and we must ease the burden on our schools and enable education professionals to meet the needs of our students and families.

- *HB27 — Struzzi — Act 91 Extensions*
- *HB1019 — Rigby — Paraprofessionals to Teachers Grant Program*
- *HB1637 — Flick — Substitute Teachers (From 4-Year Degree to 2-Year Degree)*

HIGHER EDUCATION

The path to achieving higher education has become increasingly unattainable. Universities are expensive, a degree no longer guarantees success, and coursework is not always aligned with the needs of business and industry. We must combat the ingrained status quo, hold our educators accountable, and enable the next generation of Pennsylvanians to gain the skills they need to bring opportunity and prosperity to the state.

- *HB179 — D'Orsie — Ensuring Free Speech in Higher Education*
- *HB1556 — Klunk/Warner — Strengthening the Right to Know Law for State-Related Universities*
- *HB1258 — Cooper — Calculating ADM for College in the High School — Dual Enrollment*
- *HB1574 — Topper — Performance-Based Funding for State-Related Universities*
- *HB1454 — Warner — Reorganizing the Pennsylvania State University Board of Trustees*
- *HB467 — Struzzi — Academic Integrity: Creating the Offense of Academic Fraud*
- *HB90 — Marcell — Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Programs*
- *HB1489 — E. Nelson — Tuition Reduction Act*
- *HB454 & HB455 — Stambaugh — Protecting Private Donations that Support the Universities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education*

HEALTH CARE

FUNDING

The cost of health care is often overwhelming for patients in need. Furthermore, smaller rural hospitals struggle to remain open and serve their communities. To address these growing financial concerns legislation has been promulgated to assist patients and health care providers in need.

- *HR145 — Schemel — Neurological Injured Infant Fund*
- *HB969 — Gaydos — Prescription Drug Transparency to Reduce Prescription Abandonment*
- *HB555 — Gaydos — Association Health Care Plans*
- *HB53 — Owlett — Medical Assistance/Child Support*
- *HB1288 — Grove — Medical Assistance Eligibility Redetermination and Maintenance Efforts*
- *HB 101 — Causer — Distressed Hospital Grant Program*
- *HB 936 — Pickett — Burial Assistance Funding for Individuals with Low Incomes*
- *HB 1111 — Oberlander — Medical Assistance Coverage for Pasteurized Donor Milk*

QUALITY OF CARE

Health care must meet the standards of the day. We must ensure that patients have appropriate care, test results are provided in understandable formats, and the most advanced practices are being utilized.

- *HB24 — Struzzi — Collaborative Care Model*
- *HB22 — Struzzi — Behavioral Health Transition Procedure Update*
- *HB1255 — Grove — Medical Assistance Physical Health & Behavioral Health Integration*
- *HB886 — Grove — Direct Primary Care*
- *HB 909 — Jozwiak — Amends the Patient Test Results Information Act to Simplify the Notification Process*
- *HB 1237 — Jozwiak — Prohibits the Department of Health from Requiring Emergency Use Authorization Vaccines*
- *HB1545 — Hogan — Digital Mental Health Services Pilot Program*

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

Care cannot be provided without career professionals at bedsides. The path to becoming a health care professional is challenging, the labor is mentally and physically taxing, and support is needed to maintain excellence in health care.

- *HB89 — Marcell — Health Care Heroes: Mental Health Assistance*
- *HB590 — Keefer — Remove Barriers for Nurse Graduates to Become Licensed Registered Nurses*
- *HB90 — Marcell — Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Programs*

PERMITTING & REGULATORY REFORM

TRANSPARENCY

Once a permit or regulation is submitted it often exists in state agency purgatory. Timeframes are not abided by, clarity is tough to come by, and the process appears purposefully nebulous. Transparency throughout the permitting and regulatory bureaucracy will right these wrongs and ease the process for business, individuals, and state agencies.

- *HB734 — Fink — Permitting Transparency & Reform*
- *HB560 — Zimmerman — Online Permit Tracking System*

REGULATORY REFORM

Career bureaucrats are not known for developing cohesive and reasonable regulations. PA's regulatory climate is expensive, cumbersome, and often to the detriment of the state and our industries. Reform is necessary.

- *HB487 — Keefer — PA REINS Act*
- *HB888 — Grove — Increases General Assembly Oversight of IRRC*
- *HR172 — Wentling — Urging Congress to Eliminate Emissions Testing Regulations*
- *HB914 — Leadbetter, Hamm, Rowe — Beneficial Reuse of Drill Cuttings*

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING/RECRUITMENT

PA has an existing highly capable workforce, but the Commonwealth must attract new residents and continue to prepare the next generation for careers of the future. The state must position itself as a bastion of opportunity and family-supporting careers.

- *HB1387 — Kutz — Realty Transfer Tax Exclusion for First-Time Home Buyers*
- *HR129 — Grove — Urges the Biden Administration and FHFA to Rescind Policy that Punishes Financially Responsible Borrowers*
- *HB882 — R. Mackenzie — CareerBound Workforce Development Program*
- *HB25 — Struzzi — Building Our Future: Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Program*
- *HB401 — Kauffman — Outpatient Renal Dialysis Recruitment and Retention*
- *HB1047 — Delozier — Building Code Official Trainee Program*
- *HB169 — R. Mackenzie — Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit*

EASING LICENSING

Navigating licensing requirements to enter the workforce should not be challenging. The Commonwealth must ease the licensing process to enable people to pursue their chosen career path.

- *HB57 — Owlett — Professional License Applications — Paper Applications*
- *HB1364 — Greiner — Authorizing Advisory Opinions from Licensing Boards*

MODERNIZATION

Laws and regulations of yesteryear do not address the needs of the people and businesses of today. Efforts to review outdated law, and modernize it, will enable the Commonwealth to remain streamlined and competitive.

- *HB591 — Keefer — Removing Barriers in Cosmetology*
- *HB1041 — Rigby — Mobile Barbershop & Mobile Salons*
- *HB565 — Zimmerman — Updates to Professional Engineer Licensing*
- *HB327 — Mako — Modernizes the Barber-Teacher Licensing Process*
- *HB1380 — Grove — Updating the Human Services Code*
- *HB1651 — Wentling — Unification of the Commonwealth's Workforce Development System*

BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, AND CAREERS

MANUFACTURING

PA's manufacturing might is hamstrung by licensing issues, poor code enforcement, and restrictive legislation. Efforts to better the Commonwealth's manufacturing climate will bring jobs, opportunity, and encourage innovation in our own backyards.

- *HB874 — D'Orsie — Establishing a Farm Cider License*
- *HB955 — Fritz — Update to Breweries/Distilleries Law*
- *HB102 — Causer — Milk Hauling Legislation*
- *HB46 — Owlett — Amending the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act*

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurs struggle with PA's tax laws, antiquated business practices, and finding the ideal location for their enterprise. Commonsense changes, inspired by the advocacy of business operators throughout the state, will enable businesses to thrive and generate opportunity within their communities.

- *HB995 — Lawrence — Keystone Opportunity Dairy Zones*
- *HB1238 — Greiner — Extension of Pennsylvania Rural Jobs and Investment Tax Credit (RJTC)*
- *HB701 — Kutz — Net Operating Loss for Small Businesses*
- *HR35 — R. Mackenzie — Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between Pennsylvania and the Chinese Communist Party*
- *HB889 — Grove — Preemption of Local Labor Mandates*
- *HB1317 — Struzzi — Helping Disadvantaged Communities*
- *HB1447 — Kephart — Corporate Net Income Tax Reduction*
- *HB162 — R. Mackenzie — Electric Gross Receipts Tax Exemption*
- *HB274 — R. Mackenzie — E-Verify for All Public Contractors*
- *HB885 — Grove — E-Contract Law Update*
- *HB70 — Roae — Allowing Small Businesses to Stay Open During States of Emergency*
- *HB1511 — Wentling — Investing in Pennsylvania's Future — PIDA Modernization*
- *HB757 — Keefer — Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act — Contractor Misclassification*
- *HR36 — Mako — Future Business Leaders of America Week*
- *HB1023 — Fritz — Incentivizing Build-out of Broadband Infrastructure*

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Families, the foundational block of Pennsylvania, should not bear the burden of taxation or struggle through times of financial hardship without support. To retain families in PA, and encourage more residents to call our state home, Pennsylvania must cultivate a climate of growth and opportunity for all who work to sustain their families.

- *HB136 — Gaydos — Elimination of Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax*
- *HB166 — R. Mackenzie — Personal Income Tax Reduction*
- *HB1353 — Labs — Unemployment Compensation Eligibility Clarification*
- *HB160 — R. Mackenzie — Permanent Sales and Use Tax Exemption*
- *HB165 — R. Mackenzie — Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Expansion*
- *HB161 — R. Mackenzie — Sales and Use Tax Holidays for Certain Items*
- *HB717 — R. Mackenzie — Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption*
- *HB895 — Grove — Taxpayer Relief Act Update*
- *HB26 — Struzzi — Helping Grieving Families Through Unnecessary Tax Burdens*

TOURISM, HOSPITALITY, AND CULTURE

The Commonwealth has something for everyone. Residents enjoy vacation destinations in their own backyards, cultural amenities, and world class attractions. Growing and championing the offerings of the state retains existing residents and encourages visitors to plant their roots and grow their families.

- *HB1301 — Zimmerman — Protecting Pennsylvania's Privately Owned Campgrounds*
- *HR87 — Ortlay — Conservation Corridors*
- *HB496 — Smith — Wine Expanded Permits and the Sale of Wine*
- *HB265 — R. Mackenzie — Amusement Park Liquor License Update*
- *HB48 — Mercuri — Expanding Online Wine Sales*





August 8, 2023
Tour with
Calpine Energy

**DISCOVERING
PENNSYLVANIA**



August 9, 2023
Discovering
Pennsylvania

ARTSQUEST
imagine that

August 9, 2023
Tour with ArtsQuest



WIND CREEK'
BETHLEHEM

August 10, 2023
Roundtable
with Wind Creek
Casino

**ADDRESSING THE MENTAL
HEALTH NEEDS OF RURAL
COMMUNITIES**

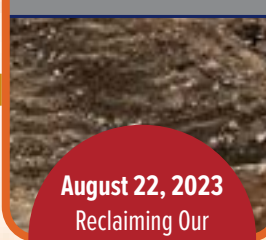


**September 7,
2023**
Addressing the
Mental Health
Needs of Rural
Communities

swn
Southwestern Energy

**September 6,
2023**
Roundtable with
Southwestern
Energy

**RECLAIMING OUR POTENTIAL:
PA RARE EARTH MINERALS**

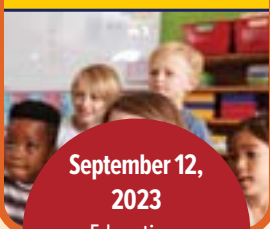


August 22, 2023
Reclaiming Our
Potential: PA Rare
Earth Minerals



August 21, 2023
Tour with
Cameron Energy

**EDUCATION:
A LIFELINE TO OPPORTUNITY**



**September 12,
2023**
Education:
A Lifeline to
Opportunity



**September 13,
2023**
Roundtable with
MaST Community
Charter Schools



**September 18,
2023**
Roundtable
with Settlers
Hospitality

**CREATING EDUCATIONAL
PIPELINES TO PROSPERITY**



**September 19,
2023**
Creating
Educational
Pipelines to
Prosperity

**THE COST OF HIGHER
EDUCATION**



**September 27,
2023**
The Cost of Higher
Education

Q3
TIMELINE



Q3—AT A GLANCE

Q3

HEARING TIME

11h, 28m, 58s

NUMBER OF TESTIFIERS

24

**NUMBER OF
DISTRICTS VISITED**

7

NUMBER OF HEARINGS

6

**CAUCUS
PARTICIPATION**

50%

**MILES TRAVELED BY
COMMITTEE**

1,459

YTD

HEARING TIME

51h, 27m, 42s

NUMBER OF TESTIFIERS

119

**NUMBER OF
DISTRICTS VISITED**

19

NUMBER OF HEARINGS

27

**CAUCUS
PARTICIPATION**

93%

**MILES TRAVELED BY
COMMITTEE**

5,090

MAP OF COUNTIES VISITED



How many members have participated in Policy Committee events this Session?

93% Have participated in at least one committee event

81% Have participated in at least two committee events

73% Have participated in three or more committee events





STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSHUA D. KAIL
House Republican Policy Committee Chairman



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