

HOUSE REPUBLICAN

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POLICY

COMMITTEE



2024 Q3 REPORT

JULY–OCTOBER

JOSHUA D. KAIL, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



HOPE

Republican Policy Committee

From July through October 2024, the Republican Policy Committee completed its two-year mission to identify obstacles to opportunity and discuss innovative policy solutions to address them, all in pursuit of a future that embodies Hope, Opportunity, Prosperity, and Excellence in Government for our beloved Commonwealth.

Traveling to all regions of the state and hearing hundreds of stories from Pennsylvanians was inspiring. We know Pennsylvania in a way we didn't know it before, strengthening our confidence in the legislative priorities needed to inspire HOPE in every Pennsylvanian.

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

Opportunity for family-sustaining jobs. We must promote Pennsylvania as open for business by removing burdensome taxation, easing the regulatory climate, and addressing overbearing bureaucracy.

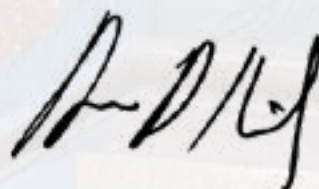
Prosperity for working families. We must harness the ample resources offered right here in Pennsylvania, from a highly skilled workforce and abundant energy portfolio to our manufacturing might and agriculture prowess, we must foster the opportunities found here so we can continue to reduce the burdens on working families.

Excellence in Government. Government should work for the people in an efficient and effective manner, acting as a catalyst for success rather than a hurdle. 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 conducted by the 2023–2024 Republican Policy Committee from July through October 2024. Similar to the previous six quarterly reports, this report provides a glimpse into the wide range of issues and concerns addressed by the Committee and potential solutions to the obstacles unearthed.

Our final report, which summarizes our Committee's findings and provides a strategic roadmap for the future, will be circulated in the coming weeks.

Until then, you may access further information to build upon what is included in this report, such as testimony, testifier biographies, and videos, at www.pagoppolicy.com.



Chairman Joshua D. Kail

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HOPE

BACK TO SCHOOL



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Protecting Victims: Solutions to Combat Stalking

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UNCOVERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING



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A STATE LOST IN ADDICTION: Pennsylvania's Path to Recovery



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Rep. Milou Mackenzie

"There is nothing better, as a parent, than knowing that your child is happy at school."



Rep. Sheryl Delozier

"Education has always been a three-pronged stool. You need a student that wants to learn, a teacher that wants to teach, and a family to support them."



Rep. Kristin Marcell

"Investing in CTE is not just an investment in our students and workers, but in the future economic vitality of Pennsylvania as a whole."

TESTIFIERS



Dr. Julie Fogt, Director,
The Centennial School

"Supportive partnerships with our students' parents are essential to achieving success in school."



Dr. Mark K. Leidy, Executive Director,
Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate
Units

"Schools are the backbone of our communities, providing not only education but also a sense of belonging and a foundation for future success."



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

Back to School

August 6, 2024

Bethlehem, Hosted by Rep. Milou Mackenzie

August 7, 2024

Mechanicsburg, Hosted by Rep. Sheryl Delozier

August 13, 2024

Jamison, Hosted by Rep. Kristin Marcell

As summer neared its end and Pennsylvania's families began preparing for the coming school year, the Policy Committee traversed the state to hear from school administrators, parents, and students. Topics covered included special education, school funding, career and technical education, performance metrics, and more. The Legislature has been tasked with providing equal opportunity for all students, regardless of region or individual abilities, and the Republican Caucus works diligently to listen and respond to the needs of the Commonwealth.

TAKEAWAYS

SPECIAL EDUCATION INSIGHTS

- ▶ 19.3% of PA students received special education programming during the 2023-24 school year. **Both the number and overall percentage of special education students in PA are growing with each year.**
 - ▶ Positive behavioral intervention is now the predominant method to improving student behaviors. The focus is now on replacement behaviors and not punishments.
 - ▶ **Addressing the teacher shortage is especially difficult within special education.** Schools partner with universities, as well as offer new teachers the ability to receive trainings, mentors, and pursue a Master's degree as they work toward a permanent position.
- ### SPECIAL EDUCATION: PARENTAL PERSPECTIVES
- ▶ Parents benefit from access to "educational advocates." These advocates meet with the child and their family to find the best educational institution to meet their needs.
 - ▶ **Parents want POSITIVE communication with their child's school.** Not every phone call from the school should strike fear in a parent.
 - ▶ COVID, and the reaction to stay-at-home orders by our public schools, was a common impetus for parents to pursue alternative special education opportunities for their children.

TESTIFIERS



Dr. Andrew Bitz, Superintendent,
Mechanicsburg Area School District

“Every single student deserves the dignity of walking into our schools each day with the opportunity to access our amazing programs and feel like they belong.”



Kristi Sadow, Parent, The Centennial School

“Family, trust, community. That’s all I can say.”



Dr. Mark Covelle, Director,
Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

“We’re preparing today’s students for tomorrow’s emerging technologies.”



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

K-12 EDUCATION INSIGHTS

- ▶ **English as a Second Language (ESL) students are a rapidly growing demographic within PA schools.** ESL teachers and classes must be offered and standardized tests must be translated.
- ▶ The biggest anticipated challenges for K-12 districts throughout the state are staffing shortages, budgeting, and student mental health.
 - **Staffing:** Lack of substitute teachers, instructional aides, special education staff, transportation personnel, and full-time teachers.
 - **Budgeting:** Mandated costs, such as pensions and special education payments, cause public K-12 schools to have difficulty accurately setting a yearly budget.
 - **Mental Health:** Nearly half of K-12 students express some degree of mental health need. The scarcity of local providers and the lack of funding cause schools to struggle to meet the needs of their students.

CTE EDUCATION

- ▶ **Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are exploding in popularity!** Enrollment and interest exceed available classroom space and equipment.
- ▶ The stigma CTE schools once held is fading rapidly, especially with college becoming increasingly expensive and degrees less valuable.
- ▶ Cooperation between local industries and CTE schools is key to developing cutting-edge educational programs.



SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Special education, and really all education, requires a strong partnership between schools, teachers, and families.
- Early intervention is key to reducing the number of students requiring special education.
- Modern technology has been a boon for special education. Further funding is needed to supply interactive whiteboards, iPads, and immersive learning tools to provide new opportunities to special education students and teachers.
- Within special education, suspensions and restraints should be tools of last resort.

K-12 EDUCATION

- School infrastructure improvements are a major financial obstacle to overcome.
 - ◆ PlanCon, a state program to reimburse schools for major construction projects, should be simplified and continued.
- Dual enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) opportunities should be available to all PA students. To do so, staff must be AP certified and schools must form cooperative agreements with colleges and universities.
- **Cell phones should not be used in classrooms.** They are a major distraction, liability, and disruption.
- State mandates should be accompanied by state funding.

CTE EDUCATION

- When determining the success of an education, students should be assessed at graduation AND 5–10 years afterwards.
- Ranking high schools based on the percentage of students attending college is a faulty metric. College is not the only means of success, and this metric disincentivizes CTE investments.
- Prospective CTE teachers should have the option to receive their certification through occupational testing, professional certifications, or work experience.
- The earlier CTE opportunities are offered the better. Career and technical education can begin at the elementary level.





Rep. Shelby Labs

"The laws in this Commonwealth do not effectively protect victims of stalking."



Rep. Kristin Marcell

"It is haunting to think someone went through this, and that other women are going to be possibly experiencing this as well."



Rep. K.C. Tomlinson

"How can we best serve this victim legislatively, and make sure that this perpetrator can no longer antagonize her life?"

TESTIFIERS



Nicholas Virnelson, Interim Police Chief,
Bedminster Township Police Department

"[Stalking] cases like this can happen just about anywhere."



Matthew Phelan, Ret. Police Chief,
Bedminster Township Police Department

"A resident, who is an adult, being targeted by a stranger is not eligible for protection order assistance."

Protecting Victims: Solutions to Combat Stalking

September 4, 2024

Perkasie, Hosted by Rep. Shelby Labs

One in three women, and one in six men, experience stalking at some point in their lives. There are tools available to assist victims, but Pennsylvania law does not account for modern technologies or stalking by total strangers. To learn more about actions the Legislature can take to protect Pennsylvanians, our law enforcement, survivors of stalking, and victim advocates were brought together to offer their insights. The examples shared were terrifying and compel changes within Pennsylvania law to enhance the protections available to residents facing all manner of stalking and harassment.

TAKEAWAYS

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ▶ Protection From Abuse (PFA) orders are not applicable between strangers.
- ▶ Police can speak to a "stranger stalker," and tell them to stop, but no real enforcement tools are available.

The utility of current protections:

- ▶ PFAs can only be applied between intimate partners and familial relationships.
- ▶ Sexual Violence Protections Orders (SVPO) only apply to victims of sexual violence, not stalking.
- ▶ Protection From Intimidation (PFI) only applies to minors.
- ▶ Stalking falls into three categories, listed from most to least common:
 1. Intimate partner stalking — PFAs apply.
 2. Acquaintance stalking — PFAs may apply.
 3. Stranger stalking — cannot be deterred by current law.

EMPOWERING VICTIMS

- ▶ Divorce, and the end of relationships, can instigate stalking.
- ▶ PFAs are an important tool to protect victims of domestic violence and should be utilized if the law allows. Victims need assistance, from victim advocates, to pursue this protection.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

TESTIFIERS



Hon. Jennifer Schorn, District Attorney,
Bucks County

"There are issue and limitations within the stalking statute as it exists today."



Gayle Marinelli, Resident, Bucks County

"I hope my story can help you make the right decisions for victims"



Laurie Hepler, Victim Advocate, Bedminster
Township Police Department

"Victims of harassment, stalking, intimidation, and abuse should have equal protection, regardless of their relationship with their offender."

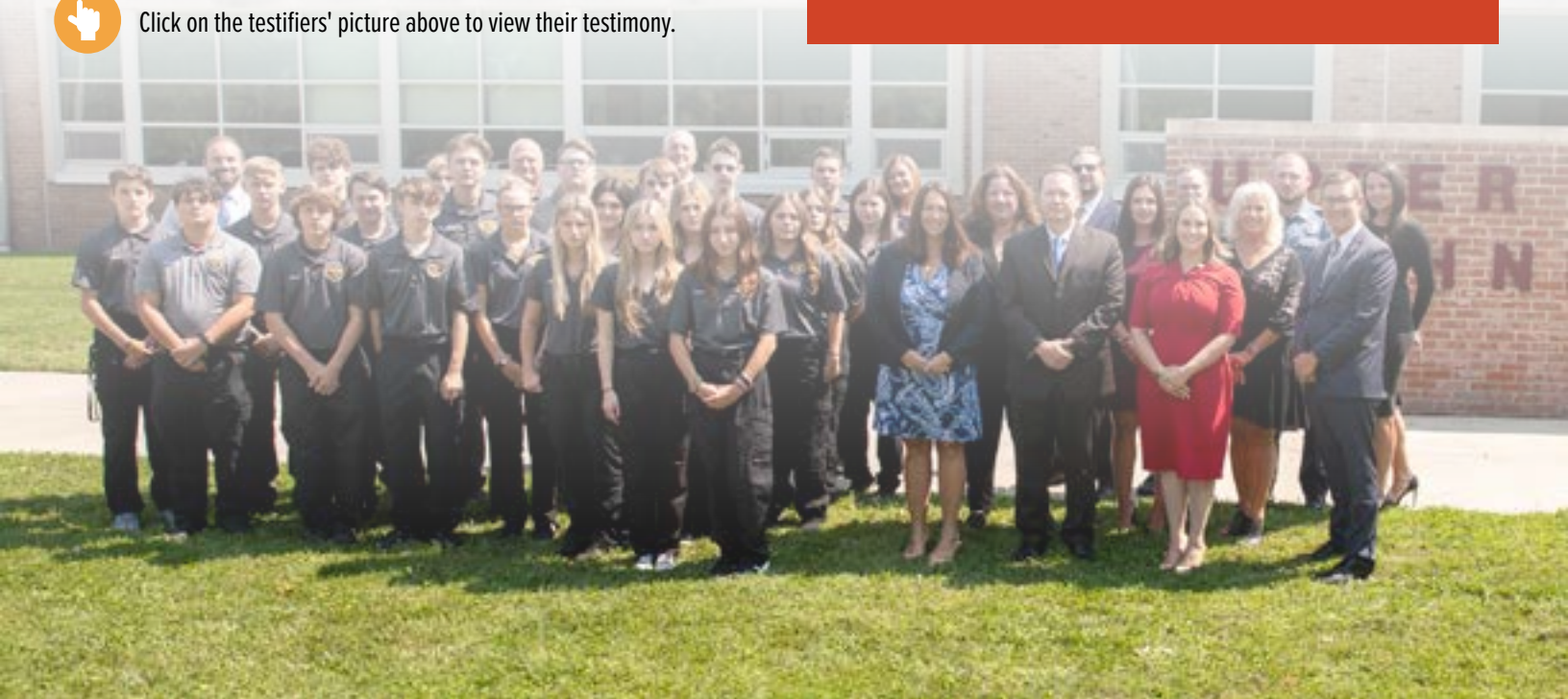


Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- The addition of the following language to PA's stalker statute would address law enforcement's inability to stop stalkers of all varieties:
 - ♦ The acts of the accused stalker would "recklessly or knowingly cause a reasonable person to fear bodily injury or experience emotional stress."
- Stranger stalking could be addressed by applying protections from intimidation to all, and not limiting this protection to minors.
- A database should be created to assist victims in monitoring their stalkers after a guilty verdict.
- Victims of physical abuse and stalking may be court ordered to pay substantial alimony payments to their abusers. Certain offenses should negate alimony.
- Provide victim advocates to all regional police departments to provide greater assurance that victims receive all the protections and supports enabled under the law through a fully invested and informed advocate.
- The Protection from Abuse Database (PFAD) was created in 1997 and should be updated. PFIs should be included within the database, as well as tools to inform victims of new residences, employment, and vehicle purchases by their abuser.





Rep. Clint Owlett

"We want to make sure we are protecting our families, our kids, and those that are being abused in such heinous crimes."



Rep. Jamie Flick

"I think we need to educate parents — as silly as it sounds — to take the phones away."

TESTIFIERS



Korrin Moon, Founder, Lantern Rescue

"The reality is most victims don't know they are victims."



Scott Henry, President, Northern Tier Law Enforcement Instructors Group

"Increasing public awareness about the risks and signs of human trafficking is an important step in a larger strategy."



Hon. Joseph Peters, District Attorney, Wyoming County

"There are organized criminal enterprises involved in this [human trafficking]. That's the way this works."

Uncovering Human Trafficking

September 19, 2024

Morris, Hosted by Rep. Clint Owlett

Rural Pennsylvania may not come to mind when one thinks of human trafficking, but hidden and often misunderstood cases are occurring throughout the state and must be exposed. These cases are sadly not rare, and far too often go undetected. Common misconceptions need to be dispelled, and sobering accounts of human trafficking should be shared to protect vulnerable individuals.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ What is human trafficking?
 - Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to elicit labor or commercial sex acts from a victim.
 - Any commercial sex act involving a minor constitutes human trafficking under PA law.
- ▶ Often, traffickers know their victims, are related, or are fellow community members.
- ▶ Many victims of human trafficking don't realize they are victims.
 - Most victims are not kidnapped and taken to faraway places.
 - Traffickers groom their victims to the point where the victim believes they have chosen this life, that they owe something to their trafficker, or maybe they are even protective or emotionally connected to their trafficker.
- ▶ In many cases human trafficking victims are 12-14 years old, and they meet their trafficker online.
- ▶ Traffickers use social media to recruit their victims.
 - Young victims are being exploited right in their own bedrooms.
 - Traffickers convince their victims to share explicit images online or perform sexual acts with others.
- ▶ **Parents need to know what their children are doing, especially online.**



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

TESTIFIERS



"We also need to focus on the demand [for human trafficking]."



"Human trafficking is complex because it can take any shape, in any form, in any community."



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- Law enforcement should partner with experts to develop, certify, offer, and execute various human trafficking training and educational programs.
- We must increase public awareness about the risks and signs of human trafficking.
 - ◆ There should be trainings available for hotel employees, grocery stores, rest area employees, and any highly traveled industries and destinations.
- We must review current criminal statutes and make necessary updates to appropriately combat human trafficking.
- We must encourage the creation of task forces to enable cooperation between local, state, and federal agencies.
- We must limit the market for human trafficking.
 - ◆ Purchasing an individual for sex is only a low-level misdemeanor crime, regardless of how many times it occurs. We must increase the penalties.





Rep. Doyle Heffley

"It is important we focus on every aspect of this crisis moving forward."

TESTIFIERS



Dr. Michael Lynch, Attending Emergency Physician and Medical Toxicologist, UPMC

"Overdose deaths have impacted all communities across Pennsylvania."



Hon. Steven T. O'Neill, Presiding Judge of Drug Treatment Court, Montgomery County

"We've reduced it [recidivism] down to about 30%. That's a major decrease."



Chris Pawlowski, Chief Probation, Parole and Pretrial Officer, Chester County

"We have dedicated employees, staff, treatment providers, and probation officers that are willing to help."



Jessica Miraglia, Esq., Assistant District Attorney, Wyoming County

"If it wasn't for treatment courts, I wouldn't be here today."

A State Lost in Addiction: Pennsylvania's Path to Recovery

September 23, 2024

Harrisburg, Hosted by Rep. Doyle Heffley

Every year thousands of Pennsylvanians succumb to overdoses. New and increasingly dangerous trends have emerged in our fight against the ongoing drug crisis. Law enforcement, experts, and Pennsylvanians in recovery were brought together to discuss the horrific effects of fentanyl and xylazine, along with the tactics being deployed to bring hope to Pennsylvanians in the grip of addiction.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ 83% of overdose deaths in Pennsylvania, in 2023, involved opioids.
 - 75%+ involved fentanyl.
 - 50% involved both opioids and stimulants.
 - 25% involved Xylazine (Tranq).
- ▶ 90% of the illicit fentanyl supply in Philadelphia is adulterated by xylazine (Tranq).
 - Tranq prolongs the high from fentanyl and other illicit substances.
 - Necrotic wounds develop, meaning skin and tissue die as a result of using tranq.
 - Naloxone (Narcan), an opiate neutralizer, is ineffective against tranq. However, in the event of an overdose, the administration of **Narcan is still recommended**.
- ▶ **Emerging substances:**
 - **Medetomidine** — Similar make up to xylazine (Tranq).
 - **2-benzylbenzimidazoles AKA "nitazenes"** — More potent than fentanyl and produces a prolonged high.
- ▶ **The drug epidemic is an equal opportunity killer. All demographics are victims.**

INCARCERATION, TREATMENT, AND DRUG COURTS

- ▶ Incarceration doesn't work to help those struggling with substance use disorder. It costs far more to incarcerate someone struggling with addiction than it does to treat them.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

- ▶ **Someone experiencing substance use disorder will return to the justice system 80% of the time.**
 - Treatment courts can reduce recidivism to 30%.
- ▶ Drug Treatment Courts, over the course of 18 months, serve as an alternative to incarceration.
- ▶ A team of agencies work together to support, monitor, and hold participants accountable through a case management approach, rather than an enforcement approach.
 - Public defenders and district attorneys
 - Law enforcement
 - Treatment providers
 - Probation and parole officers

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- **We cannot lose sight of individual lives in the statistics of thousands.**
- When arrested for substance abuse, treatment options must be provided as soon as possible.
- Drug Treatment Court saves taxpayer dollars!
 - ◆ \$100 a day to keep someone incarcerated.
 - ◆ Pennies a day to monitor someone through treatment courts.
- Ease the licensing process for a Certified Recovery Specialist.
- Parents should be involved in their kids' lives.
 - ◆ Know who your children are associating with.



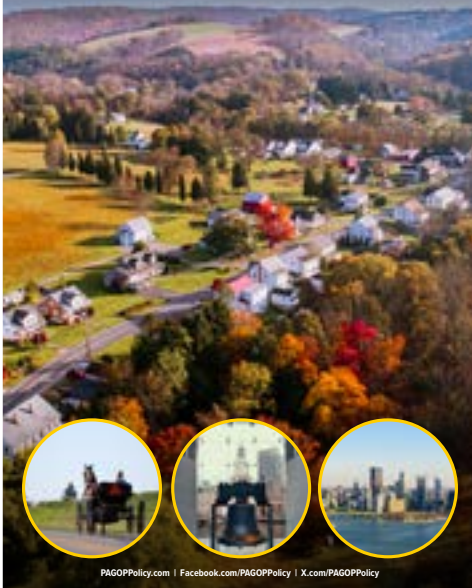
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Healthcare Options for Small Businesses



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Passport to Prosperity: UNLEASHING PENNSYLVANIA'S TOURISM POTENTIAL



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PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY:

IGNITING GROWTH
THROUGH
PRO-FAMILY
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MANUFACTURING
MOMENTUM:
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RELIEF IS
POSSIBLE:
COMBATTING
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Rep. Valerie Gaydos

"The lack of affordable health care for small businesses is crushing our innovative economy."

TESTIFIERS



Emily Greene, Pennsylvania State Director, Americans for Prosperity

"The only way to make health care better for everyone is through markets, not mandates."



Kurt Imhof, Senior Vice President of Policy & Public Affairs, Life Sciences PA

"AHPs would considerably assist the growth and development of early-stage life sciences companies in Pennsylvania."



Noah Karn, Vice President, Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania

"While AHPs offer a potential avenue for providing more affordable health insurance options, they also present significant risks."



Robert McCafferty, Operator, North Country Brewing

"The Affordable Care Act has simply gotten unaffordable."

Health Care Options for Small Businesses

August 1, 2024

Moon Township, Hosted by Rep. Valerie Gaydos

Association Health Plans (AHPs) enable small businesses and associations to access high-quality health insurance at competitive rates. By banding together, employers and associations can provide health insurance that meets the needs of both their employees and their budgets. Experts, employers, and the insurance industry were brought together to draw attention to this proposal and inform both representatives and the public of the benefits AHPs can bring to the Commonwealth.

TAKEAWAYS

WHAT IS AN AHP?

An Association Health Plan (AHP) is a type of health insurance that allows small businesses and self-employed individuals to band together through an association to obtain health coverage, often at lower costs and with more flexible options than traditional plans.

AHP OVERVIEW

- ▶ Association Health Plans are akin to credit unions or other group-purchasing co-ops. They allow small businesses to enjoy the same purchasing power as large employers.
- ▶ **AHPs must offer the same care as the Affordable Care Act** and cannot discriminate based on participants' health status or medical history.
- ▶ Trade associations have found ways to offer their members access to health care through group purchasing programs.

INSURANCE INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

- ▶ **1979:** AHPs can only be formed by associations of employers within the same industry, with a shared purpose, and the association cannot exist solely to pursue benefits.
- ▶ **2018:** The Trump Administration loosened the requirements to form AHPs, enabling more small businesses and self-employed individuals to join.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

TESTIFIERS



"We need AHPs to compete for the best talent."

Howison Schroeder, CEO and Co-Founder, Neuro-Innovators

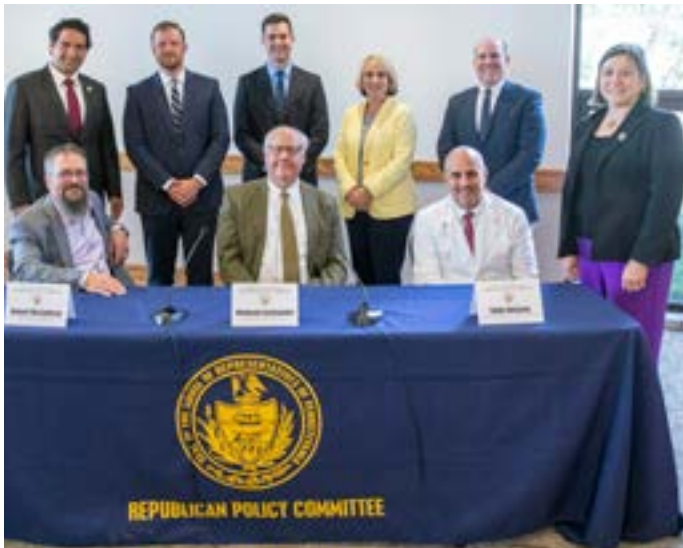


"We want the ability to compete on an even playing field and aggregate with other small businesses for better access to health care."

Eddie DeCaria, Co-Owner and Pharmacist, Porter's Prescription Pharmacy



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.



- ▶ **Later in 2018:** Pennsylvania and 10 other states challenged the Trump-inspired changes as being contrary to law.
- ▶ **2019:** The relaxed interpretation of "employer" was successfully appealed. Newly formed AHPs were allowed to continue operations, but no more could be created.
- ▶ **2021:** The Biden Administration paused the appeal and did not support the Trump changes.
- ▶ **2024:** The U.S. Department of Labor returned the rules to the pre-Trump/pre-2018 interpretation.
- ▶ **Possible challenges of AHPs:**
 - Less robust coverage offered for younger/healthier individuals may increase premiums within the broader market.
 - Coverage may lack maternity care, mental health services, or access to prescription drugs.
 - AHPs may increase administrative and operational costs for health care insurers, thus increasing overall health care costs.

SMALL BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES

- ▶ Since the enactment of the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA), small business health insurance rates continue to rise.
- ▶ Good employees are lost purely due to the lack of affordable quality health insurance.
- ▶ New employees are ineligible to join the AHPs. This has caused employees to just pay the ACA fine so they can enroll in Pennie, the state's health insurance marketplace.
- ▶ **Health care costs are a significant barrier to small and emerging companies.**
- ▶ **Small employers pay more for less.** They have great difficulty competing with the health insurance offered by large employers.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- Americans for Prosperity (AFP) strongly supports Rep. Gaydos' HB555.
- Life Sciences PA strongly supports Rep. Gaydos' HB555.
- 30 states allow small start-ups to pool resources to acquire quality health insurance, but not Pennsylvania. PA should model our laws on what has been successful in other states.



Rep. Jeff Olsommer

"Tourism is the driving factor that brings both people and revenue to the region."

TESTIFIERS



John Kiesendahl, Owner and CEO Emeritus, Woodloch Resort

"The goal of tourism is to serve others."



Bradley Kiesendahl, President and CEO, Woodloch Resort

"We give people a moment to reconnect and reinvigorate their lives."



Genevieve Reese, First Vice Chair, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau

"We can't thrive, or survive, without caring about our communities."



Hon. Ronald R. Schmalzle, Vice Chair, Pike County Commissioners

"Our industries' ability to introduce young workers to responsibility and work ethic is our greatest asset."

Passport to Prosperity: Unleashing Pennsylvania's Tourism Potential

September 20, 2024

Hawley, Hosted by Rep. Jeff Olsommer

From scenic forests to world class resorts the Poconos has something for everyone. Pennsylvania tourism is thriving, but there is always room for improvement and growth. We are blessed to have the beauty of natural wilderness at our doorstep, and it is a privilege to share the Commonwealth's attractions with visitors from far and wide.

TAKEAWAYS

► Staffing challenges:

- **Staff must work nights, weekends, and holidays** — The busiest times are when most Pennsylvanians are off work.
- **The seasonal nature of the industry** — Spurs a reliance on international employees.
- **Lack of affordable housing** — Vacation destinations are often home to expensive real estate.
- **Federal prevailing wage requirements** — Unfair to employers and does not reflect the reality of youth employee capabilities.

► Local and state challenges:

- Lack of water and sewer infrastructure stymies dense development.
- The Liquor Control Board (LCB) makes selling alcohol more challenging than it should be.
 - ◆ Often, the LCB does not have the "top shelf" alcohol tourists demand, and they suffer from supply shortages.

► Since COVID, the Pocono region has seen a significant resurgence (+35%) in tourism. People want to see world class accommodations and the great outdoors!

► **The tourism industry cares about its community.** Millions in donations have been disbursed, cleanup efforts undertaken, and infrastructure projects supported.

► The new branding by the Department of Community and Economic Development — "The Great American Getaway" — is a refreshing new attitude for PA hospitality to embrace.

► **Pike County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth.** The population doubles, and even triples, during peak tourism seasons.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- The cleanliness of the Pocono region is crucial. It is both an environmental concern and important for the region's image.
- "No tax on tips" would be a boon for the tourism industry.
- The lack of medical services in Pike County is a real liability. There is no urgent care, or hospital, but thankfully there are plans to address this lack of resources.
- Pike County competes with the wages and options offered in NY and NJ. PA must remain competitive.
- The difference in state and federal child labor laws is confusing for employers. The law should align or cooperate in a simpler manner.





Rep. Thomas Kutz

"Pro-business policies are pro-family policies."

TESTIFIERS



David Samella, Plant Manager,
Vitro Glass Industries

"We're doing all we can to provide opportunity to folks, and we provide what you need to be successful."



Ryan Heishman, CEO, Allen Distribution

"Without thriving businesses, job opportunities will be limited, and the population will move to states with greater opportunities."



Aaron Riggleman, Manager of Government
Affairs, PA Chamber of Business & Industry

"When employers can grow and create good-paying jobs, Pennsylvania families are the direct beneficiaries."



Dr. Mark Blanchard, Superintendent,
Cumberland Valley School District

"Student success breeds growth."

Pathways to Prosperity: Igniting Growth Through Pro-Family Policies

September 24, 2024

Boiling Springs, Hosted by Rep. Thomas Kutz

Cumberland County is one of the fastest growing counties in Pennsylvania. From a booming population to a bustling economy, there are a lot of opportunities for families. In historic Boiling Springs, local businesses and educators convened to identify barriers to growth and discuss legislative solutions to create a thriving environment for businesses and families alike. Through the cooperation of our businesses and educational institutions, the Commonwealth can ensure Pennsylvania families thrive and prosper for generations to come.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ COVID executive edicts forced many manufacturers to close their doors, as they were not deemed "essential businesses." These closures have incurred lasting consequences.
- ▶ Central Pennsylvania has unique access to major East Coast population centers. Our geographic location is one of the Commonwealth's greatest assets.
- ▶ **The share of working-age adults in Pennsylvania is declining, all while the 65+ year demographic increases.**
- ▶ PA schools are creating partnerships with local industry, like UPMC.
 - UPMC, alongside partnering schools, has developed a clinical track for students interested in the medical field.
 - UPMC provides hands-on experience for students.
- ▶ Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and dual enrollment help students achieve their dreams without student loan debt.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- It is important to have collaboration between business and government to ensure businesses can operate and provide family-sustaining wages.
- Pennsylvania's business climate is robust, but overshadowed by cumbersome processes, agencies, and regulation.
- We must encourage public and private partnerships between educational institutions and employers to prepare future generations for in-demand careers.
- We must continue to pursue Net Operating Loss (NOL) reform and remove the "start-up penalty."
- We must find innovative ways to address rising child care costs, workforce housing shortages, and reliable transportation.
- We must move beyond a one-size-fits-all education system by expanding educational choice.





Rep. Ann Flood

"Manufacturing is a rich staple to our region and to our country."

TESTIFIERS



Michael Druckenmiller, Vice President, Lehigh Heavy Forge

"If I could flip a switch and have access to a pool of qualified machinists, I could justify hiring 20 of them overnight."



Blair Woodring, Director of Business Development, Precision Custom Components

"We could double the size of our company overnight if we had a workforce that was more expanded and experienced."



Nancy Dischinat, Executive Director, Workforce Board Lehigh Valley

"Workforce Systems must be aware, informed and ready."



John Rhatigan, Chairman, Marine Machinery Association

"As older generations retire, we must ensure that a new generation is ready to step up."

Manufacturing Momentum: Assembling PA's Workforce

September 27, 2024

Bethlehem, Hosted by Rep. Ann Flood

The manufacturing community is facing a dilemma. There is an abundance of family-sustaining jobs, but a lack of a skilled workforce to fill these positions. In a hearing hosted by Lehigh Heavy Forge, the committee discussed the workforce challenges our manufacturers face and ways we can address these obstacles. With Pennsylvania's steelmaking might as the backdrop to the day, it was not lost on the participants how critical our manufacturing community is to the stability of our great nation. Our manufacturers continue to be the backbone of our economy, driving progress and securing a strong future for PA families.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ The manufacturing community lacks a strong and complete workforce:
 - A lack of qualified machinists, non-destructive testing (NDT) technicians, and maintenance techs.
 - Significant local job market competition.
 - Difficulty with employee retention.
 - Diminished career employee culture.
 - Fewer real-life training opportunities.
- ▶ Pennsylvania's manufacturing sector is not just vital to the state economy; it is the backbone of the industrial base that supports the U.S. Navy and provides our national security.
- ▶ The surge in shipbuilding occurring in this country hasn't been seen in over 50 years, requiring up to 10,000 new welders by 2030.
- ▶ Some Pennsylvania manufacturers have faced challenges with the sudden growth in demand from the U.S. Navy and expectations of a commercial nuclear resurgence.
- ▶ Lehigh Valley businesses must now compete against each other for an increasingly small pool of skilled manufacturing workers.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- Encourage cooperation between manufacturers' associations and the Navy's talent pipeline to develop our skilled labor force.
- The current skilled labor force is not sufficient. Applicants are lacking the fundamentals of consistent attendance and pride in their workmanship.
- It is imperative to be current with employer needs. Workforce development must be aware, informed, and ready to meet the demands of the moment.
- **Recommendations for workforce development:**
 - ◆ Educational curricula must be agile, flexible, and employer driven.
 - ◆ Provide access to more specified upskilling to fill the positions most needed.
 - ◆ Mandate a regional employer-driven industry and workforce committee.
 - ◆ Employers need flexible, not restrictive, funding.
 - ◆ Establish a solutions consortium of organizations to work directly with policymakers.
 - ◆ Increase student interest in career and technical education by embedding skills training on-site within high schools.
 - ◆ We need to #FreeTheData. Access to high-quality, up-to-date workforce data from the Department of Labor and Industry is essential to making informed decisions.
 - ◆ To address the skilled worker shortage, we must focus on three key areas: education, workforce development, and public-private partnerships.





Rep. Andrew Kuzma

"We are going to work very hard to address these issues and try to get us back on track."



Rep. Jake Banta

"I still come at it with the view of somebody that worked to get up in the morning, your boots hit the ground...and you are trying to get ahead of [inflation], trying to win this fight."



Rep. John Schlegel

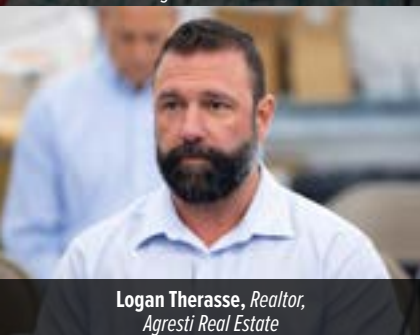
"I stand with my colleagues to support actions that will lower inflation and enable working families to achieve the financial success they worked so hard for."

TESTIFIERS



Patrick Haver, Constituent of the 39th Legislative District

"I used to eat three meals a day, now it is two meals a day or more often just one main meal and a snack."



Logan Therasse, Realtor, Agresti Real Estate

"Buyers have the hardest time buying and sellers have nowhere to go."

Relief is Possible: Combating the Crisis of Cost

October 3, 2024

South Park, Hosted by Rep. Andrew Kuzma

October 4, 2024

McKean, Hosted by Rep. Jake Banta

October 9, 2024

Harrisburg, Hosted by Rep. John Schlegel

The impacts of inflation are widespread and touch every facet of our lives. Rising costs are straining essential services like our fire departments, EMS, and necessary utilities. Large and small businesses alike face skyrocketing prices, labor shortages, and supply chain disruptions. Households struggle with energy costs, child care, groceries, and affording a home of their own. To highlight the impacts of inflation and discuss the importance of passing proactive policy solutions that unlock Pennsylvania's potential, residents and businesses were brought together from across the state to provide insight on the obstacles we are all facing.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ **Prices today are 20% higher than in January 2021.**
- ▶ Inflation has cost the average PA household \$24,445.
 - Average PA household spends \$984 more per month on the same goods and services as they did in January of 2021.
- ▶ **Two in five Pennsylvanians live in a home struggling to make ends meet.**
- ▶ EMS services were already struggling financially, inflation has exacerbated their financial situation.
 - The rising cost of personnel, fuel, insurance, and equipment contend with a fixed fee schedule that does not cover the costs.
 - EMS services have consolidated resources, cut personnel, and provide wages that are considerably lower than other public safety partners to make ends meet.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

TESTIFIERS



"More jobs will help Pennsylvanians overcome the burden of inflation."

Emily Greene, Pennsylvania State Director,
Americans for Prosperity



Click on the testifier picture above to view their testimony.

► Those on fixed incomes are hit the hardest.

- Should I cut down to one meal a day?
- Should I pay for my medications or the utility bills?
- Should I skip Christmas presents this year?
- These are NOT the concerns older Pennsylvanians should face.

► Businesses are struggling—24% reported that inflation was the single most important problem faced in the last year.

- Sarris Candies paid \$2,200 per ton for cocoa 10 months ago. Today they pay \$8,000.
- Inflation affects a business' ability to keep prices low, grow their business, hire employees, raise wages, and give back to their communities.

► There have been significant price increases for both buying and renting properties.

- Material costs, namely wood, have skyrocketed.
- Higher interest rates, higher prices, and all-cash offers are impossible for first-time home buyers to contend with.
- Inventory of new and older homes is extremely low.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

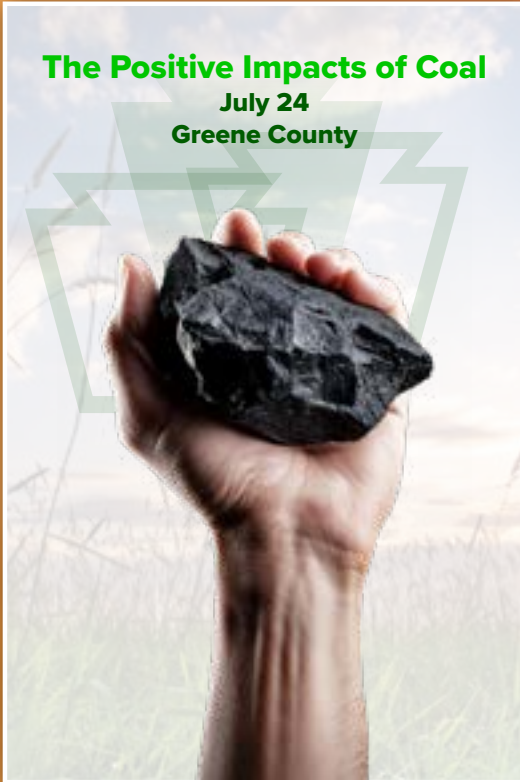
The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- States cannot address inflation directly, as no state prints their own currency, but there are innovative ways PA can alleviate the pressures of inflation at the state level.
 - ◆ Cut unnecessary red tape to bring down prices across the board.
 - ◆ Enact pro-growth tax policies that bring more business and family-sustaining jobs to Pennsylvania.
 - ◆ Increase legislative oversight of proposed regulations.
 - ◆ Reduce the Personal Income Tax, and all other state-level taxes.
 - ◆ Reform permitting to ease compliance for individuals and businesses.
 - ◆ Repeal the accelerated sales tax payments.
 - ◆ Generate more energy to lower fuel and electricity costs.
 - ◆ Encourage the building of more new homes.



PROSPERITY

The Positive Impacts of Coal
July 24
Greene County



**The Costs and Benefits
of Doing Business
in Pennsylvania**

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**OPPORTUNITY
LOST:**

Bureaucracy's
Battle Against
Fracking



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FIGHTING TO
**KEEP THE
LIGHTS ON**
IN PA



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Rep. Bud Cook

"If we want reliable electricity, national security, family-sustaining jobs and vibrant communities, we must support — and protect — Pennsylvania's coal mining industry."

TESTIFIERS



Rachel Gleason, Executive Director,
Pennsylvania Coal Alliance

"Overzealous regulations against coal are death by 1,000 cuts."



Matt Mackowiak, Manager of Government
Affairs, Consol Energy, Inc.

*"Safety is not a value,
it's a way of life."*



Jim Barker, President,
Rosebud Mining Company

*"We are blessed to have
a lot of metallurgical
coal here."*



Tom Crooks, Vice President,
R.G. Johnson Company, Inc.

*"I love the coal industry
and what it does to
make our communities
and people better."*

The Positive Impacts of Coal

July 24, 2024

Sycamore, Hosted by Rep. Bud Cook

1,100 feet beneath the surface of Greene County, the Policy Committee convened in the Harvey Mine to learn about the impact of Pennsylvania energy — directly from the source. Coal is the fuel that has powered Pennsylvania for generations. Mining in the Commonwealth has supported countless families, and we should all be grateful for Pennsylvania's bountiful energy beneath our feet. Without access to coal, and the men and women who mine it, Pennsylvania would not be the energy and economic powerhouse it is today.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ PA is the third largest coal-producing state — behind only Wyoming and West Virginia.
- ▶ Coal delivers PA's baseload power demands — it is reliable, affordable, readily available on-site, and can be adjusted to meet everchanging needs.
- ▶ **The ONLY economical way to make steel is with metallurgical coal/coke.** There would be no PA steel without PA coal.
- ▶ PA's coal industry supports 11,547 full-time jobs, with 5,164 directly related to coal mining.
- ▶ The average salary of an underground coal miner, in 2023, is \$111,406.
- ▶ PA coal powers the world. It is transported throughout America by rail, and by boat to export markets across five continents.
- ▶ Global demand for coal hit a record high in 2023 — over 8 billion metric tons! Demand continues to rise.
- ▶ **Coal is a national security concern.** It generates our energy and is necessary to build our cities and military hardware.
- ▶ Coal companies give back to their communities. They support local schools, provide scholarships, build community projects, and donate to local fire departments among other efforts.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- **RGGI, PACER, and PRESS are not about helping the environment.** The real goal is to raise revenue, off the backs of baseload energy generators, to subsidize inefficient alternatives.
- Public awareness campaigns to tell the truth about coal, such as thecoalhardtruth.com, are needed to combat misunderstandings of coal's past, present, and future.
- Mine and manufacture in America. America's coal mining and steel production is the cleanest in the world.
- The youth of today are not as prepared to work in the coal industry as past generations. Pennsylvanians should be informed of the ease of entry into the industry, and the lucrative nature of a career in mining.





Rep. Torren Ecker

"We don't create jobs, YOU create jobs, and government needs to get out of the way."

TESTIFIERS



Andy Williford, Head of People & Culture – Sales Americas & US Country Leader, Volvo Construction Equipment

"We want to work with you, [the Legislature], so that we can build a strong workforce in PA."



Darren Croxall, Shippensburg Plant Manager, Schreiber Foods

"We want to offer opportunity to the residents of Pennsylvania."



Justin Townley, Corporate Engineering Leader, Schreiber Foods

"Schreiber wants to grow, we've had four opportunities, but expansion can't happen without infrastructure."



Joshua Simmons, Complex General Manager for Biglerville Box & Sheet Plants, International Paper

"The support of our local and state officials will help us to continue to grow our businesses in the Commonwealth."

The Costs & Benefits of Doing Business in Pennsylvania

September 10, 2024

Shippensburg, Hosted by Rep. Torren Ecker

At every business-related hearing held this session, the Republican Caucus heard from companies big and small that they are struggling to operate under Pennsylvania's complicated and punitive taxes and regulations. In Shippensburg a new, more positive focus was pursued to uncover what about PA makes investment and growth attractive to major industries and employers. Testifiers were brought together to share why they operate in Pennsylvania, speak to the inherent benefits found in our infrastructure and workforce, and to offer some recommendations that would enable future growth and inspire prosperity throughout the Commonwealth.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ PA is attractive to businesses due to our strong workforce and access to the I-81 corridor.
- ▶ Employers benefit from partnerships with universities, career and technology centers, and trade groups.
- ▶ Child care for manufacturers is particularly difficult for late shifts, as facilities run 24/7.
- ▶ Food manufacturers operate in PA to utilize our dairy resources, agriculture, accessible labor pool, our strategic distribution location for the East Coast, and our existing infrastructure.
- ▶ Time is money for all industries. When a new product is demanded by the market there is rarely enough time to obtain a permit before the opportunity is lost.
- ▶ The capacity of public infrastructure determines what businesses can operate in a region.
- ▶ Access to old industrial sites, also known as "brownfields" eases the process to construct a manufacturing operation.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

- ▶ Manufacturing is not a work-from-home career, and we must recognize that there will always be a need for technical on-site manufacturing skills.

All manner of employers have noted difficulty in hiring reliable employees in recent years. There is no agreed-to answer for this phenomenon.

- ▶ Prospective employees don't attend scheduled interviews.
- ▶ Existing employees are dropping out of the workforce with no other job or plans.
- ▶ Employers have dropped standards to sufficiently staff their operations.
- ▶ Blind interviews are now too unpredictable, and employers are preferring to interview based on the referrals of existing employees.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- The I-81 corridor is a major draw for business investment, but it has reached capacity and requires significant expansion.
- Child care is a workforce enabler. Businesses have considered on-site care, multi-business child care cooperatives, and incentives to onboard employees with children.
- Municipal authorities must work with businesses to meet their current needs and anticipate the needs of the future.
- Water and sewer limitations, along with the onerous and time-consuming National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) (water pollution) permitting, severely limits the growth of PA manufacturers.
- State or federal career and technical education funding should be directed towards in-demand local workforce needs.
- The Pennsylvania startup tax, our treatment of Net Operating Losses (NOL), must be reformed. We must at least have parity with the federal government.
- Accelerating the phase down of the Corporate Net Income (CNI) tax rate would accelerate business and job growth in PA. Money saved from taxation is reinvested into facilities and people.
- Promoting career and technical education in middle school, high school, and post-secondary education ensures a pipeline of skilled job candidates.





Rep. Eric Nelson

"We're truly blessed to have these resources in Pennsylvania."

TESTIFIERS



Michael Hillebrand, CEO & President, Huntley and Huntley

"Being stewards of our community is priority #1."



Amy McChesney, Owner, McChesney Farms

"Energy production, when restricted, makes our local economy suffer."



Randy M. Roadman, Government Relations Director, General Carbide Corporation

"We're still feeling the pain with double to triple the cost of energy, it affects every manufacturer."



Jeff Nobers, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Works Together

"Energy is too important to leave to chance!"

Opportunity Lost: Bureaucracy's Battle Against Fracking

September 17, 2024

Greensburg, Hosted by Rep. Eric Nelson

We are in the midst of an attack on Pennsylvania energy. From unconventional well drillers to manufacturers and farmers, there are enormous challenges facing our energy producers and consumers. The greatest challenge and direct cause of lost opportunity does not stem from nature or technology; instead the obstacles are a result of bureaucracy. Pennsylvania bureaucrats have, through regulation and permitting, attempted to limit and outright ban the production of the fuels and products derived from hydraulic fracturing. People across the world rely on the oil and gas extracted from Pennsylvania bedrock, and we must continue to fight to supply the needs of our present and future.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has been commonplace in Pennsylvania since the 1950s. People have no idea how refined this technique, and the technology, have become.
- ▶ Family farms struggle to stay afloat when contending with unstable markets. **Oil and gas development leases enable farms to be retained for generations and ensure profits through difficult years.**
- ▶ Inexpensive energy and fuel prices keep the price of food down. Energy and the prices at grocery stores are intimately connected.
- ▶ Solar farms offer some financial benefit to farmers. But, unlike oil and gas operations, solar farms severely limit the food growing capacity of a farm.
- ▶ Industrial equipment is very sensitive to power fluctuations. Loss of power, unexpectedly, can irreparably damage machines and components.
- ▶ Recent EPA regulations will force the closure of all coal plants by 2032. These plants reliably produce 17% of our nation's energy!



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- PA clean-burning natural gas can offset the world's dirtiest coal. We can export to Germany, India, and China to curtail their pollution.
- PA energy transmission infrastructure needs an upgrade. To power our factories, industries, and data centers, the Commonwealth must increase the carrying capacity of our grid.
- Businesses will contribute to infrastructure upgrades when necessary, but they must work in cooperation with local and state government.
- When bureaucrats don't do their job, don't review permits, and harm Pennsylvania businesses and our communities, they should be punished accordingly. "Deemed Approved" permitting is a good place to start.
- Gov. Shapiro's "PRESS" and "PACER" proposals are a new tax on energy. They will lead to both less energy and higher energy prices.





Chairman Joshua D. Kail

"This is like a trainwreck coming that we can see in slow motion."



Rep. Jim Struzzi

"I like my solar lights that are on my gazebo, but I wouldn't rely on them to heat my house in the wintertime."

TESTIFIER



Stephen Bennett, Senior Manager of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, PJM Interconnection

"In the year starting June 2025, you will probably see some sort of an increase in your [electric] bill."



Click on the testifier picture above to view their testimony.



Fighting to Keep the Lights On in PA

October 1, 2024

Harrisburg, Hosted by Chairman Joshua D. Kail

The demand for energy is projected to exceed our supply. This is the direct result of poor energy policy pursued over the last decade. The entity that stabilizes our electric grid and ensures demands can always be met, PJM Interconnection (PJM), has raised the alarm on our energy future. If no new baseload generation is developed, Pennsylvania will face an electricity shortage by 2030.

TAKEAWAYS

WHAT IS PJM?

PJM is the regional transmission organization (RTO) that manages the flow of electricity for much of the East Coast, including all or parts of 13 states and Washington, D.C. PJM ensures that electricity is delivered reliably and efficiently across its network.

PJM coordinates the movement of power from electricity generators to local utility companies, which then deliver it to homes and businesses. It also operates energy markets where electricity is bought and sold, helping to balance supply and demand to keep the grid stable.

In short, PJM helps keep the lights on for millions of people by overseeing our electric grid and making sure electricity is available when and where it's needed.

► Four Things We Learned:

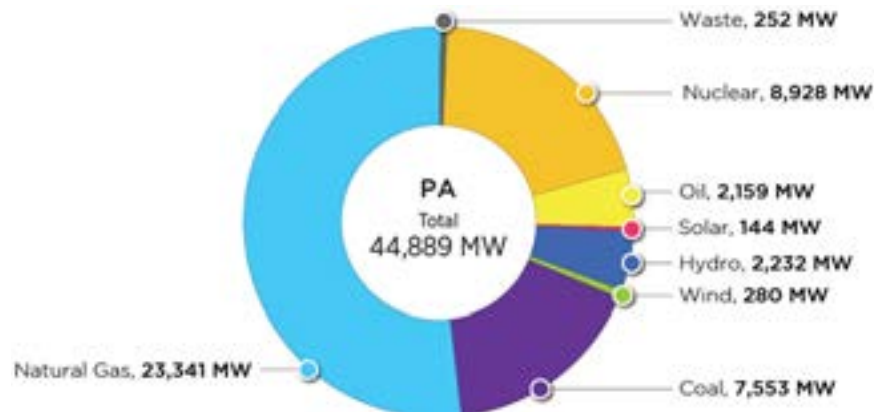
1. Consumer energy prices will increase by June 2025.
2. Demand for electricity will outpace the supply by 2030 based on current projections.
3. PJM places more reliability requirements on baseload generators than intermittent generators, effectively treating generators differently.
4. Solar and wind's reliability accreditation **DECREASES** in projections from 2025/26 to 2034/35.

► PJM has seen significant challenges arise:

- **Resource performance** — Challenges with reliable generator availability during harsh weather.
- **Resource adequacy** — Demand for electricity is increasing, but baseload generation is coming offline.
- **Maintaining and attracting reliable services** — Ensuring security in the ancillary services necessary to maintain the electric grid.

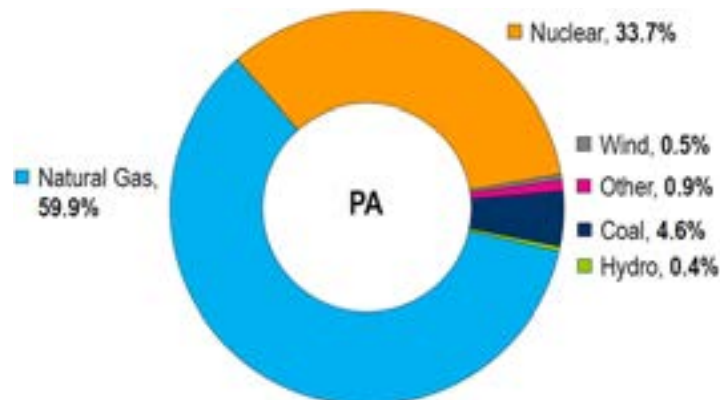
- ▶ 2024 and beyond are predicted to have significant load increases — the largest seen in PJM modeling since 2014.
 - Electrification, data centers, and AI are the causes for the increased demand on electricity.
- ▶ 40 GW (21%) of PJM's 192 GW of installed generation will retire by 2030 as a direct result of state and EPA energy policies.
 - 60% Coal
 - 30% Natural Gas
 - 10% Other
- ▶ The majority of new generation waiting to be built and connected to the PJM grid is unreliable solar, wind, and energy storage.
- ▶ The 2025–26 Capacity Auction saw a significant (700%) increase in the wholesale price for electricity.
 - Caused by higher demand and lower supply.
 - While this will not directly correlate with a 700% increase in consumers' electric costs, consumers will see an increase in the electric bills by June of 2025.
- ▶ To determine how much electricity a generator can bid into the capacity market, PJM assigns an Effective Load Carrying Capability (ELCC) Class Rating.
 - This percentage is used to determine a generation source's reliability.
 - ◆ *Natural gas combined cycle generation has an ELCC of 79%, meaning for every 100 MW the generator can put out, 79 MW can be bid into the capacity market.*
 - ◆ *Solar has an ELCC of 14% for 2025–26 and that reliability drops to 4% by 2034–35. Solar is not reliable!*

PENNSYLVANIA — EXISTING INSTALLED CAPACITY (MW) BY FUEL TYPE (as of Dec. 31, 2023) SOURCE: PJM Interconnection

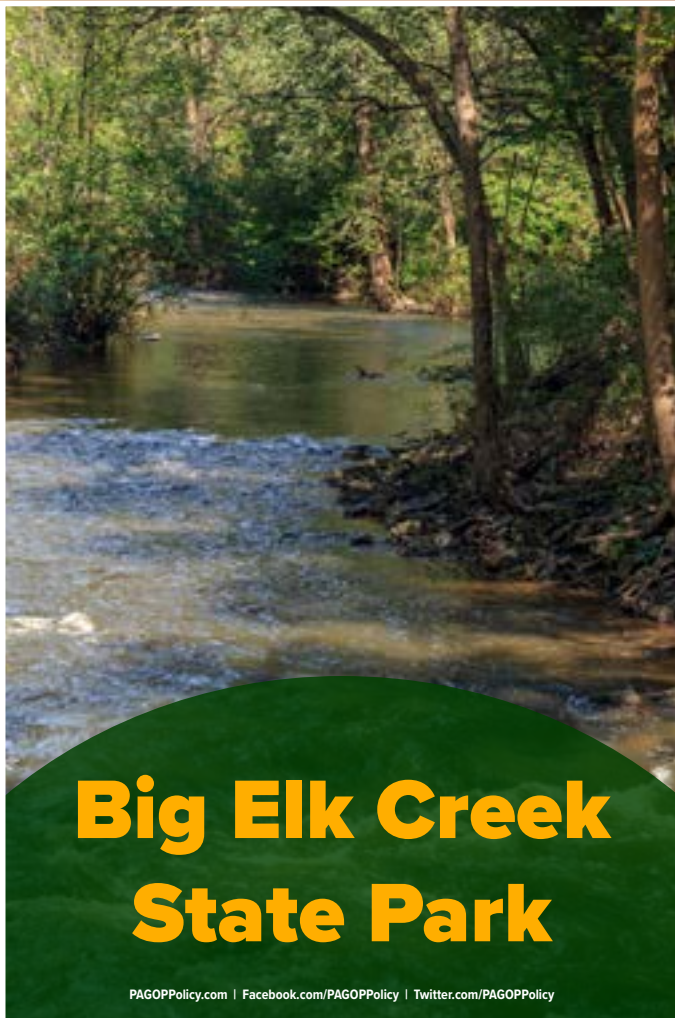


PENNSYLVANIA — 2023 GENERATOR PRODUCTION

The data in this chart comes from the U.S. Energy Information Administration Form 923 (2023).



EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT





Rep. John Lawrence

"The decisions made in the next 12 months regarding Elk Creek Park will impact the surrounding community for 100 years."

TESTIFIERS



John Hallas, State Park Director, DCNR

"We must ensure that all of our natural resources are being taken care of."



Hon. Andrew Dinniman, Retired State Senator, 19th Senatorial District

"The bureaucracy thinks it knows better than the people of this county!"



Hon. David Gerstenhaber, Chairman, Franklin Township Board of Supervisors

"One of the most important things we can do is preserve open spaces."



Hon. Estace Walters, Vice Chairman, Elk Township Board of Supervisors

"This pristine area should be kept pristine."

Big Elk Creek State Park

July 9, 2024

West Grove, Hosted by Rep. John Lawrence

Big Elk Creek State Park, Fair Hill Park, and the White Clay Creek Preserve make up one of the largest open spaces in the Mid-Atlantic. The future of this pristine wilderness is threatened by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) plans to develop significant portions of the land for camping, visitors, and activities that would permanently change the nature of a once untouched space. The concerns of the local community have not been addressed, DCNR does not have a long-term plan, and the once bucolic nature of the area is in limbo.

TAKEAWAYS

DCNR

- ▶ The total tax dollars needed to purchase the land intended for a state park is \$32.2 million.
- ▶ The decision to purchase the land, and develop it into a park, was solely made by State Park Director John Hallas, DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn, and Governor Tom Wolf.
- ▶ **DCNR has a significant backlog of maintenance, and deferred maintenance, projects to attend to. They are unable to maintain their current parks and facilities.**
- ▶ DCNR has flip-flopped on their true plans for the park. Secretary Dunn stated, "We're putting the camping plan aside for now" just six months ago.

COMMUNITY OFFICIALS

- ▶ The sum of all open spaces in Chester County is greater than the footprint of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh combined.
- ▶ **Big Elk Creek State Park is far closer to Maryland's and Delaware's population centers than PA towns and communities.** The park would be used by residents of our neighboring states, and negatively impact the local population.
- ▶ Big Elk Creek State Park is intended to be a "legacy project" for Governor Wolf.
- ▶ DCNR is unable to provide adequate law enforcement at the park.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

TESTIFIERS



Hon. Eric Roe, Chester County Commissioner

"We take open spaces seriously in Chester County."



Anteia Consorto, Save Big Elk Creek

"DCNR's actions have caused a lot of mistrust and deep concern."



Gary Schroeder, Founder, Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve

"The greatest aspects of the park are the intangible aspects."

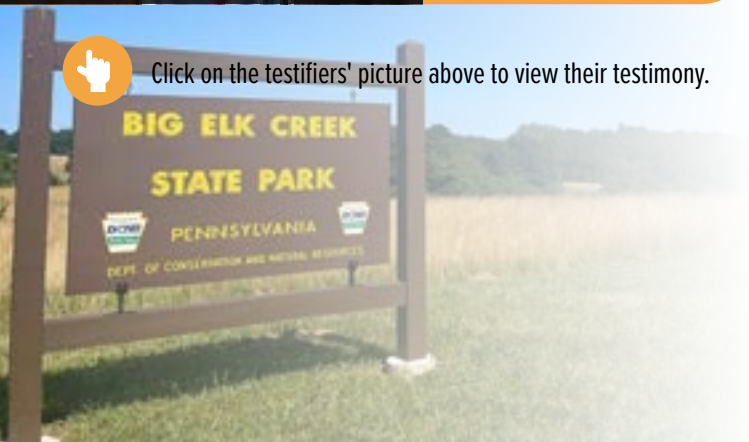


George Hundt Jr., Executive Director, Safety, Agriculture, Villages, & Environment (SAVE)

"Who will speak for the hummingbirds?"



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.



COMMUNITY LEADERS

- ▶ Residents of Elk Township voted to increase property taxes explicitly to retain access to open spaces in their community.
- ▶ **The community feels lied to.** Big Elk Creek was supposed to be retained as a preserve, and nothing more.
- ▶ Additional road traffic will harm local communities, particularly the Amish.
- ▶ **At no time has the local community requested a visitors' center or campgrounds in the park.** These DCNR "amenities" are NOT wanted.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- Retaining open spaces must be a bipartisan concern.
- DCNR must respect the will of the citizen advisory council.
- The bucolic nature of untouched wilderness is worth protecting.
- Focus on supporting the resources we already have instead of adding to DCNR's list of unmaintained facilities.





Rep. Lee James

“Spreading brine from conventional wells is beneficial, less expensive, and effective.”

TESTIFIERS



Burt Waite, Geologist

“Oil and gas field brine is effective in controlling dust on dirt roads.”



Hon. Jim Trussell, Chairman,
Hamlin Township Board of Supervisors

“If the ban on conventional well brine spreading were to be lifted, it would be of great benefit to our township and townships across the state.”



Hon. David McClain, Chairman,
Keating Township Board of Supervisors

“Using brine takes a financial burden [road salt] away and makes our roadways safer.”



Hon. Steve Goodwill, Chairman,
Columbus Township Council

“Our government in Harrisburg does not understand that we don’t have as many paved roads like they have downstate.”

Brine Spreading

July 25, 2024

Titusville, Hosted by Rep. Lee James

Deep beneath the surface of Pennsylvania, vast reserves of minerals, gasses, and water exist. When oil and gas are pumped to the surface to power our vehicles, homes, and provide the feedstock for our industries, brine water comes to the surface as well. This brine water has many uses and has historically helped keep road dust at bay and our streets de-iced in rural Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania residents and our communities want to use this brine, and have always respected strict guidelines for its application, but the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is standing in the way. There are ample ways, and many reasons, to use the brine that was first brought to light in the birthplace of the oil derrick, Titusville, PA.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ **1980s:** Communities begin spreading brine on dirt roads and in the winter.
- ▶ **1996 DEP Study:** Within guidelines, brine spreading is justified.
- ▶ **1997 DEP Study:** “Unacceptable” impacts to surface waters may occur from long-term, uncontrolled application of brine.
- ▶ **2018:** DEP bans the application of brine on PA roads.
- ▶ **2020 PSU Study:** Brine spreading may not be any more effective than water for dust suppression. This study is contrary to the experience of PA towns for decades.
- ▶ **DEP has NEVER issued a violation for environmental harm to brine spreaders.**
- ▶ Brine spreading is an inexpensive, nearly free, means for rural communities to suppress dust on dirt roads.
- ▶ Flying dust from roads damages homes and makes crops inedible.
- ▶ When DEP banned the application of brine, no funding was provided to communities that relied on this resource.



Click on the testifiers' picture above to view their testimony.

SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for informational purposes only and do not indicate caucus-wide support.

- The risks assessed by DEP – environmental and health – of applying brine onto our roads is no greater than the risk of applying traditional road salt.
- If DCED grants for paving roads are denied each year, in the interim, brine should be allowed for dust suppression.
- Using brine is a win-win for both rural communities and local drilling companies.



TOURS

July 24, 2024

Harvey Mine

Hosted by Rep. Bud Cook

1,100 feet beneath the surface of Greene County, the Policy Committee convened in the Harvey Mine, operated by CONSOL Energy, to learn about the positive impact of coal, the fuel that has powered Pennsylvania for generations. Mining in the Commonwealth has supported families for generations, and with competitive wages, the mining industry will continue to create family-sustaining jobs.



August 6, 2024

The Centennial School and Lehigh University

Hosted by Rep. Milou Mackenzie

Modern technology has been a boon for special education. Interactive whiteboards, iPads, and immersive learning tools provide new opportunities to special education students and teachers. The Policy Committee experienced the Centennial School's shared immersive learning environment where students can view 360° photos and video.



TOURS



August 13, 2024

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Hosted by Rep. Kristin Marcell

Enrollment and interest in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are exceeding the available classroom space and equipment. The Policy Committee toured Middle Bucks Institute of Technology, which is thriving in part because of cooperation between local industries to develop cutting-edge programs. Also driving the increased interest is the diminishing desire to spend tens of thousands of dollars on college.



September 20, 2024

Woodloch Resort

Hosted by Rep. Jeff Olsommer

In the Pocono Mountains, alongside Lake Teedyuskung, sits the historic Woodloch Resort, a family-owned property comprising 1,000 acres and the ability to accommodate over 900 guests. Pennsylvania tourism is thriving, but there is always room for improvement and growth in hospitality. The Policy Committee toured the resort to experience the natural beauty, but also to understand the challenges impacting Pennsylvania's tourism industry.

TOURS

September 24, 2024

Vitro Architectural Glass Plant

Hosted by Rep. Thomas Kutz

From a booming population to a bustling economy, Cumberland County offers great opportunities for families. Located in Cumberland County is the Vitro Architectural Glass Plant, which produces 350,000 tons of glass annually and employs 206 people. The Policy Committee toured Vitro's plant and learned about how the company is expecting to expand to 410 employees by next year.



September 27, 2024

Lehigh Heavy Forge Corporation

Hosted by Rep. Ann Flood

The manufacturing community is facing a dilemma: an abundance of family-sustaining jobs but lack of a skilled workforce to fill those positions. To get a better idea of the workforce challenges our manufacturers face, the Policy Committee toured Lehigh Heavy Forge, which produces forged, heat treated, machine finished, and inspected critical components to the U.S. Navy, the Defense Industrial Base and Heavy Industry.



IN THE NEWS

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

Residents join lawmakers to oppose state's plan to develop Big Elk Creek watershed into 'tourist attraction'

PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES

Pennsylvania House hearing on coal's future breaks new (under)ground

Pennsylvania

The fight over brine spreading is a rural-urban tension

kyw
1080 AM • 102.5 FM

Pa. House Republicans focus on shortcomings of state stalking laws at Bucks County hearing

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Boosting technical and trades education still a GOP legislative priority in Pa.

[DV JOURNAL]
AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION

PA Senate Passes RGGI Repeal as State Energy Execs Complain About Permitting Delays



Pennsylvania Business Report

State lawmakers, business leaders tackle economic competitiveness in Pennsylvania

Wellington Gazette

State committee hears about human trafficking in rural Pennsylvania

69 NEWS
WFNZ-TV

Struzzi: Pa. faces a serious energy crisis

RIVER REPORTER

Olson, policy committee host hearing on Pennsylvania's tourism potential



Pennsylvania Business Report

House GOP Policy Committee delves into inflation solutions for Pennsylvanians



Pennsylvania Business Report

Lehigh Valley manufacturing needs more skilled workers, say stakeholders

DEPUTY POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS



**Vice Chairman/
Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Torren Ecker**
(District 193, Adams/Cumberland)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Joe D'Orsie**
(District 47, York)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Ann Flood**
(District 138, Northampton)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Mike Jones**
(District 93, York)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Robert Leadbeter**
(District 109, Columbia)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Abby Major**
*(District 60, Armstrong/
Westmoreland)*



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Zach Mako**
(District 183, Northampton/Lehigh)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Kristin Marcell**
(District 178, Bucks)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Rob Mercuri**
(District 28, Allegheny)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Natalie Mihalek**
*(District 40, Allegheny/
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**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Eric Nelson**
(District 57, Westmoreland)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Clint Owlett**
(District 68, Bradford/Tioga)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Jim Rigby**
(District 71, Cambria/Somerset)



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. David Rowe**
*(District 85, Snyder/
Juniata/Mifflin/Union)*



**Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Jim Struzzi**
(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. House 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 testimony received by the Policy Committee and are current as of October 21, 2024.

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

PERMITTING & REGULATORY REFORM

PA's permitting and regulatory climate is expensive, cumbersome, and often to the detriment of the state and our industries. House Republicans have put forward reasonable reforms and expectations for our state agencies that will enable the Commonwealth to remain competitive and encourage growth.

- *HB734 — Fink — Permitting Transparency & Reform*
- *HB560 — Zimmerman — Online Permit Tracking System*
- *HB487 — Keefer — PA REINS Act*
- *HB888 — Grove — Increases General Assembly Oversight of IRRC*
- *HB914 — Leadbeter — Beneficial Reuse of Drill Cuttings*
- *HB1925 — M. Mackenzie — One-time Automatic Review of All Economically Significant Regulations*
- *HR257 — Rigby — Urging DEP to Halt Costly Biosolids Permit Changes*
- *HR236 — Heffley — Joint State Government Commission Truck Parking Study*
- *HB1731 — Cabell — Prohibiting Mandates on Mass Transit*
- *HB1643 — Flick — Petition EPA to Remove Lycoming County from the Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program*
- *HB1679 — Kutz — Allowing In-Person Pickups for Dealer Plates and Inspection Stickers*

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*
- *HB882 — R. Mackenzie — CareerBound Workforce Development Program*
- *HB25 — Struzzi — Building Our Future: Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Program*
- *HB1047 — Delozier — Building Code Official Trainee Program*
- *HB169 — R. Mackenzie — Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit*
- *HB1966 — Marcell — Instructors for Cosmetology Apprenticeship Program*

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*
- *HB1897 — Major — Tattoo Practice Act*
- *HB1969 — Diamond — COVID-19 Professional Licensure Amnesty*

MODERNIZATION: Laws and regulations of yesteryear do not address the needs of the people and businesses of today. Efforts to review outdated laws, and modernize them, 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*
- *HB1651 & 1652 — Wentling — Unification of the Commonwealth's Workforce Development System*
- *HB1906 — Flood — Regulating Pre-Employment Nondisclosure Agreements*
- *HB1590 — Brown — State Board of Cosmetology — Inspectors*

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.

- *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.

- *HB1404 — Topper — Repeals Accelerated Sales Tax Prepayments*
- *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*
- *HB1317 — Struzzi — Helping Disadvantaged Communities*
- *HB1447 — Kephart — Corporate Net Income Tax Reduction*
- *HB162 — R. Mackenzie — Electric Gross Receipts Tax*
- *HB274 — R. Mackenzie — E-Verify for All Public Contractors*
- *HB1511 — Wentling — Investing in Pennsylvania's Future — PIDA Modernization*
- *HB757 — Keefer — Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act — Contractor Misclassification*
- *HB1023 — Fritz — Incentivizing Build-out of Broadband Infrastructure*
- *HB1860 — Ortity — Optimizing Retail Investor Options*
- *HB60 — Mercuri — A Simpler and More Certain Business Tax Environment*
- *HB2029 — Mustello — Modernize and Improve the Industrial Resource Centers Program's Statute*
- *HB2395 — Kail — Increases carryover of Net Operating Losses (NOL) from 40% to 100% to empower small businesses*

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 & 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*
- *HB2064 — Hogan — Protecting Older Adults Against Financial Exploitation*
- *HB2388 — O'Neal & Kail — Investing in Pennsylvanians: Historic Tax Cuts and Real Economic Relief*

ENERGY

PA has immense energy potential waiting to be released. The Commonwealth is blessed with a bounty of energy and resources that can fuel the world. House Republicans have put forward legislation to increase our energy capabilities, provide choice to consumers, and encourage the efficient utilization of our bountiful resources.

- *HR67 — Leadbeter — Prioritizing Safe Pipeline Development*
- *HB386 — Heffley — Establishing Anthracite “hard coal” as an Official Rock of the Commonwealth*
- *HB81 — Dunbar — Cost & Percent Depletion of Mines, Oil and Gas Wells, and other Natural Deposits*
- *HB55 — Owlett — Non-Surface Drilling on State Lands*
- *HR185 — Kaufer — Geothermal Energy Projects in Communities Near Abandoned Mines*
- *HR79 — Marshall & Nelson — Designating the Commonwealth as a Hydrogen Hub*
- *HB330 — Stambaugh — PA Local Solar Program*
- *HB925 — Rapp — Proper Decommissioning and Bonding of Solar Energy Facilities*
- *HB1182 — Causer — Appliance Energy Freedom*
- *HB195 — Struzzi — Eliminating RGGI Regulations*
- *HB1978 — Causer — Abrogating Expensive California Truck Regulations*

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*
- *HB1904 — D'Orsie — Student Freedom Account Program*

CHOICE: A child's education should not be beholden to their ZIP code. Options for students and families encourage higher classroom participation, provide 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*
- *HB884 — Grove — Innovation Schools*
- *HB1804 — Scialabba — Parental Notification and Consent for Student Access and Use of a Mental Health Services Digital Platform*

STANDARDS: Curriculums today are nebulous, our students' 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, educators, and classrooms meet rigorous standards.

- *HB887 — Grove — Student Centered Assessment Pilot Program*
- *HB1372 — Marcell — Curriculum Transparency*
- *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*
- *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*
- *HB1805 — Scialabba — Uniform Criteria for School Guidance Counselors*
- *HB1908 — Metzgar — Armed School Security*
- *HB1987 — Ryncavage — Student Data Security*

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 Four-Year Degree to Two-Year Degree)*
- *HB1874 — Watro — Temporary Certification Pathway for Veterans*
- *HB1306 — Scheuren — School Bus Driver Tax Credit*

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 engrained 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 — 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*
- *HB467 — Struzzi — Academic Integrity: Creating the Offense of Academic Fraud*
- *HB1489 — E. Nelson — Tuition Reduction Act*
- *HB1915 — Stambaugh — Protecting the Integrity of the Agricultural College Land Script Fund*

2024 Q3—AT A GLANCE

Q3 2024

HEARING TIME
28h, 40m, 59s

NUMBER OF TESTIFIERS
85

**NUMBER OF
DISTRICTS VISITED**
18

NUMBER OF HEARINGS
19

**CAUCUS
PARTICIPATION**
66%

**MILES TRAVELED BY
COMMITTEE**
3,515

23-24 SESSION

HEARING TIME
127h, 22m, 41s

NUMBER OF TESTIFIERS
333

**NUMBER OF
DISTRICTS VISITED**
61

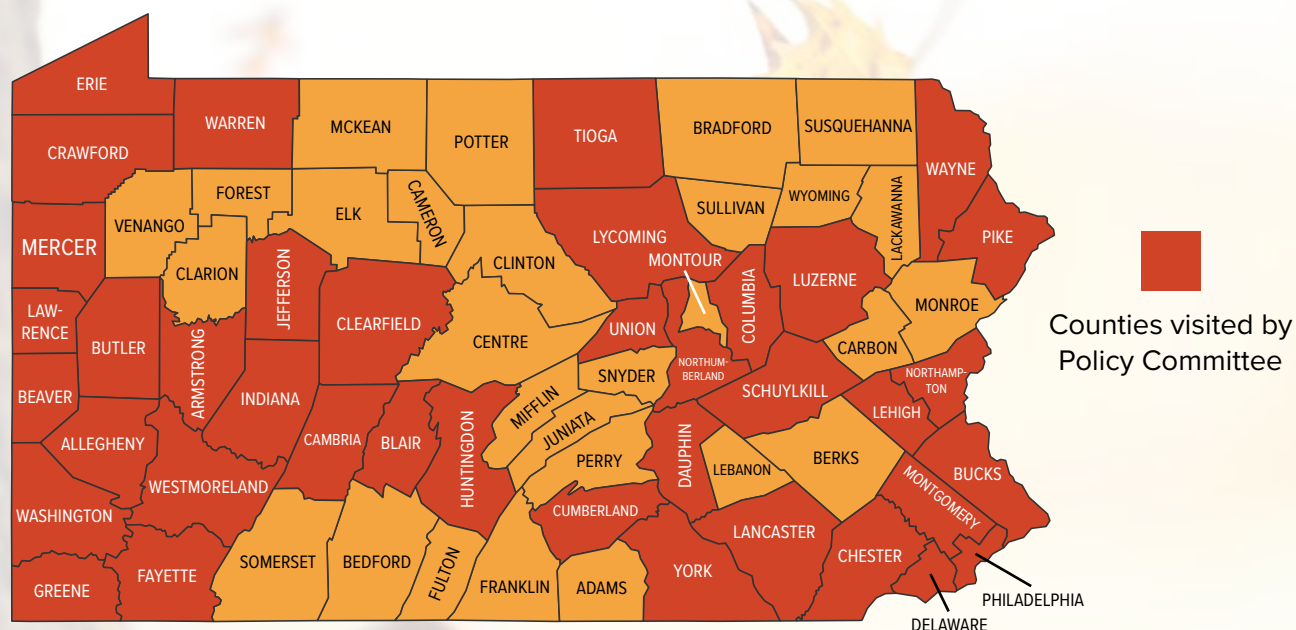
NUMBER OF HEARINGS
80

**CAUCUS
PARTICIPATION**
95%

**MILES TRAVELED BY
COMMITTEE**
13,973

23-24 SESSION—AT A GLANCE

MAP OF COUNTIES VISITED



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

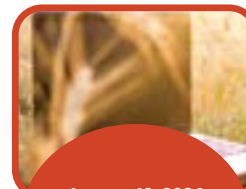
95% Have participated in at least one committee event

89% Have participated in at least two committee events

82% Have participated in three or more committee events

2024

TIMELINE



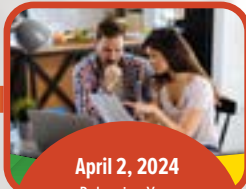
January 16, 2024
Advancing Our Rural
Connectivity



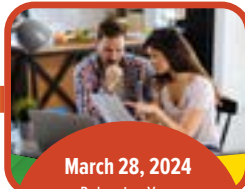
January 17, 2024
Strengthening Our
Rural Communities



April 3, 2024
Balancing Your
Budget & Thermostat:
Consumer-Focused
Energy Policy



April 2, 2024
Balancing Your
Budget & Thermostat:
Consumer-Focused
Energy Policy



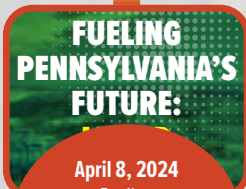
March 28, 2024
Balancing Your
Budget & Thermostat:
Consumer-Focused
Energy Policy



March 27, 2024
Roundtable with
Associated Builders and
Contractors



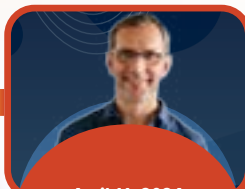
March 26, 2024
Regulating
Pennsylvania Skill
Games



April 8, 2024
Fueling
Pennsylvania's
Future: Liquid
Natural Gas



April 10, 2024
Roundtable with
Convention of States



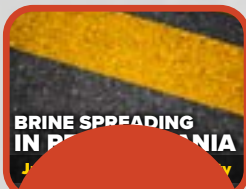
April 11, 2024
Job-Creating Tax
Reform



April 12, 2024
Job-Creating Tax
Reform



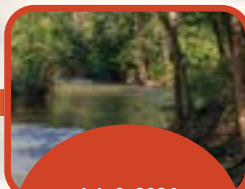
April 17, 2024
Roundtable with
Lucid Motors



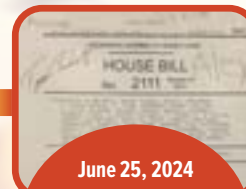
July 25, 2024
Brine Spreading



July 24, 2024
The Positive Impacts
of Coal



July 9, 2024
Big Elk Creek
State Park



June 25, 2024
Roundtable
Commemorating the
10th Anniversary of
Chloe's Law



June 21, 2024
Historic Tax Cuts



August 1, 2024
Healthcare Options
for Small Businesses



August 6, 2024
Back to School



August 7, 2024
Back to School



August 13, 2024
Back to School



September 4, 2024
Protecting Victims:
Solutions to Combat
Stalking



October 23, 2024
Roundtable with Bell
& Evans



October 9, 2024
Relief is Possible:
Combatting the Crisis
of Cost



October 4, 2024
Relief is Possible:
Combatting the Crisis
of Cost



October 3, 2024
Relief is Possible:
Combatting the Crisis
of Cost



October 2, 2024
Roundtable with UGI
Energy



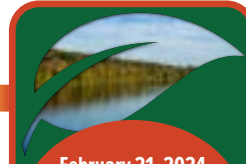
January 17, 2024
Tour of the Shell
Petrochemical Plant



February 7, 2024
Navigating the
Future of AI



February 7, 2024
Tour of Harrisburg
University of Science
and Technology



February 21, 2024
Removing Obstacles
to Opportunity to
Save the Cokeburg
Dam



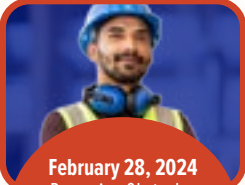
February 22, 2024
Tour of Pyrotecnico
Fireworks



March 8, 2024
Safeguarding Our
Community From
Fraud



March 7, 2024
Tour of the Marcus
Hook Refinery



February 28, 2024
Removing Obstacles
to Opportunity:
Building
Pennsylvania



February 27, 2024
Removing Obstacles
to Opportunity:
Growing
Pennsylvania's
Agriculture



February 22, 2024
A State Lost
in Addiction:
Pennsylvania's Path
to Recovery



April 18, 2024
Job-Creating Tax
Reform



May 1, 2024
The Positive Impacts
of Casinos in
Pennsylvania



May 29, 2024
Excellence in
Government:
Preserving Benefit
Integrity



May 30, 2024
Excellence in
Government:
Preserving Benefit
Integrity



June 5, 2024
Excellence in
Government:
Preserving Benefit
Integrity



June 20, 2024
Historic Tax Cuts



June 18, 2024
The Benefit of
Republican Tax Cuts,
the Detriment of
Democrat Property
Tax Hikes



June 17, 2024
Historic Tax Cuts



June 13, 2024
Democrats'
Education Scheme
Fails to Fund
Students



June 11, 2024
Historic Tax Cuts



September 10, 2024
The Costs & Benefits
of Doing Business in
Pennsylvania



September 17, 2024
Opportunity Lost:
Bureaucracy's Battle
Against Fracking



September 19, 2024
Uncovering Human
Trafficking



September 20, 2024
Passport to
Prosperity: Unleashing
Pennsylvania's Tourism
Potential



September 23, 2024
A State Lost in Addiction:
Pennsylvania's Path
to Recovery



October 1, 2024
Fighting to Keep the
Lights On in PA



September 27, 2024
Manufacturing
Momentum: Assembling
PA's Workforce



September 26, 2024
Roundtable with PA
Chamber of Business
& Industry



September 24, 2024
Pathways to Prosperity:
Igniting Growth Through
Pro-Family Policies



September 24, 2024
Tour of Vitro Glass
Industries



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSHUA D. KAIL
House Republican Policy Committee Chairman



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4632 State Route 40, Claysville, PA 15323 • P: 724-587-3095 *(By Appointment Only)*

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 **/RepKail**

 **/RepJoshKail**

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