

DIGNITY FOR ALL

**Let's Protect What Should
Never Be Denied**

Senator Art Haywood



**To all who signed petitions, marched,
called, emailed or visited lawmakers to
raise pay in PA.**

Released During Dignity Month
October 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Pay Unemployment Compensation
- 04** Retire With Dignity
- 06** Raise the Wage
- 13** Reflections on Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 14** Protect Tenants | Just Recovery - COVID Crisis
- 18** New Rules to End Racism
- 25** Reflections on the President
- 27** Reflections on Wealth in America
- 32** Renewable Energy
- 34** Saturate High Crime Areas with Love
- 45** Reflections on Reading
- 47** Reproductive Freedom
- 48** Protect Democracy
- 53** Racial Harassment | ENOUGH | Black PA
- 65** Reflections on War Crimes in Gaza
- 67** Save Chestnut Hill Hospital
- 70** Reflections on the Poorest Big City
- 72** Reflections on Economic Strategies for the 21st Century
- 73** Dignity for All Legislation - 2025-2026

INTRODUCTION

OUR NATION, the richest in the world, is marked by stark differences in economic well-being across its populace and decades of discrimination. From billionaires capable of launching private spacecrafts to families experiencing homelessness without access to healthcare and consistent food to eat, this is the America in which we live. Through the priorities set by certain policymakers, our nation now faces the deepest wealth and income inequality seen in generations and continued discrimination.

Echoing the failures in Washington, the Pennsylvania General Assembly's actions – and inaction – have further deepened inequality, making it harder for individuals and families to reach and stay in the middle class.

The enclosed collection brings together opinion essays, commentary, and selected public statements highlighting and reflecting on decisions made by the Pennsylvania General Assembly and current and previous federal administrations that promote poverty, violence and discrimination and deny people their equal dignity.

Dignity must not be reserved for only the powerful and wealthy. I continue to fight for those for whom dignity is denied and envision a nation where there is Dignity for All. That is why I have introduced a Dignity Constitutional Amendment – to enshrine human dignity in the Constitutional of Pennsylvania.

With an eye toward passing dignity-related legislation introduced by myself and others, I call on citizens, organizations, and elected officials to ensure that, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said,

“...[E]very man is an heir of the legacy of dignity and worth.”

Let's get everyone the dignity they deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art Haywood'.

Art Haywood - State Senator



UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS APPLICATION FORM

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

PAY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

It's long past time for Senate Repubs to fix PA's unemployment mess: Art Haywood

By Art Haywood

This Guest Editorial was originally published on Pennlive.com on January 26, 2017; typo corrected

LAST OCTOBER, the Pennsylvania General Assembly failed to approve the money for the operation of the unemployment service centers. As a result, three of seven Unemployment Compensation Service Centers have been shut down and 520 state employees were laid off the week before Christmas.

I and many of my colleagues in Harrisburg warned that the lack of state funding would generate extensive delays in getting desperately needed checks to unemployed Pennsylvanians. Less than two weeks into the year, my office alone has served many residents who complain that they cannot get their claims processed. Some say that they have waited in lines of over two hours without getting an answer. They are worried and frustrated. We expect these numbers to climb as the backlog worsens.

All of this could have been avoided if the Senate Republicans merely allowed the Senate to vote on funding that the House and Governor approved last year. One senator, Scott Wagner, of York County, has taken "credit" for the refusal to fund the positions. Senators in the GOP majority are responsible for this disaster.

While the House and Senate are now out on recess, hundreds of everyday people can't get checks to pay rent, buy medicine, feed their families and pay for transportation as they look for work. People who have already experienced the trauma of losing their job see their distress compounded when their unemployment is delayed. Hard-working Pennsylvanians are not being treated fairly.

WHERE HAVE WE SEEN THIS BEFORE?

The Senate majority also refused to allow a vote to raise the minimum wage, which has been stuck for over 10 years. Millions of low-wage workers in Pennsylvania rely on public assistance to make it day-to-day because our minimum wage is stuck at \$7.25 per hour.

Nineteen states raised the minimum wage effective January 1, but not Pennsylvania. We are trapped at the bottom. *Working people deserve fair pay for full-time work.*

As the owner of Night Kitchen stated, “People who have full-time jobs shouldn’t receive government subsidies.” Those who have paid into the system deserve reasonable access to the funds they have worked to create.

The Senate GOP is sticking it to everyday people twice: poverty pay minimum wage and delayed unemployment compensation if you are out of luck and out of a job. Hard-working people deserve fair pay. *Hard-working people deserve an unemployment compensation system that works.*

It’s time for an end to the policies that disdain everyday working people. Once a vote is scheduled the Senate will pass paying for unemployment compensation and raising the minimum wage to at least \$10 per hour with bipartisan support. We just need Senate GOP leaders to get out of the way and allow a vote. ■

***“All labor that
uplifts humanity
has dignity and
importance
and should be
undertaken with
painstaking
excellence.”***

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



RETIRE WITH DIGNITY

Auto-IRA would help millions of Pennsylvanians save for retirement

By State Treasurer Joe Torsella
and Senator Art Haywood

This opinion piece was originally published on Pennlive.com on April 17, 2019; headline corrected

WAITING TABLES. CLEANING RESTROOMS. BAGGING GROCERIES.

These are jobs that need to be done, and plenty of Pennsylvanians put in an honest day's work doing things just like this. But most of us want something else for ourselves when we reach the end of our working lives. We want to be able to retire with dignity, and enjoy at least a few years catching up on the moments and people we missed while working for the majority of our lives.

Unfortunately, a safe and secure retirement is an uphill climb for most Americans, despite our nation's economic recovery. One in three Americans doesn't have a single dollar saved for their retirement, and 2.1 million Pennsylvanians don't have a workplace retirement plan to contribute to.

The outlook is even worse for communities of color, with two-thirds of Latino households and 62 percent of African American households having nothing saved for retirement, compared to only 37 percent of white households without savings.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

As elected officials, we have an obligation to serve the people of our state, and we know we can't wait on Washington to solve our problems. We know that we're facing a crisis in retirement security, with an aging population where many lack the savings to ever stop working.

Luckily, there is already a powerful new tool to help. It's called an auto-IRA, which would begin to cover those 2.1 million Pennsylvanians without a plan, and would make it as easy as possible for employees to get started saving for their retirement years. Individuals without access to retirement savings through an employer will be automatically enrolled, with the ability to opt-out at any time. The accounts are portable—meaning if you move from job to job, your account moves with you.

“When we assure the elderly the dignity of choice, we affirm our own humanity, and we demonstrate our confidence in the American future.”

– Sarge Shriver

The program will operate in a similar way to the PA 529 College and Career Savings Program, which has helped hundreds of thousands of families save for postsecondary education expenses over the past 26 years.

Some may say this idea goes too far, and that workers without a retirement plan through their job should just learn all the complexities of the financial products market and start a plan on their own. Others may say the idea doesn't go far enough, and that what we need to do is dramatically expand Social Security to pay far more to individuals who are ready to retire.

Molly Schenker, a social worker with no current retirement savings plan, said that as a millennial professional, “I fear my future will never include what my parents had before me—a home, a child and health insurance. If I were given the opportunity to start a retirement plan, I'd at least have an idea of what kind of goals I should be setting for myself.”

The truth is that this is something we can actually achieve—now. And it would begin helping our workers now.

Pennsylvanians without a retirement plan through their job are already overburdened, and don't need more barriers in between them and a convenient, simple retirement plan. Those 2.1 million Pennsylvanians are also free to set up accounts of their own whenever they like, or opt out of the auto-IRA plan entirely.

We don't have to wait on our federal government to suddenly figure out how to work together, or to make changes of any kind to Social Security.

This is the type of idea—based on commonsense and finding common ground—that we still know how to do here in Pennsylvania. An auto-IRA program is something we can and should achieve on our own, and that would benefit millions of Pennsylvanians—both retirees and taxpayers—now and into the future. ■



RAISE THE WAGE

PA Senate Democrats Hold Hearing on Raising the Minimum Wage for PA in Honor of MLK Day of Service

This press release was originally distributed on January 18, 2021; available at senatorhaywood.com/pa-senate-democrats-hold-hearing-on-raising-the-minimum-wage-for-pa-in-honor-of-mlk-day-of-service/; typos corrected

HARRISBURG – JANUARY 18, 2021 – At the request of State Senators Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia), Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia), and John Kane (D- Chester/Delaware) the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Policy Committee held a virtual public hearing on raising the minimum wage for Pennsylvanians. The hearing was held on Martin Luther King, Jr’s Day of Service to honor his legacy of fighting for worker’s rights and economic justice.

“It is unacceptable that Pennsylvania continues to allow its minimum wage to be the poverty wage of \$7.25 an hour,” Haywood said. “We hold this hearing today on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of service to continue the work that Dr. King started demanding dignity and respect for all workers, and that starts by paying workers a living wage.”

The Pennsylvania General Assembly last raised the minimum wage in July 2007 to \$7.25 per hour. The six states bordering Pennsylvania have enacted minimum wage laws exceeding the \$7.25 rate effective in the Commonwealth. Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia, and Ohio have enacted higher minimum wages than Pennsylvania’s, which has been stagnate at the federal minimum for more than a decade.

Alissa Barron-Menza, Vice President of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, said that minimum wage was first introduced in 1938 during the Great Depression, and that a livable minimum wage is an essential economic recovery tool.

“This increase is a vital tool for shared recovery that will be good for business, good for customers and good for the economy,” Barron-Menza said.

Morris Pearl, Chairman of the Patriotic Millionaires, also said that a raise to the minimum wage is good for the economy. He said that a strong economy needs people with money to spend in order to maintain it.

“Investors are overwhelmingly in favor of raising the minimum wage,” Pearl said.

Currently, 29 states and the District of Columbia have minimum wages above the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, including all states surrounding Pennsylvania.

“The fact that Pennsylvania’s General Assembly hasn’t raised the minimum wage since passing my legislation in 2006 is reprehensible,” Tartaglione said. “While I have continued to sponsor new minimum wage legislation every session since, the majority has failed to take action, leaving the last increase workers have seen to be a 10-cent federal increase in 2009. Pennsylvania’s minimum wage workers deserve better.”

Sen. Tartaglione is the prime sponsor of Senate Bill 12. This legislation would immediately raise Pennsylvania’s minimum wage to \$12 an hour for all Pennsylvania workers, with a pathway to \$15 an hour by 2027. This bill would also eliminate the tipped minimum wage for Pennsylvania, ensuring all workers are making a living wage that is not dependent on patron generosity or lack thereof.

“I was a union plumber for almost four decades, and I know how important livable, family-sustaining wages were for myself and all of our members,” Kane said. “It’s a big problem that our minimum-wage workers haven’t seen a raise in over a decade – we need to guarantee that all Pennsylvanians are paid a livable wage.”

Gene Barr is President & CEO of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry said that his organization does not believe that a raise to the Pennsylvania minimum wage is the most, “effective way to drive assistance.”

Barr said that a raise to the minimum wage will hurt small businesses, will lead to more automation, and that continued work with the state on reducing barriers to employment and expanding an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) are better solutions.

“There is majority business support for raising the minimum wage beyond currently enacted levels – despite what you may hear from the opposition,” Barron-Menza countered to Barr.

“For example, a 2016 survey of 1,000 business executives across the country conducted by LuntzGlobal for the Council of State Chambers found that 80 percent of respondents said they supported raising their state’s minimum wage, while only eight percent opposed.”

“No one should be working a full-time job, or multiple full-time and part time jobs, and still be living in poverty because their employer is not required to pay them a livable wage,” Sen. Katie Muth (D- Berks/Chester/Montgomery), chair of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, said. “All workers deserve the dignity and respect of a livable wage, and we must raise the minimum wage for Pennsylvania.”

William Spriggs, Professor of Economics at Howard University and Chief Economist at AFL-CIO stated in his testimony that raising the minimum wage is also essential in ending the gender and racial wage gaps widely acknowledged to exist by economists.

Spriggs also said that subminimum wage is paying people less in the service industry (\$2.83 in Pennsylvania for restaurant workers) or is based on where they live, and also has, “very racist roots.”

Ashona Denise Osborne joined the SEIU (Service Employees International Union) fight for \$15 an hour minimum wage after working minimum wage jobs her whole life, raising her son as a single mother, and realizing that even getting her Associates Degree in childcare is, “still not enough.”

Many other Senators also attended this hearing including Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa (D- Allegheny), Amanda Cappelletti (D- Delaware/Montgomery), Carolyn Comitta (D- Chester), Maria Collett (D- Bucks/ Montgomery), Wayne Fontana (D- Allegheny), Vincent Hughes (D- Montgomery/Philadelphia), Tim Kearney (D- Chester/Delaware), Steve Santarsiero (D- Bucks), Nikil Saval (D- Philadelphia), Judy Schwank (D- Berks), Sharif Street (D- Philadelphia), Anthony H. Williams (D- Delaware/Philadelphia), and Lindsey Williams (D- Allegheny).

“What is at stake is human dignity. If a man is not accorded respect, he cannot respect himself and if he does not respect himself, he cannot demand it.”

– Cesar Chavez

Below are all who testified in today's hearing:

Gene Barr

President & CEO of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry

Alissa Barron-Menza

Vice President of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage

Morris Pearl

Chair of Patriotic Millionaires

Manuel Rosaldo

Centre County Wage Justice Coalition, Assistant Professor of Labor Relations, Penn State University

Jacqui Rogers

Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition

William Spriggs

Professor of Economics, Howard University and Chief Economist, AFL-CIO

Kadida Kenner

Director of Campaigns at the PA Budget and Policy Center

Ashona Denise Osborne

SEIU Worker from Pittsburgh

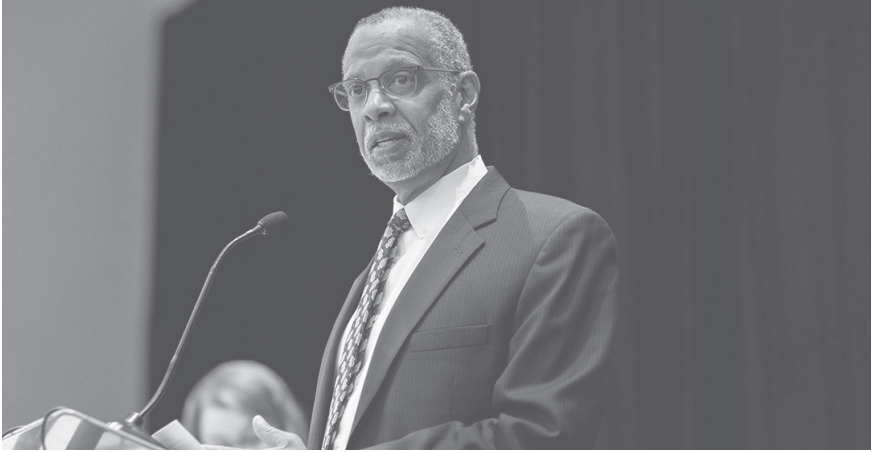
Lateefah Curtis

Worker from Philadelphia

Adesola Ogunleye

Worker from Philadelphia





Senator Haywood Hosts Labor Shortage Virtual Press Conference

This press release was originally distributed on May 25, 2021; available at senatorhaywood.com/senator-haywood-hosts-labor-shortage-virtual-press-conference/

HARRISBURG – MAY 25, 2021 – Today, State Senator Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) hosted a virtual press conference, to debunk the labor shortage myth and demand raising the minimum wage in Pennsylvania to \$15 per hour. Members of the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus, including Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny), State Senator Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia), and State Senator Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia/Montgomery), joined Senator Haywood for the live event. Notable speakers included Jennifer Berrier, Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, and Nicole Marquis, Founder and CEO of Marquis & Co. Restaurant Group.

As Pennsylvania approaches the 70 percent vaccination rate and eases physical distance requirements, occupancy limits, and mask restrictions, businesses prepare to reopen. Senator Haywood describes the hiring increase as a clear sign that the state is emerging from the pandemic. However, some employers across the Commonwealth express difficulty recruiting new workers and rehiring former employees.

Various employers claim that Pennsylvania is in midst of labor shortage and employees do not want to work due to extra benefits received from unemployment compensation. Acting Secretary Berrier disagrees with this argument. “I think that it is unlikely that 54 percent of an average wage is keeping large volumes of workers from applying for jobs and returning to work,” said Acting Secretary Berrier. “There

are other issues, such as child care, unsafe work environments, and lack of adequate benefits, that we have to consider.”

Senator Haywood asserts that jobs must offer higher pay, better benefits, and safer work conditions to attract employees. “Workers don’t want poverty pay jobs without access to childcare and with exposure to unmasked and unvaccinated co-workers or customers,” said Senator Haywood, who is a member of Governor Wolf’s COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force and serves as Minority Chair of the Pennsylvania Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Senate Democratic Leader Costa declares that employees should be protected. “Workers in nearly every industry were impacted by COVID-19, whether they were on the frontlines of the pandemic, or whether they saw drastic changes to their work setting,” said Senator Costa.

“Many were laid off, many had their hours reduced, some had to leave the workforce because of childcare or health care issues in themselves or their families. As we start

to see a return to more traditional work, we have to acknowledge issues that existed prior to COVID, address inequalities in the workforce, and protect our workers through this crisis and beyond.”

As surrounding states raise pay for essential workers, the minimum wage in Pennsylvania remains at \$7.25 per hour. “Poverty wages aren’t simply unjust and immoral, they’re bad public policy,” said Senator Hughes. “States with robust minimum wage laws that are designed to keep up with the cost of living are seeing growth and stability that Pennsylvania is not. Six of the seven states that prohibit sub-minimum tip wages are projected to have much higher job growth than Pennsylvania.”

Senator Tartaglione rejects the notion that workers are the problem. “The very same employers who for so long have evoked the concept of the ‘free market’ to argue against raising the minimum wage are now

“The worker possesses the same human dignity and is entitled to the same security of position as the engineer or the manager or the owner.”

– Franklin Delano Roosevelt

resisting the very same market forces as they desperately struggle to suppress wages,” said Senator Tartaglione. “The labor market is telling them that they’re not offering enough compensation – that their pay scale is out of whack. But instead of raising wages and benefits to meet – or exceed – contemporary demand, they are pointing a finger at the workforce. They are biting the hands that feed them.”

In the restaurant industry, workers are reluctant to stay at jobs due to decreased hours, lack of paid sick leave, poor COVID-19 safety protocols and enforcement, and lack of health benefits or insurance. Yet, the number one reason for leaving jobs is low pay. In the One Fair Wage Worker Public Health Survey with data collected from Oct. 2020 to April 2021, when restaurant workers were asked what would make them stay at their job, 78 percent of workers stated they would need full, stable, livable wage.

Marquis & Co. Restaurant Group, which is the parent company of fast-casual restaurant chain HipCityVeg and two full-service restaurants in Philadelphia: Charlie was a sinner and Bar Bombón, is taking the lead on paying a livable wage.

“Fifteen for our Families is our commitment to raising the minimum wage at our restaurants for our entire team to \$15 starting in July,” said Nicole Marquis, Founder and CEO of Marquis & Co. Restaurant Group. “Paying our employees more than double the Federal and Pennsylvania minimum wage is not just good for people, but it’s also good for business, and will help with recruiting and retention. Despite the intense economic hardship that has hit the restaurant industry over the last year, we believe that it’s the right time to do this.”

Senator Haywood’s closing remarks offered hope. “I am confident that once we can get our employers to have a decent and respectful level of pay, a safe environment, and make sure to have child care available, we can have a just recovery and bring the hardworking people in Pennsylvania back to work in a way that is respectful and fair,” said Senator Haywood. Video of the event will be available at senatorhaywood.com/video. ■

REFLECTIONS ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Dr. King We Miss: The Agitator Who Fought for Change

Written by Senator Art Haywood

January 20, 2025

WE KNOW Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as the civil rights dreamer, the leader who demanded his children be judged by “the content of their character, not the color of their skin.” We honor him for his nonviolent leadership, his Nobel Peace Prize, and his role in securing victories for civil and voting rights. Yet, the Dr. King we miss is the one often overlooked—the agitator who fought for justice with force and determination.

The Dr. King we miss is the one who boldly called America out for “writing a bad check” to Black people in his March on Washington speech, demanding equal citizenship and dignity. We miss that he was arrested 29 times for breaking unjust laws. He led economic boycotts of businesses. Dr. King organized the Poor People’s Campaign for economic justice and marched for affordable housing, a guaranteed income, and living wages. He faced violent resistance in Chicago to end housing discrimination. Dr. King endured bombings, stabbings, and death threats, all in the name of equality.

Dr. King used confrontation to make change. He understood that obtaining justice and equal dignity required more than just words; it demanded nonviolent direct action.

***“Human rights
rest on human
dignity. The
dignity of a
man is an ideal
worth fighting
for and worth
dying for.”***

- Robert C. Maynard

Today, we must honor the full legacy of Dr. King, not just the dreamer, but also the agitator who confronted America’s injustices head-on. The Dr. King we miss was unafraid to challenge America’s systems of oppression. Let us continue to confront the injustice in our nation. ■

PROTECT TENANTS FROM COVID EVICTIONS

PA's tragic failure to protect renters, homeowners

By Arthur Haywood and Vincent Hughes

This opinion piece was originally published on phillyburbs.com on December 29, 2020

AS WE ENTER what should be a time of spiritual reflection of the year about to end, we are reminded of the failure of the majority in the General Assembly to help families across the Commonwealth in 2020.

In May, a bipartisan proposal to use the Commonwealth's share of funds received from the CARES Act passed the General Assembly and was signed by the Governor. This proposal included assistance for education, healthcare industries, frontline workers, higher education and housing.

As part of our robust response to the first wave of COVID-19, new programs were legislated and built quickly. Under the leadership of Senator Haywood, our caucus secured \$175 million for Rental and Mortgage Assistance.

“We must build a new world, a far better world—one in which the eternal dignity of man is respected.”

– Harry S. Truman

Unfortunately, the \$175 million allocated for the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program had too many restrictions. A week into the program, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) flagged issues they were hearing from the counties tasked with administering the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program. Among these issues were a lack of participation by landlords because the maximum rent was too low.

Pennsylvania Senate Democrats immediately reacted to this information from the PHFA. We convened interested parties, PHFA, the Housing Alliance, landlord associations and housing advocates, to discuss what did and did not work in the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program. These conversations with interested groups resulted in the introduction of Senate Bill 1290. This proposal

was endorsed by various statewide associations representing both landlords and tenants. Proposed changes to the program in the bill were uniformly supported by all testifiers at a Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee hearing Sept. 8. A day after that hearing, a House Republican introduced companion legislation to the Senate Democratic proposal and, with time running out, Governor Tom Wolf took limited executive action to fix aspects of the program. Then, more than two months after the introduction of SB 1290, the House of Representatives unanimously passed the House companion bill. The Senate leadership failed to approve the House bill or Senate Bill 1290 and went home. If the majorities in the General Assembly had acted in September, those changes to the program would have quickly exhausted the \$175 million available – ensuring that it got to the Pennsylvanians who needed it most.

Unfortunately, the majority party in the General Assembly decided it would be better to send \$108 million dollars from the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program to the Department of Corrections to offset their costs associated with COVID-19. This same approach was used to put \$1.3 billion of CARES money that was meant for people in need into the state budget instead.

A Spotlight PA article reported that an estimated 240,000 Pennsylvania families could face eviction in January. Moreover, estimates from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health found that expiring eviction and foreclosure moratoria could lead to 400,000 excess COVID-19 cases and over 10,000 excess deaths. Taking more than \$100 million from a program with potential to protect homeowners and renters across the Commonwealth is akin to the Grinch stealing the roast beast from the Whoville families.

No family that has suffered a change in their financial circumstances because of COVID-19 should have to worry about putting food on their table or paying to keep a roof over their head. It is during difficult and trying times that government should work to protect families from falling into economic ruin and homelessness.

The inability of the Republicans in the General Assembly to enact meaningful changes to a program that all housing groups believed could have prevented evictions and foreclosures is a tragedy. While we reflect on 2020 in the coming days, we hope that the majorities in the General Assembly will recognize their inaction as a failure to protect the Commonwealth's citizens.

Senator Arthur Haywood's 4th Senatorial District includes part of Montgomery County – Abington, Cheltenham, Springfield, Rockledge and Jenkintown – and part of Philadelphia.

Senator Vincent Hughes' 7th Senatorial District includes part of Montgomery County – Upper Dublin, Whitemarsh and Conshohocken – and part of Philadelphia. ■



JUST RECOVERY

After the surge

By State Sen. Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia)

This op-ed was originally published on chestnuthilllocal.com on April 22, 2020

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has rocked the pillars of our nation. We face challenges that threaten our health and economic well-being while our democracy struggles to respond to the immense suffering. Our society, culture and normal daily life has been turned upside down.

Across our nation, thousands have tragically died, and hundreds of thousands have gotten sick. The coronavirus has touched each of us personally. Social distancing has become the norm and our most formidable frontline defense. What we are doing, in separating from each other, is working.


From across all metrics – deaths, hospitalizations, ICU admissions – it is clear that we have now flattened the curve and reduced new infections. While not out of danger, experts believe the surge and peak will hit and pass us this week. Then what? We must find a path to resume life, without sacrificing public health. Public health and the return to work should not be competing objectives, but some public officials argue otherwise. Our goal is to thread the needle and ensure that we are not sacrificing health when the economy is reopened.

Led by Gov. Tom Wolf and other northeastern governors, our leaders have started to chart a way forward. Before effective treatment is widely available and a vaccine is ready, the restart of our economy should be guided by several key principles: mandatory Centers for Disease Control (CDC) workplace leave protocols; at-work social distancing; remote work if possible; heightened cleanup standards including hand washing, sanitation enhancements; social distancing and mask-wearing in public settings; and accessible testing for all.

In addition, we need to institute hazard pay for workers and an increased minimum wage. Other important safety procedures— including prohibiting mass gatherings of 10 people or more – should remain in place. There must also be new guidelines for nursing home visits and expanded protections for our most vulnerable citizens.

As we begin reconfiguring public policy, we must recognize that the key to economic revival is the prodding of consumer spending while we enhance the protection of our workers. An integral part of boosting consumer spending is raising the pay of our workers. In addition to hazard pay and an increased minimum wage, we should institute federal payments directly to workers, much like what is being done in Canada.

This massive federal stimulus effort combined with improving fairness and equity pay for workers on the state level will stem home and business failures and foreclosures. This will also prevent evictions, car repossessions and forestall massive business debt. As we tend to re-igniting business activity and protecting families, we also must invest in our children through summer learning and recreation opportunities.



“The dignity and stability of government in all its branches, the morals of the people and every blessing of society, depends so much upon an upright and skillful administration of justice...”

– John Adams

Federal assistance to help families and restore neighborhoods is key, but it must not stop there. Pennsylvania will need at least \$3 billion in direct aid to fill in revenue gaps and cover gaping holes in our tax receipts. There is simply no state solution that can address a chasm this large.

Finally, we must promote a safe and secure democracy. That is why we must aggressively pursue an all vote-by-mail election this fall.

Together, we have made adjustments in our daily lives that have lessened the dire impact of the pandemic. We have watched as our dedicated first-responders, health care professionals, grocery workers, food processors, delivery service personnel, truck drivers, sanitation workers and so many more have gone to their jobs each day for all of us. Heroes all.

They have done their part. Now, let us do our part and shoulder the responsibility of crafting the correct public policy after the surge. ■

NEW RULES TO END RACISM

Changing the rules to combat racism

By Sen. Art Haywood

This op-ed was originally published on chestnuthilllocal.com on July 16, 2020; typos corrected

NATIONWIDE, Americans continue to staunchly protest systemic racism. The country has not seen action like this since the Civil Rights and Black Power movements of the 1960s. Sixty years later, the demands for action by the people remain loud and clear.

Much like the rules of a game, rules put in place by those in power cause Black people to lose in destructive ways. When the rules are changed, we can counterattack centuries' worth of racial oppression. Here are four rules that must change if we are going to dismantle systemic racism:

Rule #1: Poverty Pay. Under enslavement, no pay for work was the rule. During segregation, Black people were locked into low-paid "Black jobs." This included domestic, culinary, and janitorial work. Today, these jobs pay as little as \$2.83 per hour in the food industry or a minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. This rule can be addressed by raising the minimum wage in Pennsylvania to \$15 per hour and lifting thousands of Black people out of poverty.

"Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity."

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rule #2: Poor Education. Teaching enslaved Blacks was illegal. After slavery, Black education was separate from whites and severely unequal. Today many predominately Black public schools being underfunded and unsafe. The poor education rule can be addressed by properly funding Black education through the existing Pennsylvania fair funding formula. This formula gives poorer districts the funding they need to provide a quality education to all students.

Rule #3: Limited Wealth Creation. Enslaved Blacks had no access to credit. Under segregation, access to credit was largely denied by major banks, insurance companies and financing companies. Today, Blacks are routinely subject to financial discrimination, which hinders their ability to accrue wealth and achieve upward mobility. The result of this is white wealth eclipsing Black wealth 10 times over. The denial of credit rule can be addressed by requiring financial institutions to set aside accessible loans for Black borrowers.

Rule #4: Overincarceration and Policing. During slavery, any noncompliant Black was a threat and brutalized. Segregation followed with chain gangs of imprisoned and free Black labor. Today, Blacks are still perceived as a threat to be controlled, with over-policing and overincarceration. The excessive policing rule can be fixed through additional funding of education, social services and job training instead of unequal punishment.

By changing these four rules, we can begin to dismantle systemic racism in Pennsylvania. While more than just these four rules must be addressed, they are a significant part of the fundamental changes that need to be made.

I will continue to fight for legislative changes to end systemic racism, and I urge all Pennsylvanians do the same.

State Sen. Art Haywood represents Pennsylvania's 4th district, which includes Northwest Philadelphia and a portion of Montgomery County). ■

The true fight for police reform is in statehouses across the U.S.

This is why | Opinion

By Art Haywood

This opinion piece was originally published on penncapital-star.com on July 30, 2020; typo corrected

BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTS erupted across the United States and beyond following the cruel killing of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis. Weekly, and in some places daily, rallies and marches demand an end to police brutality and to systemic racism.

And less than two months later, at least 13 states have passed legislation to curtail police brutality.

Since June and in a response to the Black Lives Matter rallies, protests and marches, lawmakers in Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon and Minnesota banned chokeholds.

Police officer immunity from lawsuits was cut in Colorado.

Use of lethal force was restricted by legislators in Colorado and Minnesota.

Anti-bias and de-escalation training is now required in Pennsylvania and Iowa, after passing the legislatures with bipartisan support.

Independent investigation of police involved killings was approved in New York and Minnesota.

These are some of the more than 30 state-level recent changes in the rules that have permitted police brutality and systemic racism. This legislation is a small, initial start of the change needed. Many proposals to change laws in several states have not yet passed.

In Pennsylvania we are pushing changes to the definition of use of force, banning chokeholds, prohibition on military style weaponry for police, strong civilian review boards, anti-bias training and my legislation to require independent investigation of police involved killings and other measures to prevent use of lethal force, particularly as it would impact our Black and Brown communities.

We can't afford to wait any longer for necessary reforms like these. They are literally lifesaving.

Change is happening at the state level. State legislatures are now the crucibles of law enforcement reform. While more than a dozen states have taken some action, the national government has not. The U.S. Senate and President Donald Trump stand in the way of change.

Our focus must shift from the failures of the federal government to the opportunities presented in states.

More wins for the movement for Black Lives Matter will be necessary. States have started to change; Pennsylvania among them. Electing lawmakers in our states in November who agree with our demands will produce more of those wins and drive the movement to end systemic racism.

We can take the states.

State Sen. Art Haywood, a Democrat, represents the 4th Senate District, which includes parts of Philadelphia and Montgomery County. He is the ranking Democratic member of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee, and writes from Harrisburg. ■

Embrace Diversity

Written by Art Haywood

October 6, 2025

ACTIONS TO DISMANTLE PROGRAMS that promote diversity, equity and inclusion are rising in the U.S. The University of Pennsylvania and other U.S. universities received threats of defunding from the national government. Businesses that contract with the national government have been directed to stop all programs that promote DEI. Policy in America is erasing the brutality of enslavement and diminishing the cruel removal of Native Americans from their lands. The president issues threats of prosecution or defunding against those who dissent from these policies on an almost weekly, if not more frequent basis.

Of course, the United States is already diverse. Our nation has been multiracial and multiethnic since its founding, with Africans and Europeans integral to its beginnings. Significant immigrant populations and formerly enslaved people in the U.S. have led to our nation being characterized as a “melting pot” of diversity, a phrase introduced and popularized in the early 20th century. This historic trend of diversity continues.

Today in the U.S, most children under the age of 18 are people of color. In 20 years or so the U.S. Census Bureau projects a nation without any single majority ethnic or racial group. The over 200-year white majority will end, and the nation will have mostly people of color and pluralities of cultural, racial and ethnic groups.

Not only are we seeing the American trend of increased ethnic and racial diversity, but we have also moved, albeit slowly, toward greater inclusion. With the defeat of the Confederacy, the U.S. granted citizenship to enslaved Africans and their descendants, moving toward inclusion. The civil and voting rights movement of the 1950s and 60s ended legal segregation and moved the nation toward full inclusion. With women’s voting rights won in 1920 and a first round of liberation in the 1960s and 70s, we moved toward inclusion. When harsh immigration limits were ended, we moved toward inclusion. When marriage equality was recognized and LGBTQ individuals were protected from discrimination in work and housing, we moved toward inclusion. All these victories for inclusion recognize that all people have equal worth and dignity and can meaningfully participate in society.

The struggle for equity is more challenging. Some say equity is in the eye of the beholder, but representation is something we can all see. As a parent of children in a once predominantly white school district, I could see the lack of representation of historic minorities in certain selective activities. I could see that my exceptional children were not being selected. Through persistent advocacy, many of those once excluded were ultimately given the opportunity to participate.

I realize that inclusion and representation efforts are often criticized as both insufficient and excessive. Historic minorities frequently point to underrepresentation in leadership positions—a viewpoint with cause. This underrepresentation is rooted in centuries of deliberate exclusion: two hundred years of enslavement in which Black labor built immense wealth and power for white rulers while Blacks were denied compensation and agency; segregation that barred Black Americans from jobs, businesses, and public life; higher education policies that denied talented Black and Brown individuals access to colleges and universities while admitting less qualified whites; systemic discrimination in housing, employment, and education based on race, color, and national origin; and redlining that excluded Black families from appreciating neighborhoods while white families benefited from interest-free GI home loans. Discrimination has been embedded in the lived experience of historic minorities from the founding of the nation to the present day.

For those who have been historically excluded, immediate remedies have been sought, including affirmative action set asides, preferences and competitive points that seek to extinguish disadvantages hewn from centuries of mistreatment. Some of these policies have merely caused those who were blind to Black and Brown talent to put on corrective lenses to see what could not be seen before. But these policies have had some significant results. Black college graduates have gone from 4.5% in 1970 to 27.8% of the Black population in 2020. The Black middle class moved up to 46% of the Black population in the U.S. in 2022. At the same time, these remedies have not resolved centuries of exclusion and continued discrimination.

On the other hand, inclusion policies have come under attack for competitively hurting whites. Characterizing DEI as reverse discrimination, calling for the end of programs and other complaints have emerged from whites who feel the impact of not only increased racial equity and inclusion policies, but perhaps more pointedly those perpetuated by a powerful white wealthy class that seeks to exclude the working poor and middle class.

The nation has lost approximately two million jobs to automation and one million jobs to overseas operations. Competition has increased. As businesses change, advanced skills and higher education are more in demand by employers than 50 years ago. The workforce protected by labor unions has decreased from 21 million workers in 1979 to 14.3 million in 2022. The purchasing power of everyday people has gone down since the 1970s. Government services to support families are being cut as well. Government policies benefiting the wealthy have not improved the lives of everyday people.

Can we embrace diversity, equity and inclusion in this era of heightened competition and declining support from our government? I believe we can, and we must. Our best chance of increasing the prosperity of the nation is to apply all talent inherent from its diversity. Prosperity for all cannot be accomplished without the people of color who will in short order make up a majority

of our populace. We know that businesses with diverse leadership are reported as being more profitable. Vice Admiral Joe Sestak once mentioned that inclusion is a national imperative to meet the demands of the military and national security forces. We will need all our nation's talent to compete with China, Europe and the world.

Our music, dance and art are all richer in America because of our diversity. As a leader once told me, now is not the time to turn against each other, but to turn toward each other.

This statement is not to diminish the historic change our nation is currently undergoing. There are powerful people who insist that America is a white nation rather than a multiracial or multiethnic one. There are powerful people who make competition more intense through denial of healthcare for all, the denial of affordable childcare, the denial of affordable education and a fair minimum wage. We struggle without a Dignity for All agenda that truly includes all of us in reaching national prosperity. Yet still, I remain confident that the historic trend toward inclusion and dignity will continue as it has over the last 250 years. ■

***“Human
dignity is the
same for all
human beings:
when I trample
on the dignity
of another,
I am trampling
on my own.”***

- Pope Francis



REFLECTIONS ON THE PRESIDENT

Americans Elect a Criminal to White House

Written by Senator Art Haywood

January 14, 2025

FOR ALL OF 2023 AND 2024, I was convinced that the American people were not as corrupt as Donald Trump. I was wrong. Given the choice between a liberal Black woman and a conservative white man criminal, Americans voted for the criminal. As a result, we now have a criminal leading the nation and world.

The American people disregarded his criminal conduct which was no secret:

- Trump committed fraud in New York. As a convicted felon, he cannot own a gun or engage in numerous other activities.
- Trump committed sexual assault in New York. He is required to pay the victim \$83M.
- Trump admitted to taking and refused to return classified documents with national security information, which is a crime.
- Trump is on video encouraging his supporters to storm the Capitol and stop the confirmation of the 2020 Presidential vote so he could stay in office, which is a crime.
- Trump admitted to demanding that the Georgia election officials find enough votes that would allow him to win the 2020 election, which is a crime.

Whether this is a new low for the American people will be subject to debate. At least 12 of the 18 presidents who held office between the years 1789 and 1877 were slaveowners, including four of the

first five presidents. Eight presidents enslaved people while in office. Nine presidents enslaved Africans on their plantations or homes. At least five presidents supported the elimination or assimilation of native Americans. Up to 10 presidents supported policy positions that perpetuated the American apartheid we call Jim Crow. None of these presidents broke the law in their actions, though they clearly violated human dignity.

Americans used their vote to elect a convicted criminal as President. This is a sad statement about the moral bankruptcy of the nation in 2025. ■

“True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth, universal brotherhood and good will, and a constant striving toward the principles and ideals on which this country was founded.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

REFLECTIONS ON WEALTH IN AMERICA

We Pay, They Play

Written by Senator Art Haywood

July 30, 2025

OUR TAXES ARE RIGGED. The money of hardworking people is funneled up to the rich. Here is how the rigged tax system works.

We are getting less and less for government services because corporations are not paying their fair share. When corporate taxes go down, so too do the services government can provide.

Pennsylvania ranks 46th in support for higher education. Students are forced to borrow to cover the increasing cost of higher education. Pennsylvania ranks 46th in support of public health. As a result, our ability to respond to disease is diminished. Pennsylvania's funding of K-12 education is so bad that the courts declared it unconstitutional. State funding for SEPTA and mass transit is in jeopardy, while our gas tax strains drivers at over 50 cents per gallon for our cars and trucks.

Pennsylvania is a rich Commonwealth. We can afford low-cost higher education, fair funding of K-12 schools, mass transit and a minimum wage of \$15 per hour.

Why is Pennsylvania at the bottom tier of all states for higher education, K-12 education, public health, and mass transit, while our gas tax costs an additional 50 cents per gallon?

Business tax breaks rob Pennsylvania's taxpayers of the government we deserve.

Each year, Pennsylvania businesses receive over \$1B in tax breaks, totaling over \$4B in recent years. Further, the natural gas drillers pay no severance tax here as they do in other states. The Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee reported that Texas, the top producing natural gas states receives \$12 billion in taxes while Pennsylvania, the second highest producing natural gas

***“Human
dignity
is more
precious
than
prestige.”***

- Claude McKay

state, received a measly \$1.1 Billion from an “impact fee” in the past five years. The natural gas drillers are freeloaders in our state, but not in Texas.

To add insult to injury, the federal government recently perpetrated the biggest robbery of everyday people in decades. Healthcare and food will be ripped away from hardworking people to deliver massive tax breaks for the rich. Hospitals and grocery stores are at risk of closure. Jobs will be lost. Electricity prices are going up, along with the cost of healthcare insurance premiums and payments on student loans. Access to women’s health care will be eroded now that Planned Parenthood has been defunded.

The U.S. is one of the richest nations in the history of the world. We can afford healthcare for all to support our most vulnerable. But when the rich don’t pay their fair share, we the people lose.

With an additional \$12,000 in tax cuts for those who are already millionaires, they will play while we pay. ■



Lessons from the Poverty Tour

Written by Senator Art Haywood

September 23, 2025

TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT TAKES TO GET OUT OF POVERTY,

I organized a Poverty Listening Tour in 2019 and asked people around the state to share their stories. From Erie to Scranton, Philadelphia to Clinton and McKeesport, we heard from people experiencing poverty and the agencies charged with relieving barriers on the path to getting out of poverty. Pennsylvania State Senators in each of these places, both Republicans and Democrats, joined me in convening panel discussions on my listening tour.

The exact tour stops were developed from a hand-drawn map of Pennsylvania divided into East, West, North and South. From this map, Maisha Jackson of my staff developed the tour stops, partners and panels.

Community organizations Just Harvest, Face to Face, Urban Erie Community Development Corporation, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania and STEP Clinton County Community Center were among the hosts for the conversations. Senators Vincent Hughes, John Blake, Jim Brewster and Dan Laughlin and the Department of Human Services Secretary Theresa Miller joined me to hear individuals' and providers' experiences.

Men and women shared their stories of struggle to get out of poverty. In Clinton County, one woman was asked if she thought she could get in a stable position with sufficient resources and money. She thought about it and cried seeing no path out of poverty despite her hard work. A man described sleeping in his car for several days before he could get enough money to get a room. Another person described only receiving \$7 a week for SNAP government food assistance. Their food assistance was supplemented by receiving free food from food banks and visiting

soup kitchens. Even with these several sources of food available, this individual was only able to feed themselves for about three out of four weeks of a month. Another person described how her child had been taken from her by the state because of what she could not afford. Someone else described living in a car with a disabled relative for some time because of the lack of shelter placements for the disabled. Another attendee described family caretaking responsibilities as a barrier. And yet another individual described race discrimination as a barrier. Several folks described a process where they would get a job and then lose it because of child care or transportation. Then they would get another job and lose it for similar reasons. They described a two steps forward, three steps backward experience. Despite these challenges and defeats, those who spoke to us maintained an amazing perseverance to keep trying.

Four key barriers became apparent in individuals' efforts to getting out of poverty:


- Low pay;
- Unaffordable and inaccessible childcare;
- Unaffordable housing; and
- Lack of transportation.

Low pay meant that jobs didn't pay enough for childcare, housing or transportation. Low pay also meant that there was no job security - miss a day and get fired; show up late because of childcare or transportation issues and get fired. Unaffordable and inaccessible childcare meant traveling many miles out of the way of work to get kids to their care destinations. It meant no childcare available for evening or weekend work hours. Unaffordable housing meant sleeping in a car or shelter with few options to find a placement at a permanent address. Lack of transportation simply meant walking to a destination or paying for expensive rideshare trips that cannibalized most of a paycheck.

Twenty recommendations came out of the multi-region tour. The recommendations included raising the minimum wage, increasing affordable childcare, increasing affordable housing and expanding public transportation. Additional recommendations included making public assistance more attainable and increasing participation for eligible individuals, as well as increasing training and pay for county assistance counselors and studying the "benefits cliff" so we can better understand how individuals can effectively work toward self-sustainability.

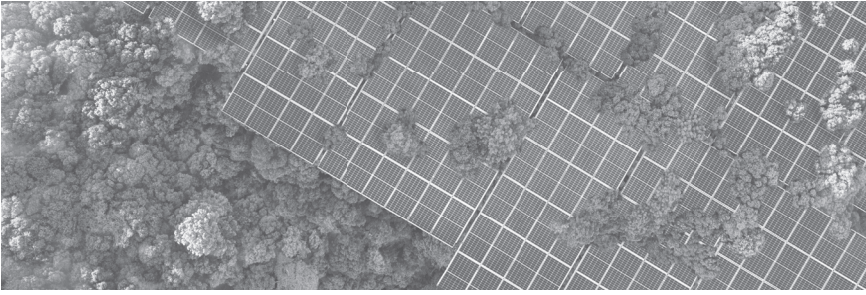
Later, I presented an update on our listening tour policies at STEP in Clinton County where we started our initial tour. We highlighted some significant headway in key areas toward enacting policies that reduce poverty.

But there is still work to do, particularly considering the damning policies coming out of Washington. I continue to stand with those who cannot simply bootstrap their way to economic stability while elected officials and government entities actively take away the very tools they need to survive. And so, the fight continues. ■



“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life...”

– Nelson Mandela



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Senators Haywood and Laughlin Introduce Renewable Energy Legislation

An edited version was originally published on yourerie.com on March 26, 2021; available at senatorhaywood.com/senators-haywood-and-laughlin-introduce-renewable-energy-legislation/

HARRISBURG – MARCH 26, 2021 – Today, State Senator Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) and State Senator Dan Laughlin (R-Erie) introduced legislation that will promote economic development efforts and generate jobs by supporting alternative energy production and use in Pennsylvania.

“Given our current economic crisis due to COVID-19, we are introducing legislation that will promote the commonsense expansion of renewable energy,” said Laughlin. “These efforts will attract millions of dollars of private investment, grow tens of thousands of jobs, create tax revenue for communities, diversify our energy mix, and present a solution that may save some of our farms without the use of state revenues.”

The new legislation proposes the following:

- A more modest increase in Pennsylvania’s Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) Tier I goal – 18 percent by 2026 – that will still spawn new investment and create jobs while minimizing impacts to all electric customers.
- A requirement that 3.75 percent (of the 18 percent) comes from in-state grid-scale solar (i.e., projects greater than 5 MW) and 1.75 percent comes from in-state distributed solar (i.e., rooftop solar projects connected to the distribution grid).
- A limit on the cost of the alternative energy credits (AEC) and providing for long-term contracting – minimizing impacts to ratepayers – and calling for a study of renewable energy storage.

“Renewable energy creates jobs, saves farmers, and can help us to save the planet,” Haywood said. “We believe strongly that this proposal could be one of the largest economic development and job stimulus bills in decades.”

AEC trading is a market-based program that drives renewable energy investments into renewables based on supply and demand – as the goal rises, the industry brings investment to build and meet that goal. When the goal is met, investment slows. Under the current AEPS, Pennsylvania is on track to surpass its goal for renewable energy, which drives AEC pricing.

The provisional program expires in May 2021. Without an adjustment to this law, surrounding states will outperform the economic development in Pennsylvania. New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York, and most New England states have AEPS goals of 50 percent by 2030. Last year, Virginia enacted a law calling for 100 percent clean energy by 2050. Immediate action will ensure the renewable energy economy continues to develop in the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania solar farmers support this legislation, including Brian Kreider of Lancaster County. “Speaking for myself and my family, the Keystone Solar Project has allowed our family-run farm to stay in the family for a third generation and hopefully for generations to follow,” said Kreider. Due to the large overhead costs and the lack of profitability

“Whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity and it has worth.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

of farming on a smaller scale, I’m not sure we would be able to keep the family farm intact. My family and I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to be able allocate our farmland for solar.”

The Senators’ bill will bring clean, affordable, and reliable energy to Pennsylvania homes and support the state’s growing renewable energy economy. ■



SATURATE HIGH CRIME AREAS WITH LOVE

PA Approves \$30 Million for Community Violence Prevention Programs

This press release was originally distributed on June 25, 2021; available at senatorhaywood.com/pa-approves-30-million-for-community-violence-prevention-programs/; typos corrected

HARRISBURG, PA. – JUNE 25, 2021 – The Pennsylvania Legislature has allocated \$30 million for community violence prevention programs in the approved 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. The Block Grants will be managed by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and will support local efforts to take preventive measures to stop growing gun violence that is occurring across the state.

“This investment will save lives and it’s just a down payment. We’re going to focus this effort at the community level and fight this epidemic block by block, street by street across this entire commonwealth. This is not just a big city issue. The surge in violence has shattered lives in small towns and townships across Pennsylvania. We’re in this together,” Senator Vincent Hughes said.

“As we vote on this budget, we are working to save lives. We’re giving resources to neighborhood organizations across the commonwealth, from Philadelphia, to Hazleton, to Downingtown, to interrupt the cycle of community violence,” said House Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton.

Lawmakers made clear community violence is a public health crisis that affects all areas- urban, suburban, and rural. And COVID-19 further exasperated inequities and gaps that have long existed in communities across the commonwealth, especially Black and Brown communities.

"This \$30 million is an investment into grassroots organizations who are doing the hard work every day to better our communities. They are everyday heroes who typically operate on shoestring budgets. There's more work to be done, but this is a record amount of funding that will offer solutions to the very difficult, complex and challenging issue of community violence," said Senator Anthony H. Williams.

Gun safety and violence prevention advocates point out gun violence rates are largely driven by factors like poverty, addiction, and trauma. Investing funds in community programs that address education, job training, mental health, and addiction, head on, are key to stopping violence and ultimately supporting the future of youth and communities.

"\$30 million in Community Violence Block Grants is an investment that will literally save lives. The data is clear, ease of access to firearms, heightened stress and deepened poverty caused by the pandemic has increased shootings across our commonwealth. A coordinated and constant effort to fund those doing the crucial work of violence intervention, with a focus on addressing the social determinants that drive conflicts in our communities, is our new mandate," said Senator Sharif Street.

In Pennsylvania, data has been a clear indicator of surging community violence. Philadelphia has surpassed 250 homicides and Pittsburgh has had a 90% increase in shootings this year. In 2020, Harrisburg had the deadliest year for violence in the city in the past three decades. In Erie, the number of confirmed shots fired jumped more than 80 percent.

"These funds are a win for our communities. So often I hear from constituents about loss, hurt and injury. They ask me what elected officials can do to help. Well here's what we can do. We invest in our communities and those who are on the front lines," said Senator Art Haywood.

In May 2021, Governor Wolf announced \$5 million in funding to support local efforts to reduce community gun violence in Philadelphia and other regions across the state experiencing recent surges in shootings, homicides, and other firearm-related crimes. The additional \$30 million from Pennsylvania's budget will provide even more opportunity for local and community organizations to address the growing issue of gun violence and public safety. ■

Senator Haywood Demands Immediate Action from Mayor Kenney to Stop Gun Violence in Philadelphia

This press release was originally distributed on January 20, 2022; available at senatorhaywood.com/senator-haywood-demands-immediate-action-from-mayor-kenney-to-stop-gun-violence-in-philadelphia/

PHILADELPHIA – JANUARY 20, 2022 – Today, State Senator Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) called on Mayor Jim Kenney (D-Philadelphia) to take six immediate actions to stop gun violence in Philadelphia and save lives.

In an email sent to Mayor Kenney, Senator Haywood stated that while other big cities, such as Boston, St. Louis, and Miami, saw a drop in gun violence in 2021, the number of homicides in Philadelphia increased.

“We can’t wait to end poverty, racism, and change in Harrisburg to do what other cities are doing successfully to save lives,” Haywood said in the email. “Neither can we only rely on law enforcement to arrest and prosecute shooters.”

Haywood demanded that Kenney convene a decision-making gun violence committee that meets weekly. Next, Haywood advised that the mayor implement the following in neighborhoods with the highest level of gun violence:

- Create a “See Something, Say Something” media campaign.
- Hire people in neighborhoods to clean up blocks.
- Offer counseling, behavioral health, and social services to families and youth.
- Provide jobs in cooperation with employers and offer job training for youth.
- Hire and provide grants to gun violence interrupters to engage likely shooters.

In 2021, Haywood wrote two letters to Kenney with solutions to address the city’s gun violence problem, which he received no response. Haywood sent this email today as a third attempt to reach the mayor and save countless lives across the Commonwealth.

“My hope is that these actions can be taken immediately,” Haywood said. “Lives are at stake; the time is now.” ■

The change Philadelphia needs

Sen. Art Haywood

This commentary was originally published on phillytrib.com on February 7, 2022

THERE WERE 499 HOMICIDES IN PHILADELPHIA IN 2020.

That grim number was surpassed in 2021 when 562 were murdered in the city. We are only a month into 2022, and the City of Philadelphia has reported another 44 murders. However, in Boston, Dallas, Jacksonville, Fla., Kansas City, Mo., Miami, Seattle and St. Louis, murders declined in 2021.

Why are murders increasing in Philadelphia, but decreasing in other major cities? Because we fail to do what works.

Cities that are reducing murders focus law enforcement and human services on the high-crime areas, shooters and shooting victims. In Philadelphia, this would mean that before and after 18 shots were fired on Collom Street in East Germantown, trusted men and women would reach out to the young men on the block.

Human services would connect the young men on Collom Street to counseling, social services and job training: a pathway out. The city would clean up surrounding blocks to show neighbors that they matter. The city would offer robust recreation programs at nearby recreation centers. However, the block is blighted. There are no activities for youth, and nothing is being offered to young men on the block. Instead, a police car is parked on the corner of the shooting.

While I advocated for an initial \$30 million in statewide gun violence prevention money for effective nonprofit organizations, I am very concerned that the money is not advancing gun violence prevention strategies that work. Right now, Philadelphia's violence prevention strategy appears to be a parking lot, with many entrances and without stripped lines or rows.

It's a mess.

Philadelphia needs to coordinate targeted human services to shooters and victims in the highly affected neighborhoods, along with policing. That's what works. Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw, Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner, Philadelphia City Council, state representatives, state senators, and congresspersons cannot coordinate this effort.

I am calling for the creation of a committee to coordinate all violence and murder reduction efforts within Philadelphia. This committee should meet weekly at minimum. Its members should include the mayor,

police commissioner, district attorney, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania attorney general, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Human Services, and commissioner of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Services.

It will take coordinated leadership at the federal, state and local levels to decrease gun violence in Philadelphia. For real change to occur, we must do what has been proven to work and change course now.

Art Haywood is a Pennsylvania state senator for the 4th District. ■

Senator Haywood Responds to Gun Violence Meeting with Mayor Kenney

This press release was originally distributed on May 11, 2022; available at senatorhaywood.com/senator-haywood-responds-to-gun-violence-meeting-with-mayor-kenney/

PHILADELPHIA - MAY 11, 2022 – Today, State Senator Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) released the following statement in response to a virtual meeting with Mayor Jim Kenney (D- Philadelphia):

“On 18 April, I led a sit-in with advocates outside of Mayor Kenney’s office at City Hall to demand action and reduce gun violence in Philadelphia. Soon thereafter, the mayor and I set a meeting to discuss our six demands. On 29 April, advocates and I met with the mayor and his team with mixed results. A path to weekly cleaning of blocks (with the highest levels of crime) and increasing violence interrupters on these blocks seems open. On the other hand, organizing agencies in a violence reduction partnership, as successfully achieved in Chester, does not. The state can do more to help as well. However, without broad collaboration from top leaders, I am very concerned. We will continue to work with the Kenney administration to reduce gun violence in Philadelphia.” ■

Senator Art Haywood Joins Phila. Ceasefire for Joint Press Conference on Northwest Peace Plan

This press release was originally distributed on July 19, 2023; available at senatorhaywood.com/senator-art-haywood-joins-phila-ceasefire-for-joint-press-conference-on-northwest-peace-plan/; typos corrected

PHILADELPHIA, PA – JULY 19, 2023 – Senator Art Haywood (D-4) announces the activities, programs, and current partners involved in one of the first city-wide efforts to increase public safety by means of the Safe Summer 2023 campaign in partnership with Philadelphia Ceasefire, and Community Capacity Development which co-leads Safe Summer initiatives in 27 cities nationwide and is proud to provide its expertise in Human and Healing justice training, technical assistance and training support to Temple University, and other organizations within the Northwest peace coalition.

“Our strategy is Saturate high-crime areas with love. This means meeting people where they are to provide direct access to resources that meet the unmet needs of those who need them the most. Our Saturate with Love strategy will offer a positive and alternative plan to drive people away from violent choices,” said Senator Haywood. “Through the targeted approach provided by my office and the impactful coalition of partner organizations, we are able to address gun violence with a combination of interventions and resources.

“We intend to grow our list of partners well beyond the list presented above through this year’s Safe Summer Initiative,” emphasizes Marla Davis-Bellamy, the Director of Philadelphia Ceasefire. “We lead the coordination of the Philly HUB Network and the Stronger Together Coalition, which is a collective of organizations, non-profits, hospitals, social workers, activists, block campaigns, parents, and concerned citizens that are brought together for weekly virtual meetings to help those impacted by violent crime to rebound, and for those engaged in violent crime to change their behavior.”

“Building on our success to reduce violent crime, Phila. Ceasefire is the Commonwealth’s first Cure Violence replication site. An evaluation in 2017 recorded a 30% reduction in shootings in North Philadelphia. We are looking forward to working with Sen. Haywood and duplicating our success in Northwest Phila and Chester, PA. With funding support from PCCD, Phila. Ceasefire will hire local outreach workers and violence interrupters and partner with Community Capacity Development of NYC led by K Bain, a leading expert in community driven public safety and

co-architect of the NYC Crisis Management System. Our work with CCD, Inc. will enable us to further engage our elected officials, city agencies, local non-profits, faith leaders and area businesses in becoming more proactive, eliminating siloes and embracing a public health approach to crime which is embedded in our theme Stronger Together.”

Executive Director and Founder of CCD K. Bain went on to say that “Philadelphia serves as a vital hub for our Human Justice efforts due to its rich history, diverse population, and vibrant community activism. The city has a long-standing legacy of resilience and determination, making it the perfect setting to confront the challenges faced by Black and Brown neighborhoods most affected by violence. By partnering with local organizations and community stakeholders, and elected officials we have an incredible opportunity to amplify the voices and experiences of those most impacted with our Safe Summer 2023 initiative as well as the implementing our Human Justice and healing model.”

“Temple University’s support of violence reduction remains a top priority,” said Valerie Harrison, Vice President of DE&I at Temple University. “That is why we not only enthusiastically house Philadelphia Ceasefire but are grateful for our vital connection to Pennsylvania Senator Art Haywood and the ongoing financial support from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This most recent partnership will enable Philadelphia Ceasefire to work with Senator Haywood, community leaders, businesses, and law enforcement in Northwest Philadelphia and the City of Chester to save lives.”

“Local businesses play an important role in creating a safer Philadelphia,” said Quentin Williams, Adjunct Professor at Temple University and CEO of DragonTree Media, LLC (DTM). “A safer Philadelphia is a more prosperous Philadelphia. Peace and prosperity are not merely a function of a good business plan. Still, rather, it’s a result of addressing the holistic needs of the community, which is why we are assisting with the coordination effort in partnership with the Senator and Ceasefire.”

The press event took place Wednesday, July 19, at 11am at Braid Mill, 411 High Street, Phila. PA. ■

We Can Reduce Gun Violence in Philadelphia with Faith and Love

Written by Senator Art Haywood

October 7, 2025

TO MY DISMAY, Americans have come to accept gun violence as a fact of life. Instead of acting to keep firearms out of dangerous hands, a kind of religion of guns has taken hold – one that worships weapons as sacred and treats any attempt at regulation as heresy. When gun violence strikes, lawmakers are often seen folding their hands in prayer, offering platitudes and condolences for the tragedy of lives lost.

So, while thousands die each year from suicides and homicides in Pennsylvania, the Senate does nothing. Police officers are shot – no action. A candidate for President is wounded – no action. Children are murdered – still, no action.

I've seen this religious devotion firsthand in the Pennsylvania State Senate. No bill that would meaningfully restrict access to guns is permitted to come up for a vote by the majority party. Common-sense measures – requiring the reporting of lost or stolen guns, limiting bulk purchases, mandating safe storage, permits, or universal background checks – are all dismissed as sacrilege.

This is not for lack of trying by lawmakers who understand the toll gun violence takes on our communities. When I introduced legislation to require a permit to purchase a gun – no different, I argued, than the permit required to go trout fishing – I was targeted in the gun lobby's publications, condemned by what I can only call the papacy of gun faith.

Instead of making guns less available to dangerous people, the Senate supports providing money to reduce homicides but no significant action to reduce suicides. With my advocacy and that of Democratic legislators, \$30 million was obtained through federal funding under President Biden for the community organizations addressing gun violence in neighborhoods. Democratic legislative advocacy secured an additional \$105 million for gun violence prevention soon thereafter.

And so, a different faith took root – a faith not built in steel and bullets, but in love.

Neighborhood leaders have proposed many community-based measures to reduce gun violence, some of which could now be funded with community violence prevention assistance. My office alone compiled over 100 recommendations from neighbors. We created a

short list of roughly 25 recommendations and presented them to Mayor Kenney's administration in Philadelphia in 2017. Gun violence was the top concern of Philadelphians during the gun violence surge of 2020 and 2021 at the height of the COVID pandemic.

“When an individual is protesting society’s refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him.”

– Bayard Rustin

Fortunately, we knew what would work to reduce gun violence if properly funded. Research showed that cities that concentrated on high crime areas and high crime people reduced gun violence with proven coordinated interventions. We knew the high crime areas in Northwest Philadelphia. We knew the organizations that knew the high crime individuals. We knew the organizations that had the proven intervention measures. We knew that those individuals who have been historically neglected and had unmet needs required attention. A report in

December 2021 highlighted cities where gun violence was in decline. Yet, the violence was increasing in Philadelphia at the time.

After writing Mayor Kenney twice and doing a sit in demonstration in 2022 to draw his attention to proven interventions, we decided to move forward with a bottom-up strategy. We organized the Northwest Peace Plan.

The core tenet of the peace plan was to saturate the high crime areas and people with love. That meant supporting street teams that disrupted conflicts, supporting programs that took high crime individuals into personal change programs, cleaning grime from blocks with high litter, providing frequent job fairs, social services and more. The Philadelphia Police Department executed pinpoint operations as well in the identified high crime areas.

We obtained over \$4 million in state funding to support these community-based initiatives. My office coordinated efforts with weekly and biweekly calls to the organizations. We joined the Stronger Together alliance led by Philadelphia Ceasefire and sponsored a gun violence summit with over 100 in attendance.

The interventions that worked across other big cities in the U.S. worked here as well. In Northwest Philadelphia, shootings fell from 154

in 2022 to 101 in 2023 and further yet to 62 in 2024. In 2025 we are on pace for a 50 year low in gun violence across the city, especially in the Northwest, where the shooting rate is lower than the city's overall. What this really means is lives have been spared, families have been kept whole, and hope has been restored.

Our strategy to saturate the city with a different kind of faith focused on love worked. While many said that gun violence would not change unless we address the root causes of poverty, racism and access to guns, we did not agree. We dramatically reduced gun violence without changing racism or access to guns or significantly impacting poverty. We had enough faith and love for our neighbors to invest in them. ■

REFLECTIONS ON READING

Stop Summer Reading Loss

Written by Art Haywood

October 6, 2025

“ONCE YOU LEARN TO READ YOU ARE FOREVER FREE.”

This Fredrick Douglass quote is as true today as it was for enslaved Africans in America in the 1860s.

I have always known the importance of reading. My mother was a second-grade teacher and speech therapist who took me to the library every few weeks during summer as a child. Reading comprehension was sown into the fabric of my entire lived experience from an early age.

As a lawyer and parent of three children, I wanted to ensure my children were imbued with the same importance of reading. Every summer, my children would participate in reading competitions at home. It started in preschool to see how many pages could be read. As teenagers, they read as many books as they could to determine the winner.

When I became a state senator, improving education was a priority. While all schools had district-led administrators and teachers working hard to support Philadelphia school students, it became apparent that time after school was an opportunity to make a difference for school students through community support.

Reading test scores of elementary school students in Montgomery County schools and Philadelphia schools showed stark differences in reading proficiency. Less than 5% of students in Montgomery County were reading below grade level. Less than 5% were reading at proficiency in Philadelphia. Most Philadelphia elementary students were not proficient in reading. The reading gap between students living just across county lines from one another was huge.

I alerted the School District of Philadelphia superintendent to the gap by letter, highlighting how the 4th Senatorial District saw more than half its 3rd, 4th, and 6th grade students reading below grade level. 5th grade students were 67% below grade level on their PSSA reading exams. His response was a request for assistance.

Low performing schools in Philadelphia were in Northwest neighborhoods. It made sense to address this challenge with summer reading camps in recreation centers in those same neighborhoods, as students can lose weeks of reading skills over the summer if they are not actively engaged in reading. My team reached out to the Dorothy Emmanuel, Finley, Belfield and Lonnie Young Recreation Centers, which responded with enthusiastic support. My office recruited and organized tutors and materials. We obtained books from the Free Library of Philadelphia's READ! by 4th program after partnering in the initiative.

In the first summer the reading camps were financed with my credit cards.

With a pre-summer assessment and post-summer test we found that all students had maintained reading proficiency while many improved.

My words shared with the Philadelphia Tribune in 2015 still ring true today.

"Early childhood literacy is the backbone to lifelong opportunity and freedom. Reading opens doors to higher education and self-sufficiency...What our communities need is a reading revolution that gives these children freedom through reading."

From 2015 to 2025, my office has supported community-based reading camps to avoid summer reading loss. The students participating in the camps consistently maintain or improve reading. Mt. Airy Community Development Corporation and fellow Philadelphia State Senator Vincent Hughes enhanced and sponsored camps in the district. These camps have further reduced summer reading loss in the district. Over 1,000 Northwest Philadelphia students have participated to stop the summer loss. Communities can continue to provide supports to our schools and students to ensure reading success for years to come. ■

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Senator Haywood Responds to Roe v. Wade Ruling

This press release was originally distributed on June 24, 2022; available at senatorhaywood.com/senator-haywood-responds-to-ro-e-v-wade-ruling/

PHILADELPHIA - JUNE 24, 2022 – Today, State Senator Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) released the following statement in response to the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade:

“I support women’s reproductive rights and I reject the Supreme Court’s decision. We must secure women’s equality.

Our country has a long history of leaders controlling women through childbirth. This control was so extreme that it required childbirth even in instances of incest and rape. The Supreme Court’s decision will send us back to these times unless we resist.

“Women’s rights are an essential part of the overall human rights agenda, trained on the equal dignity and ability to live in freedom all people should enjoy.”

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The Court now provides all 50 states with the power to permit or ban abortions. Every member of the House and Senate in Pennsylvania will vote on abortion rights.

Most Pennsylvanians support abortions. As of April 2022, more than eight out of 10 registered Pennsylvania voters think abortion should be legal, either under certain conditions or in all circumstances. We must resist.

Despite the Supreme Court’s decision, Pennsylvania currently protects abortion rights. However, we are one election away from possibly losing the rights in Pennsylvania.

Your vote matters in the November elections and we must resist. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to head to the polls and make their voices heard.”

This morning, Senator Haywood joined fellow Senate Democrats at City Hall in Philadelphia to condemn the Court’s ruling. ■

PROTECT DEMOCRACY

Sen. Haywood Announces Legislation to Disqualify Insurrectionists from Pennsylvania Ballots

This press release was originally distributed on October 12, 2022; available at senatorhaywood.com/sen-haywood-announces-legislation-to-disqualify-insurrectionists-from-pennsylvania-ballots/; typos corrected

HARRISBURG, PA. – OCTOBER 12, 2022 – Today, State Sen. Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) joined Free Speech For People President John Bonifaz to announce legislation that requires the secretary of the Commonwealth to disqualify any candidate who has taken an oath to support the Constitution, then engaged in insurrection against the United States, from ballots in Pennsylvania.

Sen. Haywood introduced Senate Resolution 357 in the 2021-2022 session to all Senate members. Sen. John Kane (D-Delaware/Chester) signed on to cosponsor the legislation. During a virtual press conference, Sen. Haywood provided specifics of the legislation, which excludes candidates from Pennsylvania ballots who demonstrate disloyalty to the U.S.

The concurrent resolution proposes the following:

- Emphasizes the duty of the Secretary of the Commonwealth to uphold and enforce the electoral laws and the Constitutions of the Commonwealth and the U.S. for elections held in Pennsylvania.
- Urges the secretary to enforce Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the U.S. and disqualify any insurrectionist candidate, or candidate who provided aid or comfort to insurrectionists, by declaring that individual ineligible to appear on election ballots in the Commonwealth for any office.

Sen. Haywood introduced John Bonifaz, who is a leader for voting rights and helped Pennsylvania voters receive emergency paper ballots during voting machine breakdowns in the 2008 election.

“Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution makes clear that anyone who has taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and then engages in insurrection is forever disqualified from holding public office again,” said John Bonifaz, the president of Free Speech For People. “We applaud Senator Haywood for introducing this critical resolution to ensure that the Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth

follows the mandate of this constitutional provision and bars from any future ballot all elected-officials-turned-insurrectionists, including Donald Trump.”

To qualify as an elected official in Pennsylvania, candidates must demonstrate that they meet the qualifications to hold public office, such as age, citizenship, and residency and uphold requirements of both the Pennsylvania and U.S. Constitutions. This legislation would apply to all levels of government, including county officers, judges, members of the General Assembly, members of Congress, attorney general, lieutenant governor, and governor. By virtue of Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the resolution would also include the Pennsylvania presidential ballot.

“No one is above the law,” said Sen. Haywood. “Elected officials in the U.S. take an oath of office to support the Constitution and be servants of the people. He continued: “No person who engaged in the Jan. 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol, or supports insurrectionists, should be allowed to hold public office.”

In September, District Court Judge Francis Mathew in New Mexico ruled that Couy Griffin, an Otero County commissioner, was disqualified from holding public office for violating Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment and participating in the Jan. 6 insurrection.

To complement the legal remedy witnessed in New Mexico, Sen. Haywood proposed this legislation help protect the integrity of elections, restore faith in the electoral systems in Pennsylvania, and protect democracy. He defines this legislation as a critical step to saving the nation and encourages the General Assembly to support it.

The president pro tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate will assign Senate Resolution 357 to the appropriate committee. ■

Sens. Haywood, Hughes, and Saval Host Jan. 6 Commemoration to Honor First Responders

This press release was originally distributed on January 6, 2023; available at senatorhaywood.com/sens-haywood-hughes-and-saval-host-jan-6-commemoration-to-honor-first-responders/

PHILADELPHIA - JAN. 6, 2023 – Sen. Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) joined Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia), Sen. Nikil Saval (D-Philadelphia), state Rep. Mary Isaacson (D-Philadelphia), and statewide elected officials at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia today to honor first responders who helped people to safety in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Today marks two years since armed insurrectionists attacked the Capitol to prevent the U.S. Congress from affirming 2020 presidential election results.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag, Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, delivered the invocation prayer, and later a benediction to close the event.

Sen. Haywood opened the press conference by paying homage to first responders, who fought attackers and helped lawmakers, family members, and staff to safety. He also recognized members of Congress who stood their ground and survived the tragic day.

At 2:11 p.m., which is the same time that rioters breached the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, Haywood asked for a moment of silence for the people who lost their lives, either during or after the attack.

“Today, we remember the nine people who died as a result of injuries sustained during the Jan. 6 attack, or subsequent to it, including 5 police officers,” Haywood said. “We honor the 140 injured police officers and commend the brave Congresspersons who persevered and made sure that Congress counted the votes of all citizens in the 2020 election.”

Sen. Hughes, who hosted a press conference outside of the National Constitution Center in 2022, returned today to condemn the Jan. 6 events. “As we continue to heal from the heartbreak our nation suffered on this day two years ago, may we never forget the heroic first responders who stood their ground on January 6th to protect our democracy,” Hughes said. “Those who sadly lost their lives shall be forever immortalized for their bravery and commitment to our country as they stood up to the mob of insurrectionists.” Hughes continued: “In

the memory of the fallen, my colleagues and I continue to take a stand against hate and division, and we remain committed to upholding our free and fair elections across the commonwealth and beyond.”

Event co-sponsors Sen. Saval and state Rep. Isaacson shared the importance of hosting the event in Philadelphia within their respective districts.

First, Saval stressed the importance of holding supporters of the Jan. 6 attack accountable.

“Today, on the second anniversary of this insurrection, we stand shoulder to shoulder fighting for a world in which work is honored with dignity and just compensation; in which a home is not a luxury but a right; in which schools are fully funded centers of resilience; in which every single person and every single community has what they need to thrive,” Saval said. “The architects of the efforts to collapse our work for democracy—Trump and his allies and enablers—to this day have not been held accountable

for their harms.” Saval continued: “This accountability must come, and we must continue, as we have done, to protect each other’s voices, fight for each other’s safety, and hold strong to protect each other’s rights.”

Second, Isaacson encouraged the protection of our democracy. “Today, we stand in Philadelphia, in the birthplace of our nation, to not only remember and pay our respects to the heroes who lost their lives in the attack on our U.S. Capitol, but to also remember and honor the principles our country was founded on – values that stand in stark opposition to those who rioted and threatened our working legislative body, the history of this country, and the results of a fair and transparent election two years ago today,” Isaacson said. “We must never forget these destructive and horrifying actions taken against our country as we continue to rebuild our democracy.”

For this nonpartisan event, the senators extended an invitation to all members of the Pennsylvania State Senate and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Sens. Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester) and Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) attended the commemoration in support.

“...if an American wants to preserve his dignity and his equality as a human being, he must not bow his neck to any dictatorial government.”

– Dwight D. Eisenhower

Haywood acknowledged Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA-5) and shared a firsthand account from Congressman Dwight Evans (D-PA-3), supporters of today's event, who were unable to attend in person.

Evans said: "January 6 has become a day not only to remember an unprecedented attack on our democracy, but also to honor those who risked their lives to protect it, and to give thanks that our democracy endures. Benjamin Franklin said after the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 that we have 'a republic, if you can keep it.' We can keep our republic by being involved and informed citizens, and using our hard-won right to vote, never taking it for granted."

This week, Haywood introduced Senate Resolution 8 in the 2023-2024 session to all Senate members. During the press conference, he provided specifics of the legislation, which honors those who sacrificed their lives on Jan. 6, 2021, and stood against rioters.

The concurrent resolution proposes the following:

- Honors the courage and sacrifice of the fallen.
- Recognizes the bravery of survivors who kept the nation together.
- Declares the two-year anniversary of the attack, Jan. 6, 2023, as "1/6 Day" in the commonwealth.

Haywood also plans to introduce a second resolution to call for observance of Jan. 6 in schools across Pennsylvania. State Rep. Chris Rabb (D-Philadelphia) and state Rep. Ed Neilson (D-Philadelphia) will introduce a companion bill for this legislation, which would establish Jan. 6 day in commonwealth schools, so as to ensure those who sacrificed their lives to protect our democracy from violent insurrectionists on that fateful day are not forgotten.

"This legislation is about embracing truth and being a country that is actively engaged in fighting systems of oppression," Rabb said. "This moment demands reconciliation with a clear-eyed and honest assessment of what it will take to get back on the path toward atonement and healing that we so desperately need."

In 2022, Sen. Haywood hosted a Jan. 6 commemoration with Sen. Amanda Cappelletti (D-Delaware/Montgomery) and state Rep. Tim Briggs (D-Montgomery) at Valley Forge National Historical Park in King of Prussia. Today was the senator's second annual event to honor first responders. ■

RACIAL HARASSMENT | ENOUGH | BLACK PA

Senator Haywood Responds to Racial Harassment of Cheltenham Basketball Teams

This press release was originally distributed on February 3, 2023; available on senatorhaywood.com/senator-haywood-responds-to-racial-harassment-of-cheltenham-basketball-teams/

PHILADELPHIA – FEB. 3, 2023 – Today, State Senator Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) released the following statement in response to racist language and images found in the visiting locker room for the Cheltenham High School boys' junior varsity and varsity basketball teams in Upper Moreland last month:

"In December 2022, I was made aware that racial epithets against the Cheltenham High School boys' basketball teams were posted at Upper Moreland High School. In response, I demanded that the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) take immediate action to put the Upper Moreland High School boys' basketball team on probation.

Despite repeated racial attacks against Cheltenham's sports teams, including the Quakertown incident in 2017, PIAA refuses to take action. PIAA continues to tolerate racial harassment. PIAA's approach of relying on each school to resolve racial harassment after an incident does nothing to prevent a reoccurrence in the league at another school. Our student athletes continue to face instances of racism in direct violation of PIAA's 2022-23 sportsmanship standards. PIAA's inaction is both wholly unacceptable and disgraceful.

PIAA's repeated dereliction of responsibility cannot be allowed to continue. To maintain support, now is the time for PIAA to stand up and demonstrate its commitment to promoting safe and sportsmanlike competition."

Commissioner Irv Brockington of Cheltenham Township, shared the following comments in support of Senator Haywood's position:

"As the Ward 7 Commissioner in Cheltenham Township, a father and coach, I refuse to be silent and patient. Perhaps the PIAA is unaware that we are in the midst of change – change that requires swift and appropriate action. PIAA must take the necessary steps to ensure that our students are given what they deserve – respect and protection

from intolerable racism and bigotry. We all have to be courageous and disciplined to make this happen.”

President Eddie Graham of the Cheltenham Area Branch of the NAACP also called for PIAA to hold the Upper Moreland team accountable in the following comments:

“We, as the Cheltenham Area Branch of the NAACP, stand with State Senator Art Haywood in solidarity in response to the most recent racist incident that occurred against the Cheltenham High School basketball team. We are outraged and disgusted by what occurred and fully support the school, and our young athletes, as we navigate through the period of investigation. We stand with Senator Haywood in demanding that the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association immediately place Upper Moreland’s boys’ basketball team on probation.”

Today at 7 p.m., the two boys’ varsity basketball teams will play against each other at Cheltenham High School in Wyncote. ■

Senator Haywood Responds to Racial Incident at IUP Basketball Game

This press release was originally distributed on February 10, 2023; available at senator-haywood-responds-to-racial-incident-at-iup-basketball-game/; typos corrected

PHILADELPHIA – FEB. 10, 2023 – Today, State Senator Art Haywood (D-Montgomery/Philadelphia) released the following statement in response to a white student’s racist post on social media during a men’s basketball game at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) this week:

“On Wednesday evening, Faith Gaye, President of IUP’s Black Student League organization (BSL), emailed my office details of a hateful and offensive incident at her university’s basketball game. As the Social Equity and Title IX Office performed “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” often referred to as the Black National Anthem, Nicole Enos, a white IUP student, criticized the song on social media. In a screenshot posted on Snapchat, Nicole Enos wrote: “You ‘n-words’ don’t deserve your own national anthem.”

I am disgusted by this news, particularly during Black History Month, as we celebrate the significant contributions of African Americans to this country. I condemn the conduct of Nicole Enos. Using racial epithets towards others is completely unacceptable. This behavior cannot be tolerated by college students, faculty, or staff, either in person or online. I appreciate the immediate response of IUP President Michael Driscoll to condemn the statement.

This is not an isolated incident, however. Racial incidents like these are why we started the End Campus Racism initiative, called ENOUGH, and organized with Black and Brown students in 2020. There is a pattern of racial discrimination and harassment on college campuses and in their surrounding communities in Pennsylvania. These reprehensible actions create pain and trauma for all students, especially students of color.

Last night, BSL copied my office on a letter emailed to President Driscoll. IUP students outlined the following five demands for the university:

- Complete an in-depth investigation of the incident and reveal history of the student’s conduct.
- Host an open forum with President Driscoll allowing students to talk about the incident and hear the university’s next steps.
- Ban the student responsible for the incident from any sporting event for the next two semesters.

- Require a public apology from the student.
- Implement an anti-racist policy with zero tolerance to stop future incidents.

I support the IUP student victims and these demands. My office is also introducing legislation that makes racial harassment clear violations of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. My legislation demands that all higher education institutions are held accountable for addressing hate speech, including on social media, and requires campus racism incidents to be reported to the General Assembly.

IUP is not alone. The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) should join in solidarity with the student victims. Again, this incident is an example of what's happening across the commonwealth, not just at IUP, but at PASSHE schools and other institutions of higher education. ENOUGH."

To learn more about Senator Haywood's efforts to end campus racism in Pennsylvania, visit senatorhaywood.com/inclusion. ■

Senator Haywood and PASSHE Announce DEI Funding

This press release was originally distributed on July 21, 2021; available on senatorhaywood.com/senator-haywood-and-passhe-announce-dei-funding/

HARRISBURG, PA. – JULY 21, 2021 – Today, State Senator Art Haywood (D-Philadelphia/Montgomery) and Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) held a hybrid press conference at Kutztown University, to announce new funding for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives at PASSHE universities. Notable in-person speakers included Dr. Denise Pearson, Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at PASSHE, Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, President of Kutztown University, and State Senator Judy Schwank (D-Berks), who was instrumental in advocating for the funds.

Virtual speakers included Dr. Daniel Greenstein, Chancellor of PASSHE, and Brandon Teel, alum of East Stroudsburg University, who delivered remarks via Zoom. In October 2020, Brandon Teel and Zuri Redmond, two Black students at East Stroudsburg University protested the racist campus environment at their institution. Soon after, the college seniors accepted Senator Haywood’s support and partnership to end campus racism at all PASSHE universities. Together, they created the Coalition to End Campus Racism and compiled the six student demands, entitled “ENOUGH: Fix the Six.”

The students demanded that PASSHE:

- End racial harassment and speech.
- Nurture and retain students of color.
- Organize an incident reporting system.
- Unveil mandatory diversity training.
- Generate more mental health resources.
- Hire more faculty and staff of color.

What started as a social media initiative to raise awareness turned into a movement. The student-led coalition demanded action from the State System and hosted two virtual town halls, where students shared their stories of racial harassment and heard solutions from presidents of nine PASSHE schools. “Our state universities knew that the experiences of students of color on campuses could not be ignored,” said Senator Haywood. “We sent a clear message to PASSHE that we had ENOUGH – and it was time to Fix the Six.”

From January to April 2021, Senator Haywood, Black college students, and end campus racism advocates met with PASSHE’s

executive leadership and presidents of the 14 universities to address the six demands. On April 15, 2021, the PASSHE Board of Governors made ending campus racism an urgent priority in the redesign of the State System, contingent on funding from the state legislature. On June 26, 2021, the General Assembly successfully passed \$200 million for PASSHE over the next 4 years, or \$50 million per year, to include financing for DEI.

Chancellor Greenstein expressed his gratitude for Senator Haywood's partnership and shared his enthusiasm for moving the PASSHE system forward. "We are able to move forward on this critically important work, to ensure everyone who makes up our campus communities feel welcome and supported, because the State System has a strong partner in Sen. Haywood," said Dr. Daniel Greenstein. "We are engaged in a comprehensive planning process on matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion because we must achieve better outcomes and campus climates, we must improve educational outcomes, we must foster higher ed communities that more accurately reflect the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And we are able to accelerate that work and stand a better chance of achieving those goals because of Sen. Haywood's support."

Senator Haywood selected Kutztown University as the location for the conference as the campus is within Schwank's district. "If we truly mean it when we say our mission is to provide a great education at an affordable price, it's paramount that we create an environment that is welcoming to all students," said Senator Schwank. "Feedback directly from students revealed the need to do more to address inequities at state system schools. Funding made available in the latest budget gives us a chance to build Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs and ensure all students are treated with respect and put in a position to succeed."

Kutztown University President Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson was pleased to open the doors of his campus for the momentous event. "We are grateful to Senator Haywood and our other leaders for being here today to help us realize our full potential – to help us realize and create a just university that recognizes the wonder and beauty of each member of our community," Hawkinson said. "Our students have diverse backgrounds that cross our state, nation and the world. We have done much to address systematic injustices at Kutztown University, including more than 100 initiatives and the creation of a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion strategic plan."

As part of Chancellor Greenstein's budget presentation delivered to the PASSHE Board of Governors in July 2021, PASSHE will allocate \$2.5 million towards DEI goals for the fiscal year 2021/2022. The \$2.5

million will help to promote diversity amongst the general education curriculum and employees, improve campus climate, and increase student success initiatives that positively impact under-represented and low-income students. In October 2021, PASSHE will provide more details on the distribution.

Over the past year, Vice Chancellor Denise Pearson has worked closely with Chancellor Greenstein to develop Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plans at PASSHE. "We are engaged in deep conversations about what the next steps look like, and we're linking arms across the State System with university leadership, faculty, staff, and students to achieve these goals," said Dr. Denise Pearson. "We're collecting data, we're studying it closely, we're putting together the means necessary to carry out our goals, and Sen. Haywood is a vital part of those efforts."

State Senator Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia/Montgomery) also played a major role in advocating for the PASSHE funds. "This investment is an important first step in restoring the commonwealth's commitment to inclusive, accessible and affordable higher education for students of diverse backgrounds and experiences," said Senator Hughes. "I hope that it is a first step in a commitment to once again make Pennsylvania a leader in both financial support for state-supported schools, and aggressive promotion of student populations and faculty that represent all communities. Thank you, Senator Haywood, for your leadership on this issue."

Although Teel graduated from East Stroudsburg University in May 2021, he is grateful that this funding will benefit current students at his alma mater and across the State System. "I want to say thank you, PASSHE, for hearing and responding to these concerns," said Brandon Teel, who will pursue his master's degree at West Chester University this fall. "There is still a lot of work that needs to be done, but at the same time, this financial commitment shows us that PASSHE is dedicated to doing the work to make every campus one in which all students feel supported."

Senator Haywood will continue working with PASSHE students this fall to ensure that all university campuses are inclusive, safe, and supportive for all students. "I recognize that what's won can be lost, therefore, much work remains to ensure that the changes are made, monitored, and reported," said Senator Haywood. "Nevertheless, I am pleased and proud that we helped contribute to this historic victory."

Video of the event will be available at senatorhaywood.com/video. ■



Senator Art Haywood and Executive Director of the PHRC to Release Report Detailing Hate and Harassment on PASSHE Campuses

This press release was originally distributed on January 30, 2024; available at senatorhaywood.com/senator-art-haywood-and-executive-director-of-the-phrc-to-release-report-detailing-hate-and-harassment-on-passhe-campuses/; typos corrected

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY, WEST CHESTER, PA – January 30, 2024 – Senator Art Haywood (D-4 in partnership with Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW- Executive Director of the PA Human Relations Commission (PHRC), hosted a press conference to announce the release of The ENOUGH Report. This report details the traumatic experiences of on-campus hate and harassment on PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) campuses and lists concrete demands to address this matter. Senator Haywood and Executive Director Lassiter were joined by PASSHE Chancellor Greenstein, West Chester University President Dr. Fiorentino, Senator Schwank, Senator Comitta, Rep. Nelson, and Liv S., a Pennwest student.

In August 2020, the SpotlightPA report titled “Condemn, Discuss, Repeat” highlighted racism at PASSHE schools, prompting a campaign led by students and alumni, supported by Senator Art Haywood. Identifying deficiencies, they pressured for reforms, leading to Chancellor Daniel Greenstein’s positive response. The “ENOUGH: Listening Tour” provided a platform for Black and Brown students to share experiences, aiming to build on progress and ensure a discrimination-free learning environment. Although strides have been made, there is ongoing work to eliminate racism’s impact on academic achievement for Students of Color in Pennsylvania’s schools. The report covers student perspective, university actions, and an overview of the ENOUGH Tour timeline.

"This effort has become even more urgent since the US Supreme Court put our nation in reverse by ending affirmative action in college admissions. College admissions officers and recruiters are being told to wear the same blinders that prevented them from seeing Black talent for centuries," says Senator Haywood.

Senator Haywood continues, "All students should be in an environment that is conducive to learning and free from discrimination. That is why I designed the ENOUGH Listening Tour. Ultimately, Pennsylvania's leaders and institutions should respect the dignity of all students. The work to ensure that dignity is intact for Pennsylvania's Students of Color continues with this report in hopes that one day the work will no longer be required."

"One of the takeaways from this report is that while more and more students of color are attending schools in the state system, they often feel isolated, alienated, and unsupported," said Executive Director Lassiter. "They face microaggressions and discrimination from other students, faculty, and sometimes the surrounding community. Students also told us about the lack of mental health resources to help deal with the problems they face."

Lassiter added, "Senator Haywood and I are thankful to the students and alumni who opened up and spoke with us. Being vulnerable shows a high level of courage. The feedback we received will go a long way to help ensure all students can learn in an environment that is free from discrimination."

State Senator Carolyn Comitta (D-19 and a member of the West Chester University Council of Trustees) says, "Racism is unacceptable. This report helps provide a path to move forward in a positive direction. The good news is we have partners within PASSHE who are committed to ending racism on campuses. Now, we must all work together to do just that."

Senator Schwank (D-11) says, "It is vital that our state-owned universities remain safe havens where all students can depend on to pursue a higher education. I commend Senator Haywood for his exemplary leadership in addressing racial abuse and inequities on our campuses. As a member of the PASSHE Board of Governors, I am fully committed to utilizing this report when we are considering the changes we want to see on our state-owned campuses."

Rep. Pielli (D-156) adds, "I'm glad to see that there have been efforts made here at West Chester University, but this report is just the beginning. We have to keep going. We must keep recruiting not only students of color but also professors and staff in order to have a more diverse environment where everyone feels safe and secure."

Rep. Nelson (D-154) says, “What’s truly meaningful for our students is the agency they have when they find their voice and their ability to reach out to the legislators who are standing with them.” Rep. Nelson continues, “Unfortunately, there is another amazing community of students who are not necessarily Black and Brown who are also dealing with the scourge of racism on campus. As Saturday, January 27, was Holocaust Memorial Day, I think it is important that we use this report to build a broad coalition that will continue to stand united against racism and hatred of all forms on our campuses and throughout our communities. These are the moments where we are supposed to reach out and find common cause.”

In response to the report’s finding, Senator Haywood calls for the development of a standard code of conduct that prohibits racial harassment, standardized processes for incident reporting and response, adaptation of best practices for retaining students of color, and for each campus to create a Title VI office to enforce anti-discrimination. The PHRC will also partner with PASSHE to provide training and outreach to staff and students.

To view the report in full visit SenatorHaywood.com/ENOUGH ■



State of Black Pennsylvania - Senator Haywood Releases First State of Black PA Report: Black middle class expanded, Black poverty declined, Black high earners increased

This press release was originally distributed on February 28, 2023; available at senatorhaywood.com/senator-haywood-releases-first-state-of-black-pa-report/; typos corrected

HARRISBURG, PA – FEB. 28, 2023 – Today, Senator Art Haywood announced the release of his first State of Black Pennsylvania report. The report details the changing position of Black Pennsylvanians from 2010 to 2021, with several data points indicating the upward socioeconomic mobility of the Black community.

“In the past decade the Black middle class expanded, Black poverty declined, Black high earners increased significantly, and Black state incarceration dropped sharply,” said Senator Haywood. “These and other surprises are contained in this special report prepared by the Senate Democratic Policy and Research Office for Black History Month. After centuries of enslavement, almost 100 years of segregation and continued discrimination this report highlights Black History Month achievements in Pennsylvania.”

Several lawmakers joined Senator Haywood to announce the release of the report including Senator Vincent Hughes, Senator Sharif Street, and Representative Donna Bullock. They collectively applauded the data and noted the report can be used as a resource to craft legislation and develop policy that further supports and betters the lives of the Black community.

“We now have foundational data that can lead us forward in this moment of incredible opportunity,” said Senator Vincent Hughes. “Pennsylvania is currently sitting on a growing budget surplus. We should seize the

moment. We should embrace the opportunity to make an even bigger difference for African Americans. This report shows progress, but let's keep fighting, let's keep pushing."


The 28-page report examines health, incarceration, income, and population data for Black Pennsylvanians. The data was pulled from a number of sources to put together a complete picture of the Black experience in PA over the past decade.

"This report makes me hopeful, especially when we look at the declining numbers of state incarceration. But there is more work to do," said Senator Street. "We need to focus on medical parole and other measures that can make our criminal justice system truly just. We can make even greater strides for Black people across Pennsylvania."

"What this report tells us is that when we advance policies and legislation to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians, if those policies are applied fairly across the board, Black folks will benefit," said Representative Donna Bullock. "But what this report also tells us is that we still have more work to do. The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus endorses this report and looks forward to working with Sen. Haywood and our other members in the Senate to advance legislation that is informed by the report and by the experiences of our constituents. Legislation that is anti-racist and data-driven."

Franklin Allen, President of NAACP Greater Harrisburg, and Nelson Polite, President of African American Historical Society of South Central PA, also joined the press conference to discuss the collective effort that needs to occur in Pennsylvania and America to achieve even more equality, wealth, and opportunities for African Americans.

A full video of the press conference is available online. ■



"Black Power simply means: Look at me, I'm here. I have dignity. I have pride. I have roots. I insist, I demand that I participate in those decisions that affect my life and the lives of my children. It means that I am somebody."

- Whitney M. Young

REFLECTIONS ON WAR CRIMES IN GAZA

Statement on the Humanitarian Crisis and Crimes Against Humanity in Gaza

This statement was originally released on May 13, 2025; available at senatorhaywood.com/gaza-statement/; with additions

STATE SENATOR ART HAYWOOD (D-Montgomery-Philadelphia) released a statement today in response to recent UN reports regarding the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza:

“As of May 2025, the Gaza Strip remains under a severe humanitarian crisis exacerbated by Israel’s ongoing blockade and military operations. The United Nations and international human rights organizations have documented widespread violations of international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Since March 2025, Israel has imposed a total blockade on Gaza, halting the entry of food, medicine, and humanitarian aid for nearly two months. The World Health Organization warns that Gaza’s health system is on the brink of collapse, with essential medical supplies running out within weeks.

“...the United States is subject to the scrutiny of a candid world... what the United States does, for good or for ill, continues to be watched by the international community, in particular by organizations concerned with the advancement of the rule of law and respect for human dignity.”

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The blockade has led to the closure of numerous community kitchens, including those operated by World Central Kitchen, which previously provided up to 500,000 meals daily. Per the World Food Programme, food parcels are fully exhausted, and the last remaining supplies have been delivered to hot meal kitchens, which are expected to run out within days. Escalating hostilities, population movement restrictions, and the expansion of military zones have made humanitarian operations nearly impossible, putting civilians and aid workers at extreme risk. Over 100,000 metric tons of food – enough

to feed one million people for up to four months – is positioned outside Gaza and ready for delivery, but no relief supplies can move without humanitarian access.

With over 2 million people facing severe food shortages, the situation is dire. An assessment released Monday by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) – the primary mechanism the international community uses to conclude whether a famine is happening – found that one in five people were facing starvation in Gaza. Per the IPC, the situation represents “a major deterioration in one of the world’s most severe food and nutrition crises driven by conflict and characterized by untold human suffering.”

These conditions follow the brutal attack of October 7, 2023 on Israel.

The United Nations has reported that Israel’s actions in Gaza may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. The UN Human Rights Office has documented unlawful killings, forced displacement, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and attacks on hospitals and journalists. The use of white phosphorus munitions and the creation of buffer zones through the destruction of civilian property have also been highlighted as potential violations of international humanitarian law.

The forced famines, war crimes, and violations of international law occurring in Gaza must be condemned. The international community must urgently address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and hold accountable those responsible for violations of international law. Immediate actions include:

- Ending the siege;
- Lifting the blockade to allow the free flow of humanitarian aid;
- Releasing all remaining hostages;
- Implementing a ceasefire; and
- Ensuring peace via protection of civilians and adherence to international humanitarian law.

The situation in Gaza is a test of the international community’s commitment to human rights and the rule of law. Immediate and decisive action is required to prevent further suffering, uphold the principles of justice and accountability, and secure a free Palestine.” ■

SAVE CHESTNUT HILL HOSPITAL

Evans, Haywood, Health Providers Urge Approval of Agreement to Save Chestnut Hill Hospital

This press release was originally distributed on August 9, 2022; available at senatorhaywood.com/evans-haywood-health-providers-urge-approval-of-agreement-to-save-chestnut-hill-hospital/

PHILADELPHIA – AUGUST 9, 2022 – Congressman Dwight Evans (D-PA-3rd), state Sen. Art Haywood (D-Philadelphia/Montgomery) and representatives of several area health-care systems held a news conference today to urge approval of an agreement that would keep Chestnut Hill Hospital open.

The agreement will need the approval of the Pennsylvania attorney general's office and of Tower Health bondholders. Tower Health is the current owner of the hospital.

Evans said, "This agreement is an important step forward to secure the future of Chestnut Hill Hospital, and it's important for Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. A few years ago, I pledged 'No more Hahnemanns!' – and since that time, I have worked with our hospitals to ensure they remain strong and able to serve their communities. We saw that happen with Jefferson and Einstein, and we look forward to seeing it happen again with Temple, Redeemer, PCOM, and Chestnut Hill Hospital.

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home ... Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination."

– Eleanor Roosevelt

"Our hospitals are one of the main backbones of the city, and we must all work and use all the tools in our toolbox to keep them open – and

able to provide quality care to the people in Philadelphia, and everyone else who seeks their care. I know Senator Haywood has been very focused on this as well. I want to thank Michael Young and others from Temple, and all of the partners in this agreement, for their tremendous efforts here."

Haywood said, "I am elated that Temple Health, Redeemer Health, and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine will lead Chestnut Hill Hospital into the future. My advocacy with Congressman Dwight Evans and Dr. John Cacciamani, President and CEO of Chestnut Hill Hospital, helped Tower Health and many others to see the gem that we saw. We all came together to work hard and keep this hospital open. Keeping Chestnut Hill Hospital in the community is a victory for the residents of northwest Philadelphia, Montgomery County, and the entire Commonwealth."

"This cooperative relationship among alliance members is a novel solution for preserving an important hospital that has been serving its community for over 100 years," said Michael A. Young, MHA, FACHE, president & CEO of Temple Health. "Each member of the alliance has deep roots in the northwest Philadelphia and eastern Montgomery County communities served by Chestnut Hill Hospital. Each has an interest in preserving this precious community resource, and each brings distinct value to the table. There is significant opportunity for bringing world-class patient care into this community hospital. We believe this process will make Chestnut Hill Hospital a durable and vital source of superb care for the community, and we are optimistic of a favorable outcome for the community and the alliance."

"Creating new partnerships adds value to the communities we serve," said Mike Laign, president and CEO at Redeemer Health. "In this case, our alliance is providing a novel solution to preserve Chestnut Hill Hospital, which has provided vital services to northwest Philadelphia and eastern Montgomery County for almost 120 years. This partnership is the right thing to do, and it provides yet another opportunity for Redeemer Health to support its mission to care, comfort and heal."

"Through this Alliance, PCOM will expand its clinical and medical education capabilities. This will enhance our ability to train the next generation of healthcare professionals," said Dr. Jay S. Feldstein, DO, president and CEO of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. "We also look forward to lending our expertise in primary and community health care to support Chestnut Hill Hospital as it continues to serve as a critical resource for the local community."

Dr. John Cacciamani, MD, president and CEO of Chestnut Hill Hospital, said, "Chestnut Hill Hospital is grateful to Temple Health, Redeemer

Health and PCOM for considering the opportunity that this acquisition can provide to sustain quality health care services to the northwest Philadelphia region. I cannot imagine a better group of partners to bring their academic and clinical strengths to our community. The behind-the-scenes work done by our local and state representatives including Art Haywood, Dwight Evans, and Stephen Kinsey among others, has made this arrangement come to fruition. Thank you for demonstrating your care for our patients, our employees, and the community at large.” ■

REFLECTIONS ON THE POOREST BIG CITY

It's Great to Be in First Place, Except When It Isn't: *How We Can Change Philly's Status as the Poorest Big City in America*

Written by Senator Art Haywood

December 18, 2023

PHILADELPHIA IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICA, maker of the greatest cheesesteaks on the planet, home to the best sports teams, and a bustling hub for arts and culture.

These are just a fraction of the things that make our City of Brotherly Love legendary, but unfortunately, so does our long-standing ranking as the poorest big city in America.

I know this isn't the first time you've heard about this ranking: Mayor Jim Kenney mentioned it in the press at least 50 times during his tenure.

But the good news is, we can get out of first place.

According to the federal poverty guidelines, a family of three earning \$24,860 a year or less is living in poverty. At least 53,000 of adults living in poverty in Philadelphia are working according to Phila Works. With full time work at \$25,000 a year, or just over \$12 an hour, a Philadelphia family of three moves out of poverty.

“We are strongest when we see the inherent dignity in every human being.”

- Barack Obama

Philadelphia can move out of first place by focusing on Philadelphians in poverty pay jobs. By raising the pay and hours of just 15,000 of those currently working in poverty pay jobs we will move out of first place.

Despite my continued efforts, our General Assembly has failed to raise PA's minimum wage from \$7.25. However, Philadelphia's business community, nonprofits, eds

and medicaid, restaurants and its public agencies can and should raise minimum pay to at least \$15 per hour now. Night Kitchen is one of many Philadelphia small businesses that pay at least \$15 per hour.

Today Philly leads US big cities with a poverty rate of 21.7%, followed by Houston with 20.7%, and San Antonio at 18.7%. However, by raising pay to 15,000 working poor neighbors we move out of the legendary first place position.

We can do more. When I traveled across Pennsylvania for my poverty listening tour, folks shared the four biggest obstacles preventing them from escaping poverty: low pay, access to affordable childcare, affordable housing, and transportation. We can do more.

A new year is the perfect time to write our new story, one in which Philadelphia ends its position as the poorest big city in America.

Let's get to work. ■

REFLECTIONS ON ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Written by Senator Art Haywood

June 1, 2025

BETWEEN 1980 AND 1981, I wrote a master's thesis at London School of Economics comparing integrationist and nationalist economic development strategies for African Americans. At the time I looked at the approaches of top African American leaders of the 1960s on each side. On one hand MLK, Jr, Whitney Young and others were leading proponents of integration into the U.S. mainstream. On the other hand, Malcolm X and others were the leading proponents of nationalism and self-segregation. I concluded that the integrationist approach was the most promising in the newly desegregated America.

Now 45 years later, it appears that the nationalist strategy has been overwhelmed by the integrationist approach. African Americans have advanced out of once fully segregated "Black jobs" and life. So much progress has been made that youth don't realize that there were Black jobs for centuries.


African Americans in music, sports, television, movies, government and business crossed over into the mainstream, producing dynamic, new and expanded industries. Here are some results of the integrationist civil rights and affirmative action economic strategies on the Black population in the U.S.:

- Poverty is down from 33.5% in 1970 to 19.5% in 2020;
- College attainment is up from 4.5% in 1970 to 26% in 2020;
- Purchasing power is up from \$308 billion in 1990 to \$1.6 trillion in 2020; and
- Median income is up from \$33,000 in 1970 to \$46,000 in 2020.

At the same time, the Black to white median income comparison remains relatively static in terms of earnings differences since 1970. Whites are still holding onto the advantages secured from 200 years of enslavement and 100 years of segregation and continued systemic discrimination. It will take decades to gain parity. ■

DIGNITY FOR ALL LEGISLATION- 2025-2026

Dignity Constitutional Amendment: Senate Bill 1030



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Senator Art Haywood

Senate District 4

Memo

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish human dignity as a Constitutional right. Foundational principles of human dignity can be found throughout history, including within the establishment United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights.

A number of nations have instituted human dignity Constitutional protections in response to atrocities that have occurred within their borders. For example, Article I of Germany's Constitution acknowledges the country's Holocaust by stating, "human dignity shall be inviolable. To respect and protect it shall be the duty of all state authority."

Another example can be found within the South African Constitution, which states in its first article that South Africa is a country founded on the value of human dignity and, in section 10, recognizes its universality and everyone's right "to have his or her dignity respected and protected."

In the aftermath of its bleakest atrocity, the United States took a different approach. Following the abolition of slavery, efforts to protect Black and Brown individuals focused on civil rights. While these efforts coalesced into one of the most powerful movements in our country's history, a standard of human dignity has not been established to guide the lawmaking process.

The states of Illinois, Louisiana, and Montana explicitly reference human dignity within their respective Constitutions. Please join me in co-sponsoring this legislation to elevate human dignity to its rightful place within Pennsylvania's Constitution.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL
No. 1030 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD AND TARTAGLIONE, OCTOBER 3, 2025

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 3, 2025

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, providing for right to human dignity.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby resolves as follows:

5 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
6 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

7 That Article I be amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 30. Inviolability of human dignity.

9 The dignity of the human being is inviolable.


10 Section 2. The following procedure applies to the proposed
11 constitutional amendment in this joint resolution:

12 (1) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of
13 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
14 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
15 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
16 of Pennsylvania.

17 (2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of
18 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall

1 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
2 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
3 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
4 submit the amendment to the qualified electors of this
5 Commonwealth at the first general or municipal election which
6 meets the requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
7 Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Giving PA Workers a Raise – Establishing One Fair Wage (with Senator Patty Kim): Senate Bill 852



Pennsylvania

State Senate

General Assembly

Senate


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Senator Art Haywood

 Senate District 4

Along With



Sen. Patty Kim

 Senate District 15

Memo

Pennsylvania has not raised its minimum wage in 15 years, and stagnancy of the tipped minimum wage has lasted even longer. All surrounding states have increased their minimum wage rates, leaving Pennsylvania behind. Pennsylvania has not updated its minimum wage since 2006, and as a result, we now maintain the lowest allowable rate in the country. Keeping people in poverty is not how we move Pennsylvania forward.

Our legislation will establish one fair minimum wage of \$12 per hour starting on 1 January 2026, raising to \$15 per hour starting on 1 January 2027. This includes elimination of the separate tipped wage. The legislation will also eliminate the presumption provision preventing local municipalities from increasing their own minimum wages above the state minimum, as well as provide for an annual cost of living adjustment to ensure wages keep up with inflation.

Raising the minimum wage and establishing one fair wage for tipped workers are the responsible things to do. These efforts will provide working families with a reasonable chance of keeping up with dynamic economic conditions. Working families that earn more increase their financial capacity to spend, injecting revenue into Pennsylvania's economy, and strengthening our overall financial health.

Polling conducted by Keystone Research Center has shown that the majority of Pennsylvanians want a \$15 per hour minimum wage, particularly when it comes to boosting the dignity of work and stimulating the economy. Continued refusal to put raising the wage up for a vote in the House and Senate denies the dignity and respect of hardworking people.

Please join us in sponsoring this legislation to ensure that all of Pennsylvania's workers are treated with the dignity, respect, and fairness they deserve.

76

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 852 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, KIM, STREET, KEARNEY, PISCIOTTANO,
FONTANA, SAVAL, HUGHES, COSTA AND KANE, JUNE 18, 2025

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JUNE 18, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of January 17, 1968 (P.L.11, No.5), entitled
2 "An act establishing a fixed minimum wage and overtime rates
3 for employees, with certain exceptions; providing for minimum
4 rates for learners and apprentices; creating a Minimum Wage
5 Advisory Board and defining its powers and duties; conferring
6 powers and imposing duties upon the Department of Labor and
7 Industry; imposing duties on employers; and providing
8 penalties," further providing for definitions, for minimum
9 wages and for preemption.
10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:
12 Section 1. Sections 3(d) and (i) and 4(a) of the act of
13 January 17, 1968 (P.L.11, No.5), known as The Minimum Wage Act
14 of 1968, are amended and the sections are amended by adding
15 subsections to read:
16 Section 3. Definitions.--As used in this act:
17 * * *
18 (d) "Wages" mean compensation due to any employee by reason
19 of his or her employment, payable in legal tender of the United
20 States or checks on banks convertible into cash on demand at
21 full face value, subject to such deductions, charges or

1 allowances as may be permitted by regulations of the secretary
2 under section 9.

3 "Wage" paid to any employe includes the reasonable cost, as
4 determined by the secretary, to the employer for furnishing such
5 employe with board, lodging, or other facilities, if such board,
6 lodging, or other facilities are customarily furnished by such
7 employer to his or her employes: Provided, That the cost of
8 board, lodging, or other facilities shall not be included as a
9 part of the wage paid to any employe to the extent it is
10 excluded therefrom under the terms of a bona fide collective-
11 bargaining agreement applicable to the particular employe:
12 Provided, further, That the secretary is authorized to determine
13 the fair value of such board, lodging, or other facilities for
14 defined classes of employes and in defined areas, based on
15 average cost to the employer or to groups of employers similarly
16 situated, or average value to groups of employes, or other
17 appropriate measures of fair value. Such evaluations, where
18 applicable and pertinent, shall be used in lieu of actual
19 measure of cost in determining the wage paid to any employe.

20 [In determining the hourly wage an employer is required to
21 pay a tipped employe, the amount paid such employe by his or her
22 employer shall be an amount equal to: (i) the cash wage paid the
23 employe which for the purposes of the determination shall be not
24 less than the cash wage required to be paid the employe on the
25 date immediately prior to the effective date of this
26 subparagraph; and (ii) an additional amount on account of the
27 tips received by the employe which is equal to the difference
28 between the wage specified in subparagraph (i) and the wage in
29 effect under section 4 of this act. The additional amount on
30 account of tips may not exceed the value of tips actually

1 received by the employee. The previous sentence shall not apply
2 with respect to any tipped employee unless:

3 (1) Such employee has been informed by the employer of the
4 provisions of this subsection;

5 (2) All tips received by such employee have been retained by
6 the employee and shall not be surrendered to the employer to be
7 used as wages to satisfy the requirement to pay the current
8 hourly minimum rate in effect; where the gratuity is added to
9 the charge made by the establishment, either by the management,
10 or by the customer, the gratuity shall become the property of
11 the employee; except that this subsection shall not be construed
12 to prohibit the pooling of tips among employees who customarily
13 and regularly receive tips.]

14 * * *

15 (i) "Gratuities" or "tips" means a voluntary, monetary
16 [contributions] contribution received by an employee from a
17 guest, patron or customer for services rendered.

18 (j) "Tipped employee" means an employee who customarily and
19 regularly receives a gratuity during the course of the employee's
20 employment.

21 Section 4. Minimum Wages.--Except as may otherwise be
22 provided under this act:

23 (a) Every employer shall pay to each of his or her employes,
24 including tipped employes, wages for all hours worked at a rate
25 of not less than:

26 (1) Two dollars sixty-five cents (\$2.65) an hour upon the
27 effective date of this amendment.

28 (2) Two dollars ninety cents (\$2.90) an hour during the year
29 beginning January 1, 1979.

30 (3) Three dollars ten cents (\$3.10) an hour during the year

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- 3 -

1 beginning January 1, 1980.

2 (4) Three dollars thirty-five cents (\$3.35) an hour after
3 December 31, 1980.

4 (5) Three dollars seventy cents (\$3.70) an hour beginning
5 February 1, 1989.

6 (6) Five dollars fifteen cents (\$5.15) an hour beginning
7 September 1, 1997.

8 (7) Six dollars twenty-five cents (\$6.25) an hour beginning
9 January 1, 2007.

10 (8) Seven dollars fifteen cents (\$7.15) an hour beginning
11 July 1, 2007.

12 (9) Twelve dollars (\$12) an hour beginning January 1, 2026.

13 (10) Fifteen dollars (\$15) an hour beginning January 1, 2027.

14 * * *

15 (a.2) A municipality may enact an ordinance which requires
16 an employer to pay each of his or her employees wages for all
17 hours worked at a rate higher than the rate imposed under
18 subsection (a). A copy of an ordinance adopted by a municipality
19 under this subsection shall be submitted to the department.

20 (a.3) Beginning January 1, 2025, and each year thereafter,
21 the minimum wage shall be increased by an annual cost-of-living
22 adjustment calculated by the secretary using the percentage
23 change in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers for
24 the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area. In
25 calculating the adjustment, the secretary shall use the most
26 recent twelve-month period for which figures have been
27 officially reported by the United States Department of Labor,
28 Bureau of Labor Statistics. At least sixty days prior to the
29 date the adjustment is due to take effect, the percentage
30 increase and the minimum wage amount, rounded to the nearest

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- 4 -

1 multiple of five cents (5¢), shall be determined by the
2 secretary. The secretary shall, within ten days following the
3 determination, forward a notice to the Legislative Reference
4 Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the
5 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

6 (a.4) The following shall apply to tipped employees:

7 (1) Each tipped employee shall be informed in writing by the
8 employer, no later than twenty days after the effective date of
9 this subsection, that the tipped employee shall be paid not less
10 than the appropriate minimum wage under subsection (a).

11 (2) Each gratuity received by the employee shall be retained
12 by the employee and shall not be surrendered or paid to the
13 employer. This paragraph shall not be deemed to prohibit the
14 pooling of gratuities among tipped employees.

15 (3) If a gratuity is added, either by the employer or the
16 manager of the establishment or by the guest, patron or
17 customer, to the charge to the guest, patron or customer, the
18 gratuity shall become the property of the tipped employee and
19 shall not be used by the employer to satisfy the requirement to
20 pay the wage then in effect.

21 * * *

22 Section 2. Section 14.1 of the act is amended to read:

23 Section 14.1. Preemption.--~~[(a) Except as set forth in~~
24 ~~subsection (b), this]~~ This act shall preempt and supersede any
25 local ordinance or rule concerning the subject matter of this
26 act.

27 ~~[(b) This section does not prohibit local regulation~~
28 ~~pursuant to an ordinance which was adopted by a municipality~~
29 ~~prior to January 1, 2006, and which remained in effect on~~
30 ~~January 1, 2006.]~~

20250SB0852PN0951

- 5 -


1 Section 3. The addition of section 4(a.2) of the act shall
2 apply to contracts entered into or renewed on or after the
3 effective date of this section.

4 Section 4. This act shall take effect as follows:

5 (1) The amendment of the definition of "wage" under
6 section 3(d) of the act shall take effect in six months.

7 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
8 immediately.

Upholding DEI Principles: Senate Resolution 157



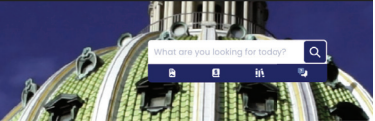
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What are you looking for today?

Upholding DEI Principles

APRIL 7, 2025 11:35 AM TO ALL SENATE MEMBERS

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Senator Art Haywood
 Senate District 4

Memo

In the near future, I will introduce a resolution affirming Pennsylvania's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as a foundation of the American Dream and encouraging certain individuals and groups to adopt and uphold DEI principles.

DEI principles promote equal access to opportunities, foster an environment of respect and belonging, and ensure that every individual – regardless of background – can fully participate in all aspects of society. Without DEI, many are unseen and excluded from opportunity; DEI provides the corrective lenses so that they can be seen and included.

Anti-DEI activists, politicians, and corporate decision-makers who attempt to prohibit DEI infringe upon the right of individuals to freely express themselves, diminish the diversity of perspectives that strengthen our society, and conflict with antidiscrimination laws.

Please join me in co-sponsoring this resolution to defend DEI principles that promote inclusivity, protect freedom of expression, remove barriers, and provide opportunities for all individuals to pursue their dreams.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 157 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, FONTANA, SAVAL, COSTA AND CAPPELLETTI,
OCTOBER 3, 2025

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 3, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging Federal, State and local policymakers, educational
2 institutions, workplaces and other organizations to adopt and
3 uphold diversity, equity and inclusion principles that
4 promote inclusivity, protect freedom of expression, remove
5 barriers and provide equitable opportunities for all
6 individuals to pursue their American Dream.

7 WHEREAS, For generations, the American Dream has served as a
8 beacon of hope, embodying the ideals of opportunity, prosperity
9 and upward mobility and promising every individual the chance to
10 achieve success and fulfillment, as they define it, through hard
11 work and determination; and

12 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians and Americans today feel that
13 their pursuit of the American Dream has become unattainable; and

14 WHEREAS, The American Dream belongs to all people, not solely
15 to billionaires and multimillionaires, and thrives when access
16 to opportunity is broadened; and

17 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania and the nation have achieved their
18 greatest accomplishments by harnessing the strengths of all
19 individuals, regardless of identity, to address our most
20 significant challenges; and

1 WHEREAS, Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) represents a
2 centuries-old movement rooted in America's founding principles
3 and its enduring legacy of civil rights and social justice
4 efforts, aimed at delivering laws, policies and initiatives that
5 fulfill the promises of the Constitution of the United States;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Historic DEI policies, including the 19th Amendment
8 to the Constitution of the United States, the Civil Rights Act
9 of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, among others,
10 reflect corrective legislative and legal actions taken
11 throughout our nation's history to expand and guarantee access
12 to educational, economic and civic opportunities; and

13 WHEREAS, DEI principles and policies promote equal access to
14 opportunities, cultivate an environment of respect and belonging
15 and ensure that every individual, regardless of background, can
16 fully participate in all aspects of society; and

17 WHEREAS, DEI is essential to building a society where all
18 individuals are valued, heard and included by removing barriers
19 to opportunity and allowing merit to shine; and

20 WHEREAS, DEI widens pathways to the American Dream for every
21 community, enabling all people to share in the benefits of our
22 nation's prosperity; and

23 WHEREAS, Freedom of speech and expression are fundamental
24 constitutional rights, safeguarding the ability of individuals
25 to voice their ideas and opinions without government
26 interference, punishment or retaliation; and

27 WHEREAS, Efforts by anti-DEI activists, politicians and
28 corporate decision makers to prohibit DEI infringe upon
29 individuals' rights to free expression, diminish the diversity
30 of perspectives that strengthen society and conflict with

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- 2 -

1 antidiscrimination laws; and

2 WHEREAS, Common DEI initiatives, permissible under law, seek
3 to address the effects of past discrimination by combating
4 biases, eliminating unjustifiable barriers and fostering
5 inclusion within educational institutions, including:

6 (1) Positively considering, in admissions or hiring, an
7 individual's personal experiences with or demonstrated
8 ability to remedy anti-Black racism, anti-LGBTQ bigotry,
9 anti-Asian racism, antisemitism or other forms of systemic
10 discrimination, bias or bigotry.

11 (2) Offering university programming or events focused on
12 specific groups based on race, ethnicity, gender or sexual
13 orientation or particular societal biases or discrimination.

14 (3) Providing affinity groups or themed residence halls
15 that are open to all students but centered on a specific
16 group or identity.

17 (4) Conducting anti-harassment trainings to equip campus
18 stakeholders with tools to address implicit biases and
19 pervasive race and gender-based assumptions in society.

20 (5) Tracking applicants' racial and gender identities
21 and evaluating the aggregate impact of hiring or admissions
22 processes along racial or gender lines.

23 (6) Taking affirmative steps to address unjustifiable
24 disparities in hiring or admissions.

25 (7) Adopting admissions or hiring criteria to racially
26 integrate historically white universities such as eliminating
27 legacy preferences or application fees, ensuring equitable
28 representation from feeder schools or regions or reducing
29 reliance on criteria that favor inherited advantage over
30 individual talent or potential.

20250SR0157PN1206

- 3 -

1 (8) Supporting professional and impartial internal
2 investigation and compliance units to promptly track,
3 investigate and respond to complaints of bias, harassment or
4 discrimination.

5 (9) Publicly affirming DEI commitments to create a
6 campus environment where all students, regardless of
7 identity, feel valued and free from harassment, bias or
8 group-based stigma.

9 (10) Investing in academic departments and curricula
10 that highlight the experiences of specific racial, ethnic or
11 other distinct communities.

12 (11) Implementing policies to ensure full inclusion and
13 accessibility for all community members, regardless of
14 ability status.

15 (12) Providing "all gender" restrooms available to all
16 members of the campus community, regardless of gender
17 identity.

18 (13) Establishing recruitment and retention programs or
19 policies that address barriers faced by specific groups but
20 remain open to all;

21 and

22 WHEREAS, Efforts to undermine DEI harm the economic vitality
23 and overall health of Pennsylvania and the nation; therefore be
24 it

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
26 encourage Federal, State and local policymakers, educational
27 institutions, workplaces and other organizations to adopt and
28 uphold diversity, equity and inclusion principles that promote
29 inclusivity, protect freedom of expression, remove barriers and
30 provide equitable opportunities for all individuals to pursue


20250SR0157PN1206

- 4 -

1 their American Dream; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the Governor of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of
4 Education, each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and any
5 other relevant entities to promote the widespread adoption of
6 DEI principles.

Retiring with Dignity – Keystone Saves Program: Legislation Forthcoming



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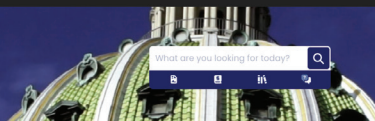
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Retiring with Dignity - Keystone Saves Program

JANUARY 6, 2025 11:18 AM TO ALL SENATE MEMBERS

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Senator Art Haywood

 Senate District 4

Memo

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation to establish a program which expands access to private retirement savings plans to the more than 2 million Pennsylvanians who currently do not have access through an employer sponsored retirement plan.

In 2019, the Office of the Pennsylvania Treasurer released a report on the proceedings of the Treasury Private Sector Retirement Security Task Force. The report outlined the findings of four informational hearings held by the Task Force, ultimately recommending the establishment of a state-facilitated automatic individual retirement account as a solution to Pennsylvania's private sector retirement security crisis. This recommendation has since been echoed and supported by Pennsylvania's current Treasurer.

These findings were bolstered by a March 2023 Pew Report, "Pennsylvania's Keystone Saves Program Would Reduce Taxpayer Burden," which shows that a vast number of Pennsylvania residents are seriously unprepared for the financial challenges of retirement. Rather than enjoying the golden years of life, these residents are instead plagued by the burdens of rising costs and unforeseen expenses. This not only presents a problem for retirees themselves, but also the Commonwealth. Projections indicate that between 2018–2030, financially unprepared retirees will cost the state an additional \$14.6 billion in social services. Reduced consumer spending activity by this group over the same timeframe will depress tax collections by roughly \$3.2 billion, further straining the Commonwealth's resources.


To address this alarming trend, I am reintroducing legislation to establish the Keystone Saves Program. Originating out of a bipartisan collaboration by the Heritage Foundation and the Brookings Institute, this program will allow enrolled employees to have a portion of their pay automatically deposited into an account overseen by the Treasury Department. As directed by my legislation, the State Treasurer will manage the accounts in a manner analogous to that of the 529 College and Career Savings Act, consulting with private financial planners to ensure the maximum return (and minimal risk) for enrollees.

This program will be an entirely new and separate program from our current state pension plans. All monies deposited within these accounts by employees will remain property of the employee and cannot be construed, or used, as property of the Commonwealth.

Preliminary findings from other states who have implemented this type of program, including New Jersey and Maryland, have shown that this is a feasible and promising policy solution for improving retirement preparation. Further, national statistics reveal that the majority of employees who are offered private retirement plans at their places of employment elect to participate, as much as 15 times higher than that of employees without access. It is my hope that we can recreate this success in the Commonwealth through the enactment of the Keystone Saves Program and help ensure workers are well prepared for the golden years of retirement.

Please join me in sponsoring this legislation to ensure Pennsylvanians are able to retire with dignity.

Protecting PA Police: Legislation Forthcoming



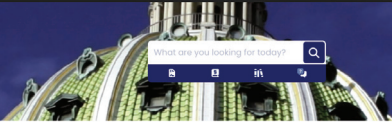
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2025-2026 Regular Session

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Protecting PA Police

AUGUST 12, 2025 02:08 PM TO ALL SENATE MEMBERS

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Senator Art Haywood
[Senate District 4](#)

Memo

In recent days, President Trump has taken control of the Washington, D.C. police force against the demands of the Mayor. The President has pledged to take over police operations in other cities as well.

The importance of allowing for local control of our law enforcement agencies cannot be overstated. To prevent President Trump from commandeering the resources and manpower of our local law enforcement agencies, I intend to introduce in the near future the Protecting PA Police Act.

Please join me in cosponsoring this time-sensitive legislation to protect the future of Pennsylvania's democracy, along with the dignity of our neighbors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to my staff in the 4th Senatorial District and the staff of the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus Services for their contributions to this publication. A special acknowledgment is extended to Professor Emerita of Law, author, and Director of the Dignity Rights Institute Erin Daly. ■



2025
Senator Art Haywood

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