

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2013

SESSION OF 2013

197TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 41

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 11 a.m., e.d.t.

#### THE SPEAKER (SAMUEL H. SMITH) PRESIDING

#### PRAYER

The SPEAKER. Today the prayer will be offered by Rabbi Lawrence Sernovitz, Old York Road Temple – Beth Am, Abington.

RABBI LAWRENCE SERNOVITZ, Guest Chaplain of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Dear God, we thank You for the gift of this new day filled with opportunity and potential. As we gather here in the sacred halls of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, please remind all who have gathered here that we are all travelers down the same road of life. We all have moments of joy and success, of sadness and defeat.

Today, Dear God, we pray to You, the guardian of life and liberty, that our nation and our beloved Commonwealth always merit Your protection. Teach us to give thanks for what we have by sharing it with those who are in need. Keep our eyes open to the wonders of creation and alert us to the care of the earth. May we never be lazy in the work for peace. May we honor those who have died in defense of our ideals.

Dear God, we ask for Your blessing upon the members of the Pennsylvania House, the honorable men and women who have been elected to faithfully serve the residents of the Commonwealth. May they be blessed with the strength and courage to do what needs to be done, to serve with humility, to take care of those who need them, and to pursue justice and righteousness.

For them in their deliberations on this 12th day of June in the year 2013, I offer these words of prayer:

May God bless you all with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, in our Commonwealth, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Good luck, and may God bless you in all your worthy endeavors. Together we say, Amen.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members and visitors.)

#### JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Tuesday, June, 11, 2013, will be postponed until printed.

#### HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

**No. 1011** By Representatives FLECK, GOODMAN, BRIGGS, CARROLL, CAUSER, D. COSTA, M. DALEY, P. DALEY, EVERETT, GAINEY, GIBBONS, HAGGERTY, HARHAI, HARKINS, C. HARRIS, HESS, JAMES, LONGIETTI, LUCAS, MASSER, METZGAR, MUNDY, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, SABATINA, SAMUELSON, TOOHL and SNYDER

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, regulating appropriations to the Department of Corrections.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, June 12, 2013.

**No. 1490** By Representatives ROSS, MILLARD, MURT, MICCARELLI, CLYMER, TAYLOR, WATERS, CRUZ, VEREB, PYLE, CALTAGIRONE, QUINN, SIMS and COHEN

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions, for driver certification program and for budget and fees; providing for assessment notice and hearings; further providing for fund and for transfer of money from fund; providing for fees; further providing for special funds in cities of the first class, for power of authority to issue certificates of public convenience and for restrictions; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS, June 11, 2013.

**No. 1492** By Representatives DiGIROLAMO, SCHLOSSBERG, DERMODY, GAINEY, BROWNLEE, NEILSON, B. BOYLE, CALTAGIRONE, FRANKEL, STURLA, WHEATLEY, O'BRIEN, FREEMAN, K. BOYLE,

DAVIS, PARKER, GODSHALL, V. BROWN, KIM, DELISSIO, BRIGGS, SANTARSIERO, DEAN, M. DALEY, DAVIDSON, BIZZARRO, PAINTER, MAHONEY, HANNA, MARKOSEK, DONATUCCI, J. HARRIS, BISHOP, P. DALEY, KULA, KINSEY, BRADFORD, P. COSTA, SIMS, WATERS, MUNDY, SNYDER, KAVULICH, GOODMAN, D. COSTA, FABRIZIO, FLYNN, BARBIN, McGEEHAN, MULLERY, THOMAS, PASHINSKI, CLAY, MOLCHANY, DEASY, GALLOWAY, HAGGERTY, FARINA, CONKLIN, KIRKLAND, COHEN, D. MILLER, SCHREIBER, SAMUELSON, SABATINA, GERGELY, MATZIE, ROEBUCK, DeLUCA, LONGIETTI, MURT, VITALI, TAYLOR, W. KELLER, ROZZI, D. EVANS, CRUZ, NEUMAN, MCCARTER and MICOZZIE

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, in public assistance, further providing for persons eligible for medical assistance.

Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES, June 11, 2013.

**No. 1516** By Representatives CHRISTIANA, BARRAR, MUSTIO, KILLION, MUNDY, GOODMAN, METZGAR, PAINTER, GIBBONS, MARSHALL, READSHAW, COHEN, OBERLANDER, LAWRENCE, HESS, SCAVELLO, KAUFFMAN, HENNESSEY, DENLINGER, LONGIETTI, HICKERNELL, TAYLOR, PASHINSKI, EVERETT, SWANGER, MICCARELLI, BOBACK, GINGRICH, SABATINA, R. MILLER, GROVE, AUMENT, PYLE, ADOLPH, CLYMER, SIMMONS, KORTZ, CRUZ, KNOWLES, DeLUCA, B. BOYLE and GABLER

An Act providing for pharmacy audit procedures.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH, June 11, 2013.

**No. 1517** By Representatives SCHLOSSBERG, O'BRIEN, K. BOYLE, SWANGER, W. KELLER, MCNEILL, FRANKEL, V. BROWN, BIZZARRO, M. DALEY, READSHAW, WHITE, COHEN and MURT

An Act designating the shelter pet as the official pet of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, June 11, 2013.

**No. 1518** By Representatives O'NEILL, BIZZARRO, B. BOYLE, K. BOYLE, COHEN, DEASY, DiGIROLAMO, FABRIZIO, GIBBONS, HARKINS, HESS, MARSHALL, MICOZZIE, MILNE, MURT, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, READSHAW, WHITE and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions and for actuarial cost method; providing for supplemental annuities commencing 2014; and further providing for management of fund and accounts.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, June 12, 2013.

**No. 1519** By Representatives ELLIS, MILLARD, MUSTIO, R. MILLER, C. HARRIS, GINGRICH, GROVE, DENLINGER, EVERETT and REED

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in motor carriers road tax identification markers, further providing for definitions, for identification markers and license or road tax registration card required, for false statements and penalties and for exemptions; and providing for uncollectible payments and for emergency proclamations; in liquid fuels and fuels tax, further providing for definitions, for liquid fuels and fuels permits and bond or deposit of securities, for imposition of tax, exemptions and deductions, for taxpayer, for distributor's report and payment of tax, for determination and redetermination of tax, penalties and interest due, for examination of records and equipment, for retention of records by distributors and dealers, for discontinuance or transfer of business, for suspension or revocation of permits, for lien of taxes, penalties and interest, for collection of unpaid taxes, for reports from common carriers, for reward for detection of violations, for refunds and for violations and for diesel fuel importers and transporters, prohibiting use of dyed diesel fuel on highways and violations and penalties; and providing for emergency assistance in a timely manner and for Electric Vehicle Road Fee Act, for road use fee imposed on electric vehicles, for decoupling electricity from motor fuels, for fees for highway maintenance and construction, for exempt entities and for refunds and for motor carriers road tax and the International Fuel Tax Agreement; and in motor carriers road tax, further providing for definitions and for records; providing for recordkeeping; further providing for surety bond for payment of taxes, for penalty and interest for failure to report or pay tax, for manner of payment and recovery of taxes, penalties and interest, for timely mailing treated as timely filing and payment; and providing for method of filing and timeliness, for uncollectible payments and for emergency assistance in a timely manner.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, June 12, 2013.

**No. 1520** By Representatives CRUZ, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, MIRANDA and BIZZARRO

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for application for driver's license or learner's permit; providing for issuance of driver's license to undocumented residents; establishing the Undocumented Resident Driver's License Services Administration Fund; and imposing penalties.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, June 12, 2013.

**No. 1521** By Representatives O'NEILL, D. COSTA, DENLINGER, GINGRICH, HELM, HESS, KILLION, KORTZ, LAWRENCE, MILLARD, PETRI and QUINN

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, further providing for enforcement.

Referred to Committee on LIQUOR CONTROL, June 12, 2013.

**No. 1522** By Representatives TOBASH, GINGRICH, MUSTIO, BAKER, TOEPEL, HARPER, C. HARRIS, EVERETT, MALONEY, MILLARD, HELM, CLYMER and VEREB

An Act regulating navigators, assisters and insurance producers in the education and promotion of health insurance exchanges.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH, June 12, 2013.

**No. 1523** By Representatives TOEPEL, HARPER, GINGRICH, STURLA, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, HENNESSEY, WATSON, CARROLL, R. MILLER, GROVE, MURT, MILNE, CLYMER, PETRI, SANTARSIERO, GOODMAN, FREEMAN and PAINTER

An Act amending the act of January 19, 1967 (1968 P.L.992, No.442), entitled, as amended, "An act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the local government units thereof to preserve, acquire or hold land for open space uses," further providing for local taxing options.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, June 12, 2013.

**No. 1524** By Representatives MUSTIO, TURZAI, MAHER, ENGLISH, SACCONI, BARRAR, MILLARD, BENNINGHOFF and LAWRENCE

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in municipal authorities, further providing for purposes and powers.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, June 12, 2013.

### SENATE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following bills for concurrence:

#### **SB 731, PN 763**

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, June 11, 2013.

#### **SB 739, PN 1147**

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, June 12, 2013.

#### **SB 802, PN 1149**

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, June 11, 2013.

#### **SB 928, PN 1189**

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, June 12, 2013.

### **BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND RECOMMITTED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES**

#### **HB 1490, PN 2016**

By Rep. GILLESPIE

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions, for driver certification program and for budget and fees; providing for

assessment notice and hearings; further providing for fund and for transfer of money from fund; providing for fees; and further providing for power of authority to issue certificates of public convenience and for restrictions.

URBAN AFFAIRS.

### **COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker acknowledges receipt of the 2013 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Real Property Disposition Plan (May 1, 2013 Edition), transmitted by the Governor. It will be placed on the calendar for Monday, June 17, 2013.

(Copy of communication is on file with the Journal clerk.)

### **SENATE MESSAGE**

AMENDED HOUSE BILL RETURNED  
FOR CONCURRENCE AND  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, returned **HB 293, PN 1730**, with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendment in which the concurrence of the House of Representatives is requested.

### **SENATE MESSAGE**

HOUSE AMENDMENTS  
CONCURRED IN BY SENATE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, informed that the Senate has concurred in the amendments made by the House of Representatives to **SB 334, PN 1143**.

### **BILL SIGNED BY SPEAKER**

Bill numbered and entitled as follows having been prepared for presentation to the Governor, and the same being correct, the title was publicly read as follows:

#### **SB 334, PN 1143**

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in organization, further providing for Chief Justice and president judges; in community and municipal courts, further providing for the Philadelphia Municipal Court and for jurisdiction and venue and providing for hearing officers; and, in traffic courts, further providing for jurisdiction and venue and for the Traffic Court of Philadelphia.

Whereupon, the Speaker, in the presence of the House, signed the same.

The SPEAKER. The House will be at ease for a couple minutes.

The House will come to order.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND RECOMMITTED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES**

**HB 1214, PN 1528** By Rep. HESS

An Act designating a bridge on that portion of S.R. 58001, known as Elk Run Road, over the Pine Creek, Gaines Township, Tioga County as the SFC William Boyle Memorial Bridge.

TRANSPORTATION.

**HB 1263, PN 2021 (Amended)** By Rep. HESS

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions; and providing for transfer of ownership of vehicles used for human habitation.

TRANSPORTATION.

**HB 1416, PN 1848** By Rep. HESS

An Act amending the act of June 1, 1956 (1955 P.L.1944, No.655), referred to as the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law, further providing for allocated money.

TRANSPORTATION.

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker turns to leaves of absence and recognizes the majority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the gentleman, Mr. HACKETT, from Delaware County for the day, and the gentleman, Mr. Mark KELLER, from Perry County for the day. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

The minority whip indicates he has no requests for leaves of absence at this time.

**MASTER ROLL CALL**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker is about to take the master roll call. The members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

**PRESENT—199**

Adolph	Emrick	Knowles	Pickett
Aument	English	Kortz	Pyle
Baker	Evankovich	Kotik	Quinn
Barbin	Evans	Krieger	Rapp
Barrar	Everett	Kula	Ravenstahl
Benninghoff	Fabrizio	Lawrence	Readshaw
Bishop	Farina	Longietti	Reed
Bizzarro	Farry	Lucas	Reese
Bloom	Fee	Mackenzie	Regan
Boback	Fleck	Maher	Roae
Boyle, B.	Flynn	Mahoney	Rock
Boyle, K.	Frankel	Major	Roebuck
Bradford	Freeman	Maloney	Ross
Briggs	Gabler	Markosek	Rozzi
Brooks	Gainey	Marshall	Sabatina
Brown, R.	Galloway	Marsico	Saccone
Brown, V.	Gergely	Masser	Sainato
Brownlee	Gibbons	Matzie	Samuelson
Burns	Gillen	McCarter	Sankey

Caltagirone	Gillespie	McGeehan	Santarsiero
Carroll	Gingrich	McGinnis	Saylor
Causer	Goodman	McNeill	Scavello
Christiana	Greiner	Mentzer	Schlossberg
Clay	Grell	Metcalfe	Schreiber
Clymer	Grove	Metzgar	Simmons
Cohen	Haggerty	Micozzie	Sims
Conklin	Hahn	Millard	Smith
Corbin	Haluska	Miller, D.	Snyder
Costa, D.	Hanna	Miller, R.	Sonney
Costa, P.	Harhai	Milne	Stephens
Cox	Harhart	Mirabito	Stern
Cruz	Harkins	Miranda	Stevenson
Culver	Harper	Molchany	Sturla
Cutler	Harris, A.	Moul	Swanger
Daley, M.	Harris, J.	Mullery	Tallman
Daley, P.	Heffley	Mundy	Taylor
Davidson	Helm	Murt	Thomas
Davis	Hennessey	Mustio	Tobash
Day	Hess	Neilson	Toepel
Dean	Hickernell	Neuman	Toohil
Deasy	James	O'Brien	Truitt
DeLissio	Kampf	O'Neill	Turzai
DeLozier	Kauffman	Oberlander	Vereb
DeLuca	Kavulich	Painter	Vitali
Denlinger	Keller, F.	Parker	Waters
Dermody	Keller, W.	Pashinski	Watson
DiGirolamo	Killion	Payne	Wheatley
Donatucci	Kim	Peifer	White
Dunbar	Kinsey	Petrarca	Youngblood
Ellis	Kirkland	Petri	

**ADDITIONS—0**

**NOT VOTING—0**

**EXCUSED—4**

Godshall	Hackett	Keller, M.K.	Miccarelli
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**LEAVES CANCELED—1**

Keller, M.K.

The SPEAKER. One hundred and ninety-nine members having voted on the master roll call, a quorum is present.

**GUESTS INTRODUCED**

The SPEAKER. If I could have the members' attention. I would appreciate if you would hold the conversations down a little bit. I would appreciate the members' attention and courtesy. I would like to introduce some of the guests that are with us today. Will the members kindly hold the conversations down. Will the members kindly hold the conversations down. Members will please take their seats. Thank you.

I would like to introduce some of the guests that are with us.

Located to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome Kayla Holley, the Plainfield Elementary winner of Representative Hahn's "It Ought to be a Law" contest. And with Kayla are her parents, Kim Kauffman and Brian Holley, and Leonard Zito and Janet Holley. Will our guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Also located to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome Dawn, Victoria, Wendy, and Samantha Phillips, and Carol and Christy Diaz, and they are here today as guests of Representative Cutler. Please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

And also to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome Representative Fred Keller's niece, Elizabeth Keller. Please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

In the rear of the House, we would like to welcome the Greater Hazleton Area Chamber of Commerce. The group is here for Chamber Day, and they are guests of Representative Toohil. Will our guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Also in the rear of the House, we would like to welcome Representative Harper's district office intern, Philip Rakszawski. Phil is a senior at West Chester University majoring in history. Will you please rise; straight back the middle. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Also in the rear of the House, we would like to welcome Jackson VanBuskirk, who is interning in Representative Denlinger's office. Will our guest please rise; over here by the left door. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Guest pages in the well of the House, we would like to welcome Lisa Kong. She is a guest of Representative Mentzer. Welcome to the hall of the House. Also like to welcome guest page Luke Winand. His parents, Bill and Jennifer, are seated in the rear of the House, and they are here today as guests of Representative Lawrence. Will our guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Additionally in the rear of the House, we would like to welcome two guests of Representative Carroll: Brandon Ferrence of Avoca is shadowing Representative Carroll for the day, and Patrick Dougherty of Dupont is working as an intern in his district office. Will our guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

**UNCONTESTED CALENDAR**

**RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35**

Mr. KORTZ called up **HR 353, PN 1966**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the 238th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army.

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Mr. MIRABITO called up **HR 355, PN 1968**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing June 14, 2013, as "National Flag Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,  
Will the House adopt the resolutions?

The following roll call was recorded:

**YEAS—199**

Adolph	Emrick	Knowles	Pickett
Aument	English	Kortz	Pyle
Baker	Evankovich	Kotik	Quinn
Barbin	Evans	Krieger	Rapp
Barrar	Everett	Kula	Ravenstahl
Benninghoff	Fabrizio	Lawrence	Readshaw
Bishop	Farina	Longiotti	Reed
Bizzarro	Farry	Lucas	Reese
Bloom	Fee	Mackenzie	Regan

Boback	Fleck	Maher	Roae
Boyle, B.	Flynn	Mahoney	Rock
Boyle, K.	Frankel	Major	Roebuck
Bradford	Freeman	Maloney	Ross
Briggs	Gabler	Markosek	Rozzi
Brooks	Gainey	Marshall	Sabatina
Brown, R.	Galloway	Marsico	Saccone
Brown, V.	Gergely	Masser	Sainato
Brownlee	Gibbons	Matzie	Samuelson
Burns	Gillen	McCarter	Sankey
Caltagirone	Gillespie	McGeehan	Santarsiero
Carroll	Gingrich	McGinnis	Saylor
Causer	Goodman	McNeill	Scavello
Christiana	Greiner	Mentzer	Schlossberg
Clay	Grell	Metcalfe	Schreiber
Clymer	Grove	Metzgar	Simmions
Cohen	Haggerty	Micozzie	Sims
Conklin	Hahn	Millard	Smith
Corbin	Haluska	Miller, D.	Snyder
Costa, D.	Hanna	Miller, R.	Sonney
Costa, P.	Harhai	Milne	Stephens
Cox	Harhart	Mirabito	Stern
Cruz	Harkins	Miranda	Stevenson
Culver	Harper	Molchany	Sturla
Cutler	Harris, A.	Moul	Swanger
Daley, M.	Harris, J.	Mullery	Tallman
Daley, P.	Heffley	Mundy	Taylor
Davidson	Helm	Murt	Thomas
Davis	Hennessey	Mustio	Tobash
Day	Hess	Neilson	Toepel
Dean	Hickernell	Neuman	Toohil
Deasy	James	O'Brien	Truitt
DeLissio	Kampf	O'Neill	Turzai
DeLozier	Kauffman	Oberlander	Vereb
DeLuca	Kavulich	Painter	Vitali
Denlinger	Keller, F.	Parker	Waters
Dermody	Keller, W.	Pashinski	Watson
DiGirolamo	Killion	Payne	Wheatley
Donatucci	Kim	Peifer	White
Dunbar	Kinsey	Petrarca	Youngblood
Ellis	Kirkland	Petri	

**NAYS—0**

**NOT VOTING—0**

**EXCUSED—4**

Godshall	Hackett	Keller, M.K.	Miccarelli
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The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolutions were adopted.

**STATEMENT BY MR. MIRABITO**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming County, Mr. Mirabito, under unanimous consent relative to one of the resolutions just adopted.

Mr. MIRABITO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank all my colleagues for their support of HR 355 recognizing June 14 as "National Flag Day."

The Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag on June 14, 1777. When describing the new flag, Congress wrote, "White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness and valor, and Blue...signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice." Purity and innocence, hardiness and valor, perseverance and justice – rooted within these adjectives is the heart of our nation.

We know that the Boy Scouts of America have made a deep commitment to the American tradition of honoring National Flag Day.

The celebration of Flag Day came about as a result of a teacher, B.J. Cigrand, from Wisconsin, who in 1885 had his students observe the 108th anniversary of the flag's official adoption. And then like many things that change, citizen groups in Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois continued local celebrations for 30 years. In 1916 President Wilson officially established Flag Day by proclamation.

Some of you may remember 3 years back when we had a visit from Tony DiSalvo, a constituent from Williamsport, who has been organizing Flag Day marches in Lycoming County since 1983. This Friday, at the age of 84, Mr. DiSalvo is organizing the 30th march in our community. He has done this every year for 30 years on June 14.

I want to tell you about another citizen from Lycoming County, a teacher who has also done something remarkable with Flag Day. Laurie Randall is the director of Little Treasures Pre-School and Day Care located in south Williamsport, and owned by Glenn and Sharon Markle. After the tragic events of September 11, she started a program at the preschool to involve children in honoring Flag Day. Each year the children at the facility put money in a jar to raise funds to donate toward the purchase and maintenance of the 30-foot by 60-foot American flag that flies in front of the Pennsylvania College of Technology. These children, 3 and 4 years old, take their job very seriously, and to date they have raised nearly \$12,000 that they have used to honor our country by honoring the flag. The program instills pride in the children toward our country and our flag, and it teaches them about citizen action.

The children at Little Treasures remind us that the flag is more than just a piece of cloth or an image on an ad or a computer screen; it is a unifying symbol for all Americans, whether at home or abroad. So in celebration of Flag Day, we salute the flag and we salute citizens like B.J. Cigrand, Tony DiSalvo, Laurie Randall, and all the children at Little Treasures and other places who have honored our history and us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENT BY MR. TALLMAN

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Adams County, Mr. Tallman, under unanimous consent relative to one of the resolutions just adopted.

Mr. TALLMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just that my youngest son is serving with the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team in Kuwait, and I appreciate the members' support of recognizing the anniversary of the United States Army. Thank you.

CALENDAR

RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. FARINA called up HR 359, PN 1997, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the late John Morelli, the longest-standing Sergeant of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, and observing June 14, 2013, as "John J. Morelli Day" and "Tomb Honor Guard Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question, Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—199

Table with 4 columns of names: Adolph, Emrick, Knowles, Pickett, Aument, English, Kortz, Pyle, Baker, Evankovich, Kotik, Quinn, Barbin, Evans, Krieger, Rapp, Barrar, Everett, Kula, Ravenstahl, Benninghoff, Fabrizio, Lawrence, Readshaw, Bishop, Farina, Longietti, Reed, Bizzarro, Farry, Lucas, Reese, Bloom, Fee, Mackenzie, Regan, Boback, Fleck, Maher, Roae, Boyle, B., Flynn, Mahoney, Rock, Boyle, K., Frankel, Major, Roebuck, Bradford, Freeman, Maloney, Ross, Briggs, Gabler, Markosek, Rozzi, Brooks, Gainey, Marshall, Sabatina, Brown, R., Galloway, Marsico, Saccone, Brown, V., Gergely, Masser, Sainato, Brownlee, Gibbons, Matzie, Samuelson, Burns, Gillen, McCarter, Sankey, Caltagirone, Gillespie, McGeehan, Santarsiero, Carroll, Gingrich, McGinnis, Saylor, Causer, Goodman, McNeill, Scavello, Christiana, Greiner, Mentzer, Schlossberg, Clay, Grell, Metcalfe, Schreiber, Clymer, Grove, Metzgar, Simmons, Cohen, Haggerty, Micozzie, Sims, Conklin, Hahn, Millard, Smith, Corbin, Haluska, Miller, D., Snyder, Costa, D., Hanna, Miller, R., Sonney, Costa, P., Harhai, Milne, Stephens, Cox, Harhart, Mirabito, Stern, Cruz, Harkins, Miranda, Stevenson, Culver, Harper, Molchany, Sturla, Cutler, Harris, A., Moul, Swanger, Daley, M., Harris, J., Mullery, Tallman, Daley, P., Heffley, Mundy, Taylor, Davidson, Helm, Murt, Thomas, Davis, Hennessey, Mustio, Tobash, Day, Hess, Neilson, Toepel, Dean, Hickernell, Neuman, Toohil, Deasy, James, O'Brien, Truitt, DeLissio, Kampf, O'Neill, Turzai, DeLozier, Kauffman, Oberlander, Vereb, DeLuca, Kavulich, Painter, Vitali, Denlinger, Keller, F., Parker, Waters, Dermody, Keller, W., Pashinski, Watson, DiGirolamo, Killion, Payne, Wheatley, Donatucci, Kim, Peifer, White, Dunbar, Kinsey, Petrarca, Youngblood, Ellis, Kirkland, Petri

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—4

Table with 4 columns of names: Godshall, Hackett, Keller, M.K., Miccarelli

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

The SPEAKER. The House will come to order.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION**

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 1437, PN 2003**, entitled:

An Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive and Judicial Departments, the State Government Support Agencies and the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, for certain institutions and organizations, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013; to provide appropriations from the State Lottery Fund, the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the Aviation Restricted Account, the Hazardous Material Response Fund, The State Stores Fund, the Milk Marketing Fund, the Home Investment Trust Fund, the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund, the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund, the Banking Fund, the Firearm Records Check Fund, the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority Fund, the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Home Improvement Account, the Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act Enforcement Fund and the Energy Conservation and Assistance Fund, to the Executive Department; to provide appropriations from the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account to the Judicial Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, for the proper operation of several departments of the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania State Police authorized to spend Motor License Fund moneys; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive Department of the Commonwealth and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds from the General Fund for the Executive Department of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?  
Bill was agreed to.

(Bill analysis was read.)

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.  
The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Adolph.

Mr. ADOLPH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone in this House knows, HB 1437 contains the general appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2013-14. This budget represents a reasonable and sustainable budget that is not predicated on the passage of any other major proposals. Earlier this week we considered amendments, and in a bipartisan fashion considered reasonable amendments that make sense for Pennsylvania residents. In total, this budget spends \$28.3 billion; \$28.3 billion, which is a \$578 million increase over last year's general spending budget.

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman suspend for just a second.

I would appreciate if the members would hold the conversations down. If necessary, take them to the rear of the House. Just hold them down, it is just a little bit loud in here. I would appreciate just a little more attention. Like I say, if necessary, take them to the rear of the House.

I apologize. The gentleman, Mr. Adolph, may proceed.

Mr. ADOLPH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will repeat those last facts. This budget spends \$28.3 billion, which is approximately \$578 million over last year, or a 2.1-percent increase – right around the cost of living, the same that our small business people and our families are having to work with.

Mr. Speaker, education is clearly the top priority in this budget. In total, this budget spends \$11.6 billion on basic and higher education; combined they represent 41 percent of our total State budget. Education receives the most money out of all the categories of spending in State government; that is a fact, a real fact. A closer look at the proposed education spending in HB 1437 shows that K-12 education receives an all-time \$10 billion spending, an all-time record of spending for basic education in Pennsylvania; that is a fact. Those trying to put a spin on those facts are merely playing a game of smoke and mirrors. I know every teacher and every resident of Pennsylvania knows that the retirement benefits are a real fact and that these funds that we put into this budget are under current law, and I believe those dedicated teachers appreciate that.

Moreover, the funding formula used to distribute basic education funding dollars takes into consideration demographic issues and applies an aid ratio to make sure underprivileged districts receive additional support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. When you look at the disadvantaged districts, you will see that a much greater share of their funding comes from the State of Pennsylvania as compared to their local effort.

This budget reaffirms its commitment to K-12 education by proposing a \$100 million increase for basic education funding and provides school districts with an additional \$160 million for school employee and teacher pension contributions. The proposal also invests in early childhood education by adding \$6 million for Head Start and Pre-K Counts programs.

HB 1437 increases funding for the library Access program by \$500,000, or 18 percent. This proposal includes \$3 million for grants to career and technical schools to purchase new equipment so the Commonwealth can expand career and technical educational opportunities. HB 1437 also includes funding for mobile science centers, which was not in the Governor's budget.

Overall, overall, there is a proposed \$274 million increase for education, which brings the total State appropriation to \$10 billion for basic education. Once again, this represents the most State dollars for basic education ever.

In other areas of the budget: There is an 11-percent increase for the Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and a 106-percent increase for the violence prevention program. We have increased the Attorney General's Office as recommended to receive a 1.5-percent increase, but we also expand public safety programs like local drug task forces and the child predator interception units. The budget proposal recommends the Governor's proposal of an additional \$50 million for senior services. In an effort to ensure government accountability and efficient use of tax dollars, the proposal recommends an additional \$2.6 million for the Auditor General's Office.

In agriculture, our leading industry in Pennsylvania, \$4 million to restore funding for ag research, hardwoods research, ag education and promotion program, food marketing program, and the "PA Preferred" program have also been increased. Four million dollars for the conservation districts has been restored; \$1 million in the Ag Department and close to

\$3 million in DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). This proposal recommends that State fairs and the State Farm Show both receive \$3 million in State tax dollars. The budget also recommends that funding for the vet lab and the animal commission are moved to the Race Horse Development Fund, which will actually provide a net increase to all ag programs.

To better serve the taxpayers of Pennsylvania and ensure that access to State government records, the budget proposes an 18.7-percent increase for the Office of Open Records.

In DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) appropriation, \$2 million has been added for the heritage parks so that we can continue to lead community conservation and revitalization in our efforts.

Within corrections, there are new funds for the justice reinvestment fund to help further reduce corrections spending and generate savings to reinvest in strategies and programs to increase public safety.

In the newly formed drug and alcohol programs, there is a 1 1/2-percent increase for those programs.

A 4-percent increase in DEP's budget for both environmental program management and environmental protection operations.

In our Health Department lines, you, the legislators, have heard from your constituents, and once again we added \$7.2 million to restore the funding for health- and disease-related items like diabetes, epilepsy, ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), Tourette's syndrome, biotechnology research, poison control, and lupus support. And just the other day we added another \$60,000, with an agreed-to, bipartisan effort, for sickle-cell.

In the Insurance Department, there is a \$9.5 million increase to the CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) appropriation to help ensure all Pennsylvania's children who are eligible for CHIP are enrolled in a health insurance program.

In the Labor and Industry area, \$250,000 for a new pilot program that has the State workforce investment boards implement programs to help our veterans, to help them get the additional education and job placement skills that are needed. Five hundred thousand dollars has been restored for the New Choices/New Options in this budget.

Now, speaking of that, there is also a 43-percent increase in funds for the veterans outreach appropriation under the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. And thanks to the increase of Federal funds for Pennsylvania veterans' homes, we can serve even more Pennsylvania veterans in our homes.

The Department of Public Welfare budget reorganizes medical assistance dollars to move to statewide managed care to achieve better health outcomes in a most effective manner. The department budget also contains an additional \$20 million to further reduce the waiting list for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This is the second year in a row that we have added additional money for those on the waiting list. This proposal also recommends an additional 10 percent for domestic violence and rape crisis centers. In all, DPW will receive a total of \$10.9 billion; \$10.9 billion.

Public safety. To ensure public safety, there is an additional \$12.7 million for an additional 300 State troopers. PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency), this proposal calls for a 3-percent increase for the State Fire Commissioner's Office. Probation and Parole, an 8.7-percent increase is provided to ensure better supervision of those offenders. We have also added an increase of 1.5 percent for all Pennsylvania courts. That same 1.5 percent has been increased for the State

legislature. In total, the total spending, once again: \$28.3 billion, a 2.1-percent increase over last year.

To sum this up, Mr. Speaker, this House budget proposal outlines priorities related to education, health and human services, environmental protection, public safety, job creation, and government transparency. We are recommending a \$100 million increase for basic education, supporting the Governor's priority to put 300 new State troopers on the streets, restoring funding for our county conservation districts, and increasing funding for the Office of Open Records.

Given all the feedback that I have heard from legislators and constituents from all over the Commonwealth, I know this is a responsible budget that all of the members of this chamber can support. Thank you for your cooperation. And Chairman Markosek, I want to thank you for your cooperation, your staff, as well as the great staff that I have here in Harrisburg, for putting together what I consider a very responsible budget.

I ask all for a "yes" vote on HB 1437. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Markosek.

Mr. MARKOSEK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, thank you, Chairman Adolph, for those great comments. I know you have worked long and hard, and I agree with you: We have great staff and we have worked together. And we look forward to negotiating the budget with you as we move forward until the end of June here.

In all due respect, and I know the chairman was very eloquent and very sincere about what he had to say, but I would respectfully ask all of the members to ignore basically all of that and listen to what I have to say, and then do what I tell you to do. First of all, we know, and it has been said before, that HB 1437 is full of misguided policies, missed opportunities, and failed promises. The spending proposal is very similar to Governor Corbett's spending proposal. In fact, it has been identified as about 85 percent of it as being identical. HB 1437 is just more of the same. It takes money off the table first for corporate tax cuts, and then doles out the crumbs that are left for everyone else. We need to put the interests of students, families, and workers before chief executive officers.

If we had enacted some of the tax changes we had been talking about when Corbett took office, we would have \$1 billion more in General Fund budget revenue to spend. Now is not the time to eliminate the capital stock and franchise tax.

This bill is woefully short of restoring devastating cuts to K-12 education and our institutions of higher learning. Let me repeat that: This bill is woefully short in restoring devastating cuts to K-12 education and our institutions of higher education. And in case you did not hear it, let me say it one more time. This bill is woefully short of restoring devastating cuts to K-12 education. And we can quibble all day long about State funds versus Federal funds. It does not matter to the students. The reality is, our public schools are in distress and they need our help. School districts all over the Commonwealth are financially strapped and making tough decisions affecting the education and future of our children. Just read the local newspapers or the latest report from the school business officials.

This bill also fails to extend health care to half a million uninsured Pennsylvanians through Medicaid expansion. The Governor is dragging his feet. To delay a decision is to deny access to affordable health care. Opportunities with this budget to reverse the destructive course of the past two budgets have



been missed. But if you want to stick your head in the sand and pretend that schools, urban and rural, are not cutting programs and activities; increasing class sizes; laying off teachers; outsourcing aides, bus drivers, and food service workers; and raising local property taxes, then go ahead and vote for HB 1437.

If you want to pretend that our college graduates do not have the second highest average student loan debt in the country, then go ahead and vote for HB 1437. If you want to pretend that having no health care at all is better than providing coverage through Medicaid, then go ahead and vote for HB 1437.

With reasonable, with reasonable revenue enhancements, we can afford to restore the devastating cuts to public education, to make quality higher education more affordable, support the health and well-being of our most vulnerable citizens, provide State agencies with necessary resources to protect Pennsylvanians, provide more funding for senior programs under a State-managed lottery, protect our environment, and restore lost jobs and foster job growth. HB 1437 does not, does not reflect the priorities of the Democratic Caucus and those Pennsylvanians that all of us of both parties are elected to represent.

As we know, a few days ago I had an amendment that would not only put money in for some of the services that my colleague mentioned, but it would enhance many of those services, particularly basic education. We have seen over the last several years that the Governor and the majority caucus of both houses have failed to recognize and to take action to restore the devastating, egregious, and draconian cuts to basic education that everybody in Pennsylvania understands have occurred.

I would just leave you with the fact that, again, HB 1437, in spite of I know the efforts of some to make it sound good, just simply, simply falls woefully short of doing what we all, members of both parties, need to do for our constituents, the people of Pennsylvania, and the most vulnerable among us.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members vote "no" to HB 1437. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. Just a moment to introduce some additional guests that are with us. In the rear of the House, I would like to welcome Dawn Woods, and her son, Connor. They are here today as guests of Representative Scavello and Representative Rosemary Brown. Will our guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

### CONSIDERATION OF HB 1437 CONTINUED

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when I first came to Harrisburg and sat through my first budget in fiscal year '07-'08, I heard my friends and colleagues across the aisle strike a recurring theme: "Governor Spendell." Now, I have to tell you, they liked that phrase so much, so much that they continued to use it through the first two budgets of "Governor Corporate."

Now, what have we done in 2 years, now in 3 years? And quite honestly, third budget, third budget, time to man up and take responsibility for your actions. What have we done? We have gutted education, and whereas the argument will be made that there is more money going to education, the truth of the matter is, it is an accounting sleight of hand. It is compressing independent lines and placing them in the education budget. The money just does not add up.

Now, what has happened to this money? Well, Governor Corporate has taken that money and given it to his corporate friends like candy to trick-or-treaters on Halloween. That is what he has done. Now, Governor Corporate told us he was going to find \$440 million in waste, fraud, and abuse. He was so confident of that he used it as hard dollars in his budget. Guess what? It was not there. But what did Governor Corporate do with that \$440 million? Well, I will tell you. He gave it to his friends in corporation like you give candy to trick-or-treaters on Halloween.

Now, we have a constitutional obligation to protect our environment for the next generation, and over the 3 years of the Governor Corporate budgets, we have laid, we have laid siege to our forests and our parklands. We have cut back on environmental protections. We have fouled our water. And what have we done with that money? We have given it to the corporate friends like candy to trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Now, it is time to man up. It is time to pass a budget that is fair, that is equitable, that takes care of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and not a special interest group. It is time for each of us to look into our hearts and to look into our souls and ultimately to do what is right.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am going to talk about this budget from an environmental perspective. This is an irresponsible budget from an environmental perspective because it locks in the irresponsible cuts that have been made in the past. This funds the Department of Environmental Protection at a level of \$129 million, \$129 million. Yes, there has been a little bit more added, but in the 2006-07 budget, it was \$200 million. We have cut it \$40 million since 2006. And to say \$129 million is a responsible amount is a misstatement. Former DEP Secretary John Hanger said that you need at least \$170 million to adequately fund the DEP and allow it to carry on its mission, and we are only funding this at \$129 million. We could not have imposed a severance tax to make up the difference in doing this. That would have been the environmentally responsible thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, we have cut staffing since 2006 a full 10 percent. We have gone from 3,093 people to 2,772 people – a full 10-percent cut in staffing since 2006. That is irresponsible. These staffing cuts have made it difficult for the Department of Environmental Protection to attract and maintain quality staffing. One former regional director said that the DEP is hemorrhaging jobs because they are not paid adequately.

Mr. Speaker, we are putting the public health and safety at risk because of these cuts that should have been added back. The Department of Environmental Protection is charged with enforcing many important environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, the Hazardous

Sites Cleanup Act, the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act, the Radiation Protection Act, and on and on and on. These important acts, if they are not adequately enforced – and you need staffing to do that – put the health and safety at risk. Basic things like inspecting coal mines and being able to respond in a disaster; we are at an increased risk for these problems unless we fund them adequately.

Mr. Speaker, program cuts. We have cut, since 2006-2007, general government operations of the Department of Environmental Protection 43 percent; environmental program management, 34 percent; black fly control, 57 percent; West Nile virus, 49 percent. We cannot make these cuts and fail to restore these cuts and then tell the public this is a responsible budget from an environmental protection perspective. It is simply not. We are not adequately funding these programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Pennsylvania Sunshine Solar Program, one of the most popular programs in this State, which creates good green jobs and helps control air pollution and fights climate change, no funding in there for that. That program has run out of money. There is no money in there for that. There is no money in here for climate change planning, the most important environmental issue in the State.

Mr. Speaker, we have revenue sources. We could have funded this with a severance tax. We are facing increasing environmental challenges, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have over 6,000 Marcellus wells drilled now, and we are going to be expecting almost 60,000 in the next two decades. As the environmental challenges of this State increase and increase, we fail to adequately fund important programs to protect health and safety.

Mr. Speaker, from an environmental perspective, this budget is a failure and deserves to be rejected. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the lady from Philadelphia County, Ms. Bishop. The lady waives off.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. DeLuca.

Mr. DeLUCA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose HB 1437. While I commend the majority Appropriations chairman for what he is trying to do, I personally do not think it goes far enough. We talk about education. My districts in the 32d Legislative District are cutting programs and cutting teachers. The parents in the districts are upset because these children need these programs. When you have them in Congress talking about the key to the future of the United States is education, in Washington they are talking about that. While we want to bring in more people because we do not have enough students who are qualified in certain professions, so we want to bring in more, and the business community is supporting it. And they recognize that education is important, but unfortunately, this House does not recognize it, and the majority party does not recognize it.

As I look at this budget, I see it as like motherhood and apple pie. We give a little to everybody. We want to make everybody happy. We give a little to everybody. We hope that will keep them quiet. Well, the people out there in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are not fools. They know their taxes are being raised on the local level. They know they cannot find jobs. They know they are working longer and harder for less money than they made 15 years ago. They know that, Mr. Speaker.

I am glad to see some of this stuff was restored a little bit, but like some of the other speakers spoke yesterday – I did not want to speak yesterday because it was on second – we understand that we cannot make up for the cuts for the last 2 years that the majority party and the Governor have done. Now, everybody loves to have cuts. Everybody voted for the Governor because he said he was going to cut. Well, he did cut, so we ought to give him credit for that. He cut. And he kept to his promise of not raising taxes. We have to give him credit for that. I guess when he comes back next week, we will find out how the majority party will figure in on raising taxes when we start to debate the transportation bill, which will have tremendous, tremendous taxes for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the average citizen out there. We know that, Mr. Speaker. We know we could do better. We do not have any problems cutting the business taxes, but unfortunately, we do not understand that there is no business that could survive without workers. And the more workers we lay off, the less money comes into the General Fund for us to spend on these programs like mental health, drug and alcohol programs, autism, education. We need to provide jobs. Like the gentleman from Centre County said yesterday, we went from 7 to 47 in job creation.

Where is all the money going that we are giving to the business community? The Governor said when he got elected that he would reduce the inheritance tax and eliminate it. We have not done that for the average citizen out there. We did it for the farming community. I think we did it for another industry, but the middle-class worker, the middle-class family, like everything else, shoulders all the brunt of government, shoulders all the brunt while corporate America and corporate welfare we continue to get.

Mr. Speaker, it is only a matter of time before the public gets sick and tired of what we are doing not only in here, in Harrisburg, and but also in Washington. The partisanship in this body has to stop. We need to be part of the process, and unfortunately—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend. The time has expired.

Mr. DeLUCA. —we have been shut out of the process in this budget, and that is why—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Frankel.

Mr. FRANKEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Throughout the countless budget debates that I have been a part of over the years, I have heard similar messages from those opposed to providing funds for basic government services. They have said, "We just cannot afford it. There is no money. We cannot pay for it." But in fact, legislators are in a very lucky position to actually save money and benefit low-income working Pennsylvanians by simply, simply accepting billions of dollars in Federal funds to expand health-care access. We can provide quality health care to 350,000 people, create close to 40,000 jobs, strengthen our critical access hospitals, all while reducing the State budget by \$90 million. The Republicans should be ecstatic; instead, they do not even want to discuss it. When the party in power refuses to make the obvious best moral and economic choice to accept Federal funds to expand Medicaid, that means ideology is coming before common sense.

Certainly, there are many people who do not want Pennsylvanians to accept the Federal funds to expand Medicaid. I can think of a few right now: Glenn Beck, Rick Perry, Grover Norquist, Rush Limbaugh. But I have news for you: None of these people actually lives in Pennsylvania. They are interested in benefiting the right-wing movement, not Pennsylvanians. The other side of the aisle argued yesterday that to allocate Federal dollars in the budget for Medicaid expansion, as I tried to do with my amendment, would be rushing the process. Rushing the process, really? That is nonsense. The Affordable Care Act was signed into law more than 3 years ago. Many people in the legislature have been calling for expansion for almost a year, including a handful of my Republican colleagues. Not a single person in this room or in the Senate chamber or in the Governor's Office should claim ignorance about the deadlines under the Affordable Care Act.

Thirty other States, thirty other Governors have figured this out, and they are making the moves to move their States forward to expand access. It is embarrassing to claim, in the final hours as the 2014 deadline looms, that we are somehow being too hasty in our attempts to expand Medicaid. Any questions as to the benefits and the urgency should have been answered by three independent studies. We have the Independent Fiscal Office, we have the Pennsylvania Economy League, and we have the RAND Corporation.

Access to quality health care, new revenue, a strong health-care system, and new jobs are all priorities for House Democrats. They are the priorities for Pennsylvanians, and it should have been a priority of this misguided Republican budget. Please vote "no" on HB 1437.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster County, Mr. Sturla.

Mr. STURLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, earlier the majority Appropriations chair said, let us talk about some of the facts with regard to education. So let us do that. Mr. Speaker, under this proposed budget, which funds education, the allocations, which are not driven out by any funding formula – we are actually one of only two States in the nation that does not have a funding formula – here is what the results are: If you are in the North Allegheny School District, where the average person makes \$98,517 and you spend \$19,239 per student, you got a \$56 cut per student, a total of \$6,000 per classroom. You know, it is devastating. It is hard, but they are doing it. Contrast that with the Clarion School District, in Allegheny County also, just down the road. There, instead of making \$98,000, people make \$25,938 a year. They only spend \$14,838 per student, not \$19,000. They got cut \$751 per student; cumulative over the last 3 years, \$63,000 in cuts per classroom.

Remember, that other wealthy school district down the road where they are spending \$5,000 more per year per student did not get cut. The Upper St. Clair District in Allegheny County, where the average person makes \$134,000 a year and they spend \$17,000 per student, they only got cut \$33 per student. Their cumulative cuts for the last 3 years, \$5,000 per classroom. Go to the Midland Borough School District, though, in Beaver County, where those people only make \$27,000 a year, more than \$100,000 a year less than the people in Upper St. Clair make each year. They only spend \$10,795 per student; not \$17,000, \$10,000 – \$7,000 less per student. Do you think they got cut \$33 per student? No, they got cut \$815 per student under

this budget. The cumulative effect over the last 3 years is that each classroom got cut \$66,813 in that Midland School District.

Mr. Speaker, go to Tredyffrin-Easttown School District in Chester or the Unionville-Chadds Fords District. There, people make between \$151,000 and \$143,000 a year. They got cut \$21 per student and \$47 per student respectively, losing \$3,000 per classroom or \$5,000 per classroom over the last 3 years. But then go to the West Branch School District in Clearfield County, where they only make \$37,000 a year; again, more than \$100,000 less than those wealthy districts. They got cut \$731 per student. They only spend \$12,000 per student, not \$16,000. Their classrooms got cut \$60,842 over the last 3 years.

And I understand why the majority Appropriations chair likes this. His district that he represents in Radnor Township, there the average person makes \$193,000 a year. They got \$21,000; they spend \$21,000 per student, more than twice what they do in the West Branch Area School District. They got cut \$22 per student. Corry Area School District, where they make \$33,000 a year, they got cut \$664.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on and on. The reality is, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer under this budget. The inequities grow wider. Ask any school director. Ask any teacher that has been laid off. Ask the children that are sitting in classrooms of 35 kids in their classroom and no teacher's aide. Ask their moms. Ask the taxpayers. This budget does not work for education.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Thomas.

Mr. THOMAS. Let me say good morning to the Speaker, to the Appropriations chairs, Democratic, Republican leadership, and to my colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

And I know that my time is limited, so I am going to try and zero in on two things that I think are extremely important. And I would like to share some information with you based on an old saying that my mama used to say to me and her kids, and that is, love does not have any meaning unless you can share it, and that the people that you share it with must feel it. So you can care all you want about how bad a situation is, but unless you are engaged in something that brings about a change in what is happening to people, then that love is meaningless.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this budget is really about the Governor trying to touch everybody. The Republican members of this House tried to step a little bit further to deal with everybody, but at the end of the day, there are too many babies, children, families, and communities that are literally in pain, in pain. So that while you have done something, we have not done enough, done enough in a way that is going to change what happens to people.

And so, Mr. Speaker, let me just— Last year at this time there were 33,000 people who were out there looking for work. This year, in March alone, 33,000 Pennsylvanians stopped looking for work; 5,800 of them who feel hopeless about the possibility of having a decent job. In the budget that we are asking folks to vote on, there are over 200-and-some line items. Only four line items focus on job training, job creation, specifically. Now, folks can point you to other lines that will result in job retention or job creation, but at the end of the day, there are only four to five line items in this entire budget where we talk about specifically jobs and training.

Last year we came up with this real nice concept called Keystone Works, and we set aside \$2.5 million to try and help stimulate job creation and training opportunities. Only 237 people were touched over the last 12 months, 237 people. More money is left than the money that was put there last year this time. We must deal with jobs and training in Pennsylvania in a way that people can feel it, not based on what they hear but what they feel.

In education, we have 133 languages in Philadelphia County. We have over 40-some schools that have been closed. We have over 3700 people that have received layoff notices. So who cares whether you put another \$90 million if it is not going to help those 3700 people that would be out of work, kids that would not have books, neighborhoods that would not have schools. What the heck does another \$90 million mean?

We have to be serious about what we want to do. If we really want to transform the lives of children, our communities, and give our kids a real bridge to the future, then we have to do more than what we are doing. When we did more, attendance was up, performance in math and reading was up. College—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. THOMAS.—preparatory was up.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend. His time has expired.

Mr. THOMAS. It is all down now.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend. His time has expired.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity, and I ask you and ask my colleagues—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend. His time has expired.

Mr. THOMAS.—to be serious.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Snyder County, Mr. Fred Keller.

Mr. F. KELLER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Before I begin my remarks in support of HB 1437, I want to take a moment to thank the taxpayers and businesses that work hard to generate the \$27.7 billion we spent in this current fiscal year, and I want to let them know how much I appreciate their work that will result in enough revenue to fund the Commonwealth in the upcoming year.

The opponents to HB 1437 will mention cuts to education, say that this budget does not spend enough money, and talk to you about the most vulnerable citizens, all of which I will address later in my comments. But first, let me give those who oppose this budget something to consider, as Ronald Reagan said, that government cannot give to anyone anything that it does not first take from someone else. After 8 years of the Rendell administration's budget policy of "you make it, we take it," Pennsylvanians demanded Harrisburg produce on-time budgets that live within our means. The last two State budgets have done that, and this year's proposal, contained in HB 1437, does the same while continuing to invest in our future and protect the Commonwealth's most vulnerable citizens.

When mentioning cuts to programs, the other side of the aisle generally references education. It took 2 years, 2 years for our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to finally admit what the rest of Pennsylvania already knew, and that is that the cuts to education came from the Federal government. Let me say that again: The cuts came from the Federal government.

Here are the facts: In State dollars, education K-12, 2008-09,

was \$5.2 billion; '09-'10, \$4.8 billion; '10-'11, \$4.7 billion; '11-'12, \$5.3 billion; '12-'13, \$5.4 billion; and this year increases it to \$5.5 billion, an additional \$100 million. The opponents of 1437 will also contend that if we do not funnel more money into our school districts, they will have to raise property taxes. I have done the research, and historical data shows that regardless of how much money was appropriated for education, school districts across the Commonwealth have raised property taxes. In fact, I have a district that when Federal dollars were cut in '11-'12, they received more State dollars but less revenue combined because of the Federal cuts, and for the first time in 5 years they held the line on taxes.

The people that say that this does not spend enough money: When you travel around our Commonwealth, please take the time to notice all of the women and men going to work daily on farms, in factories, in the construction trades, at the stores, driving trucks and buses, and collecting garbage, and consider their position on how much is enough. HB 1437 proposes to spend \$28.3 billion, an increase of more than half a billion dollars. Under HB 1437, \$10.9 billion will be spent in public welfare, an increase of 2.7 percent; total education will be \$10.3 billion, an increase of 2.7 percent. It is likely that the Pennsylvania taxpayer will not see a greater increase in their income than the proposed budget contained in HB 1437.

So if you think HB 1437 does not spend enough, you better be prepared to explain why State government needs more of an increase than the working and retired taxpayer. HB 1437 protects the most vulnerable citizens by increasing the public welfare budget by 2.7 percent to over \$10.9 billion. It doubles spending on the Children's Health Insurance Program and increases the Department of Health by 3 percent, just to mention a few things.

I also want to add another group to the vulnerable citizens that this also protects, and that is the category of the Pennsylvania taxpayer. HB 1437 continues to build financial stability for Pennsylvania's future, a fact that is noticed outside the Commonwealth by credit rating agencies such as Moody's, when they say that "The stable outlook..." for Pennsylvania – and this is in their report of March 29 of this year – is a result of our economy and "...Pennsylvania's recent history of improved governance, reflected in timely budget adoption and proactive financial management...."

I urge all members, for the sake of our children, for the most vulnerable citizens, and for a vibrant future, to please support HB 1437. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the lady from Dauphin County, Ms. Kim.

Ms. KIM. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will be opposing HB 1437. This budget needed more support for public education and more funding for human services and the expansion of Medicaid. These are the issues my district needs in order to stay afloat. But there is a line item in this budget that has the potential to throw off the fragile status of the city of Harrisburg. It is under the Capitol fire protection fund. If the Markosek amendment had passed, this would not be an issue.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone in this chamber knows, the city of Harrisburg is facing a severe financial crisis. With the upcoming sale of the city's incinerator and lease of the city's parking garages, it finally appears that we can begin to dig ourselves out of a very deep hole related to the incinerator debt. However,

even with the reduction of that debt load, the city faces budget problems in the form of an operating deficit. And unfortunately, this budget proposal exacerbates the city's fiscal woes. Nearly 49 percent of Harrisburg's properties are tax-exempt, due in large part of this Capitol Building and over 40 State-owned buildings. Fifty-one percent of the Harrisburg Fire operating budget comes from taxes paid by the city's struggling taxpayers.

The proposal on this bill to reduce the Capitol fire protection line item by 80 percent, from \$2.5 million to \$496,000, would be devastating for my city. As a result of this drastic cut, Harrisburg's operating deficit would grow by \$1.5 million to at least \$5 million. When called, the city's firefighters have always provided emergency fire protection to thousands of State employees. According to the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire's proposed 2013 budget, the projected cost to provide emergency fire protection services this year to the Capitol Complex is \$4 million. That is \$3.5 million more than what is proposed in this bill. At a time when the city is already struggling to maintain safety, this painful cut to fire protection funding further jeopardizes the safety of Pennsylvanians and adds to the burden of the city's fiscal crisis. There is no legitimate reason for Harrisburg to subsidize the Commonwealth for these valuable services.

I implore the leaders of this chamber to work with leaders in the Senate and the Governor to restore the funding that is rightfully owed to the city of Harrisburg for protecting tens of thousands of State employees, including everyone in this chamber.

I urge you to support this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Berks County, Mr. Rozzi.

Mr. ROZZI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to oppose HB 1437. Representing one of the poorest cities in Pennsylvania, and a couple of years ago the poorest city in the United States, it puts a lot of things into perspective for me, and I hope it will for you. In my town only 60 percent of its residents have high school diplomas and only 10 percent have graduated from college. You can easily see the correlation between employment and education. Reading is desperate for a strong, well-educated workforce. This budget continues to turn its back on my town and our young people who so desperately need a solid educational foundation. How can we say we are giving our students all the tools they need to succeed when you refuse to invest in education? Rather than investing in corrections, let us invest in education and start a new era in Pennsylvania.

I am also very disappointed with this year's flat-funding of higher education in Pennsylvania. Graduates and adults alike depend on Reading Area Community College to provide a great education at affordable rates. In meeting with Reading Area Community College, I was told that they are operating at 1997 funding levels. How can this be? My constituents are terrified of more tuition hikes. I believe it is imperative that we revisit our community colleges and do more to keep these important programs alive and available for all, that is all Pennsylvanians.

Another section of the budget that is paramount is transportation. This budget falls drastically short of adequately funding Pennsylvania's transportation deficiencies. Our highways, bridges, and mass transit are crumbling, and this will be at the expense of all our constituents. Billions of dollars are

wasted in traffic every year. It is time that this House recognizes that an investment in infrastructure is an investment in Pennsylvania for decades to come. I cannot tell you how many business owners have come up to me stating they cannot grow their business any more until our roads, our highway infrastructure systems improve and their trucks do not sit in traffic for 2 hours between Reading and Allentown.

In addition to encouraging business and creating thousands of jobs, infrastructure expansion is imperative, simply because without it we are putting public safety at risk. In my district alone, we have over 20 bridge projects which are at a standstill awaiting a start date, and that is unacceptable.

At the very least, we owe our children a chance at a better future, an affordable education, and safe roadways to travel on. I ask that you take a moment to consider who this budget is really affecting, and I urge you to vote "no" on HB 1437. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne County, Mr. Pashinski.

Mr. PASHINSKI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition of HB 1437, and I ask, Mr. Speaker, for the few minutes that we have, 5 minutes, I am asking my colleagues to put politics aside and to focus on some financial facts and figures. Mr. Speaker, I ask, what would we do in this House if we had an extra \$500 million more to work in this budget, an extra \$500 million without raising any taxes on our citizens? What would we do? Well, let us think about this for just a moment. We know our roads and bridges are in desperate need of repair. We know that they cost billions to address, but we also know that there are times when investing is the right thing to do.

Statistics show that every billion dollars invested in roads and bridges produces approximately 30,000 jobs. We also know that contractors are in need of work so their cost estimates will be competitive and reasonable. And we also know that this is the time to borrow money because right now money is, quote, "cheap." We can float transportation bonds at a mere 2.9 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the cost to borrow \$1 billion is \$67 million a year for 20 years. One hundred thirty-four million dollars will get us \$2 billion in bonds, more than enough to jump-start the design and engineering phase, and more than enough money to begin the most critical projects identified by PENNDOT and both commissions.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, \$2 billion in bonds equals 60,000 jobs, plus the Medicaid expansion of 35,000 jobs; that totals 95,000 to 100,000 new jobs for Pennsylvania. Now, here is the best part of this whole deal. The budget estimates every new job that is created at a rate of \$40,000 to \$50,000 per job will contribute back to the State \$5,000 to \$6,000 in new taxes. When you multiply \$5,000 to \$6,000 per new job times 95,000 to 100,000 new jobs, Mr. Speaker, that equals 500 to 600 million new dollars coming back to the State. This is called the cycle of growth and prosperity. Government invests in its infrastructure by floating the transportation bonds. This investment creates thousands of jobs which enhance our economy, and hundreds of millions of dollars come back to our Treasury.

By expanding Medicaid we create 30,000 to 40,000 new jobs, tens of thousands of our constituents will receive health care, and our State will reap a solid return on its investment. But

how do we get this \$500 million? Where does it come from? We get this money from the extraction tax per volume on Marcellus gas and initiating combined reporting while still lowering the corporate net income tax.

Now, I know my time is running out, and I know that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle may contest or refute my numbers, but to be clear, these numbers came from a compilation of the RAND and Keiser reports, the Budget Office, and the Transportation and Health reports.

Mr. Speaker, the cycle of growth and prosperity will also provide enough dollars to then help restore some of the human service funding that was so desperately needed, and it will certainly help restore the desperately needed money for public schools and higher ed.

Mr. Speaker, let us work together to initiate the cycle of growth and prosperity, to make the improvements to our roads and bridges, to invest in our children, help those in need, and create the 100,000 jobs that will bolster our economy and make Pennsylvania rise to the top again.

Mr. Speaker, let us be known as the House that came together to work for the good of people. Let us not be known as the House that refused hundreds of thousands of constituents legitimate health care. Let us not be known as the House that raised the tax on gasoline and registration fees. Let us not be known as the House that deprived tens of thousands of children their right to a quality education because we foolishly left hundreds of millions of dollars on the table.

Mr. Speaker, we can do this by working together. We can make it happen. We can work through the weekend, through the next weeks. Mr. Speaker, we can make this work. In all good conscience, we must make these dollars do what is fiscally prudent and morally right. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I ask my constituents and all of you to oppose HB 1437.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker thanks the gentleman.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Crawford County, Mr. Roae.

Mr. ROAE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the education and higher education portions of this budget proposal. HB 1437 spends \$11.6 billion on education and higher education. When you look at all the money for early learning, K-12, community colleges, State-owned colleges, Penn State, Pitt, Temple, Lincoln, and PHEAA (Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency), it is \$11.6 billion. Forty-one percent of the budget proposal is for education and higher education. That is \$968 million a month for education and higher education. That is \$223 million a week. That is \$32 million a day for education and higher education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put these numbers in perspective for people. We all know we have a 6-percent sales tax in Pennsylvania. If you buy a \$100 item, you pay \$6 dollars in sales tax. Well, 41 percent of that, or \$2.46, goes to education and higher education. We have a 3.07-percent personal income tax. If you earn \$100 today, you pay \$3.07 in personal income tax; \$1.26 of that goes to education and higher education.

Mr. Speaker, if people look at all the taxes they pay during the course of an entire year, 41 percent of it is for education and higher education, so all the State taxes that people pay in January, February, March, April, and May – that is 41 percent of the year – go to education and higher education. Mr. Speaker,

we are very, very serious about funding education and higher education in this proposal.

When you look back at past years, if you look at the part of the budget labeled education— When you look at the budget, there is the education part; there is the higher education part. If you look at the education part where school districts get their money, the last year of the Rendell administration it was \$9.6 billion. This proposal has \$10.3 billion; that is \$675 million more. That section of the budget, there are a couple dozen line items, that is where you find basic education funding, special education funding, school employee retirement funding, school bus funding, library funding, funding for the Department of Ed, school construction and renovations reimbursement – all of those things are in that part of the budget. It is \$675 million a year more than it was under the last Rendell budget.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 2 years I have heard probably thousands of times that the State is cutting money that goes to the schools, and that is simply not true. Every single person in this room and every single person in Pennsylvania knows that when the Federal stimulus funding ended, we were no longer getting the temporary, one-time-only supplemental funding from the stimulus. Mr. Speaker, we are putting more money to our schools. The Federal government is putting less money. So how is that a Corbett funding cut for schools? Mr. Speaker, I would maintain it is an Obama funding cut. Mr. Speaker, it is the Federal government that is cutting funding, not the State. The numbers bear it out. And people need to be honest about what is going on with school funding. For people to say Pennsylvania is not funding our schools; Pennsylvania is not funding our colleges; we are unfunding everything: 41 percent of the proposal is for education and higher education.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would strongly support this piece of legislation. I encourage everybody to vote for HB 1437 because it is a very strong commitment. We ask people in Pennsylvania to work 5 months a year to pay personal income tax to fund education and higher education. We make people pay sales tax 5 months a year to pay for education and higher education. There are a lot of other things the State needs to do. We need to take care of people with disabilities. We have to have the Department of Health and DEP, all these other things. We cannot spend every single dollar on one item.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery County, Mr. McCarter.

Mr. McCARTER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We have heard a lot today about facts. In fact, this budget is a clear indicator of the differences between the philosophies and values delineated between the two parties in this chamber. The Republican budget as expressed in HB 1437 values continued cuts in basic and higher education, cuts in human services, further elimination of environmental improvement, a lack of commitment in dealing with infrastructure needs, and a lack of commitment to the people of this great State.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that as legislators, we were called into public service to improve the state of this Commonwealth. I rise today on this floor to implore my colleagues to be bold, to be the leaders we all know that we are as individuals. Let us take bold, visionary action this budget season. Let us decide to make prosperous change and take quick steps in order to bring a vision for Pennsylvania into focus,

Mr. Speaker. We have a real opportunity with the Marcellus Shale industry to generate additional seed money to not only fix our infrastructure and restore education funding, but we also have a real opportunity to grow new, exciting, and innovative job opportunities for our workers.

Let us ask the Marcellus Shale industry to partner with us through a little seed money – no more, Mr. Speaker, than they are already paying in other States that house natural gas drilling. Then let us be smart, Mr. Speaker. That little amount of seed money from our corporate partners would go a long way in creating the second, next big boom to our economy. Now, that would be bold, Mr. Speaker. It would be bold, visionary, and strong, strong for overcoming our current hurdles and visionary for building our future. Mr. Speaker, that is the path that the Markosek amendment, rejected Monday, would have placed us on. And along with the revenue suggested earlier from the Marcellus Shale industry, we could go beyond even this Democratic-proposed budget. We could do so much more. We can do better than the callous attempts to spin the bad budget into something that does not address a positive future for Pennsylvania.

Earlier today we heard about facts from the Appropriations chair. One was that we are spending more money on education than anything in the budget. Well, gee, is that not what we are supposed to be doing? Is that not the major core function, really, of government in Pennsylvania, to look at education and help our students? We are spending \$28.3 billion in budget; a fact. But these facts are dwarfed by the fact that the budget does not address the needs of Pennsylvania's citizens. That is a fact.

When the I-81 overpass was destroyed a few weeks ago, it created a need. It needs to be replaced; a fact. But when school districts are laying off hundreds if not thousands of employees, a need is there to help them continue the education for our students. That is a fact, and are we meeting that fact?

Mr. Speaker, let us make Pennsylvania proud. Let us reinvest in the immediate and long-term needs of our people for the future of this great Commonwealth. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this budget. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Mercer County, Mr. Longietti.

Mr. LONGIETTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We are here today to talk about the State budget, to talk about money. And money matters. My remarks are focused on education funding. After all, we have a constitutional duty to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education, and about 40 percent of our budget is dedicated to education funding.

When we talk about the budget, we hear a lot of figures – \$28.3 billion in State spending, \$66 billion in State and Federal spending, \$10 billion devoted to education. It sounds like a lot of money because it is a lot of money. And I do not have a real idea of what \$1 billion is other than it is a lot of money. So it is important to give it context to better understand whether the State is doing its fair share when it comes to public education, because money matters.

Public schools receive money from three sources: State aid; local support, primarily in the form of local property taxes; and a little bit of Federal aid. And at one time the State had a goal of contributing 50 percent of the cost. A few years ago we hit 44 percent. With this budget we are down to 32 percent. To put that into context, the national average is 48 percent. So

Pennsylvania will contribute 16 percent less than the national average.

Does money matter? I think it does. On Monday the gentleman from Delaware County, the House Appropriations chairman, pointed out some statistics about schools in wealthy communities and schools in poor communities. I believe the statistics were accurate. The wealthiest schools in the State rely mostly on local support, local property taxes. For some of them, over 80 percent of their budget is paid for by local property taxes, not State support, yet some of these same schools spend twice as much per student on their schools. They spend \$17,000 per student while some poor schools only spend \$9,000 per student, and 80 percent of that \$17,000 is coming from the local property tax payer. In other words, they choose, they choose to spend twice as much and they are willing to spend it directly out of their own pockets. Why? Because they recognize that money matters.

Now to the poor schools, the ones that spend about \$9,000 per pupil on their public school system. Some of these receive 80 percent of their overall support from the State, with only about 20 percent coming from local taxpayers, yet their local tax effort is high because they lack a property tax base. They do not have a property tax base. Two years ago when the first Corbett budget cut \$860 million from public education, they were hit the hardest and they felt it the most, and since they have very little tax base, they could not help themselves. They laid off staff, cut positions through attrition, eliminated tutoring programs and extracurriculars, increased class sizes, and eliminated course offerings, and that continues today because we never restored their funding, and this budget fails to restore their funding.

So Monday's headline in my local newspaper was, quote, "Parents, board square off over budget." The article described parents in Sharon as "angry." We know why. Money matters, and a lack of money means more layoffs, larger class sizes, less offerings, fewer tutors, perhaps no full-day kindergarten, and higher local property taxes. Sharon is a poor school district, so there is little they can do to help themselves when the State's share of public education funding shrinks.

But where would the State money come from? I consider myself a pro-business Democrat. I have voted for budgets that cut business taxes because I want our businesses to succeed, but how about when it comes to a choice between more business tax cuts or to restoring some education funding? I know that no matter how many business tax cuts we offer, we will not attract and retain businesses without an educated workforce that can do the job. When we shortchange public education, we shortchange the future of business in Pennsylvania. When we adopt a budget predicated on more tax cuts for businesses and no plan to restore the hundreds of millions of dollars cut from public education, we miss the mark.

So money matters. Thirty-two percent from the State is not enough—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend. His time has expired.

Mr. LONGIETTI. —even when it is measured in billions. It is an abrogation of our constitutional duty to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education. It is the reason I must reject this budget and it is why I call on my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I have to reject this budget because it does not—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend. The time has expired.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the lady from Clarion County, Ms. Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I first want to commend the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and his staff for the job well done.

And I understand, and I believe the rest of this chamber realizes, that it is easy to reject a budget. There are 28.3 reasons to say no. You can say that it does not spend enough, that it spends too much, that it does not have my priorities in it, but I can tell you that this budget really takes a good look at the people who pay for the dollars in this budget. These are real dollars that hardworking people go out and they earn. They are real dollars from their pockets, and this budget, it lives within its means.

So when you look at it, if your priority is education, this budget invests \$10 billion. Almost a third of the budget is in basic education. It invests in early childhood education. It also invests in our science, technology, engineering, and math, and restores the mobile science funds. And it provides \$3 million in equipment for our career and technical schools. It also level-funds our higher education. These are all good things.

If your priority is health- and disease-related funding, it restores \$7.2 million to the Department of Health for diabetes, epilepsy, lupus, ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), Tourette's, and a number of other items.

If it is the environment that you care about, it restores money for the conservation districts that are all very important to all of our communities. It increases funding for DEP in both environmental protection and program management.

And if it is public safety that you are concerned about, it allows for 300 new troopers and proposes \$4 million in violence protection programs. It also provides \$1.5 million for the State Police forensic labs so that we can review the things that are collected at a crime scene quickly and get the bad guys quicker.

And it also looks at job creation, recommending \$5 million for career-oriented training programs so that we can get Pennsylvanians back to work in skilled jobs that are available now.

I think this is a great budget. There are always reasons to say no, but I think that it is a responsible budget that really lives within its means and pays attention to the people who are paying the bill, and I would respectfully request a "yes" vote.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the lady from Luzerne County, Ms. Mundy.

Ms. MUNDY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I stand here today having been an advocate for high-quality early childhood care and education for my entire 22 years here in the General Assembly. I and my Democratic colleagues are so very disappointed that this House Republican budget proposal is so woefully inadequate in support for our youngest citizens: our children.

At a press conference convened last week by the Early Childhood Education Caucus, representatives from the Early Learning Investment Commission, from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, and from Mission: Readiness spoke about how important it is to their interests to adequately fund the early care and education of Pennsylvania's children. These business, law

enforcement, and military leaders told us that in order to achieve a skilled and educated workforce, a military workforce capable of defending us using today's high-tech equipment, and to reduce crime with fewer criminals clogging our courts and driving up our prison budget, we need to make the necessary investments now to make sure our youngest children reach school age ready to learn.

These professionals understand what countless studies have proven over and over again, and that is, the economic and social benefits of high-quality early childhood care and education, which earn between \$7 to \$16 for every dollar we invest, and the reverse is true. Failing to make these investments will cost us \$7 to \$16 later on. Unfortunately, our State budget's two child-care line items have been cut by \$63 million since 2010, and today this Republican budget bill locks in \$53 million of those cuts – \$3 million less than even Governor Corbett proposed.

I would urge you to listen to those in business, in law enforcement, and in the military regarding what they need and what we must do to meet those needs. We must restore the smart investments we made over the past decade in early childhood programs and in subsidized child care for working low-income families. Surely we can do better than this budget bill proposes.

How can any of the 125 members of the Early Childhood Education Caucus or any member of this General Assembly in good conscience proclaim support for high-quality early childhood education for Pennsylvania's children, especially for our most at-risk children, and still vote for this House Republican budget bill?

If you can find hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks and tax credits for the largest and wealthiest multi-State, multinational corporations without any assurance of a single new job, then surely you can squeeze out the paltry \$3 million in early childhood restorations the Governor proposed, and surely we can afford to make the significant early childhood investments we need to assure Pennsylvania's future.

Until we can do that, I will not support this poor excuse for a budget. I ask you all for a negative vote.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the lady from Allegheny County, Ms. Molchany.

Ms. MOLCHANY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a government by the people and for the people should serve the people. This budget, the most important constitutional responsibility of this chamber, does not serve the men and women of Pennsylvania. The majority leader on Monday talked of this budget being caring and compassionate. This budget is caring for CEOs (chief executive officers) and compassionate toward our corporations.

In the last two budgets, the Corbett administration and the House Republicans have gutted education funding and essential public services that our friends, families, and neighbors rely upon to survive. They have lowered and will soon eliminate the capital stock and franchise tax. The result of these budget policies and priorities is a Pennsylvania that ranks 49th in job growth and second in student loan debt in the U.S. This year's budget is more of the same. This budget preserves cuts to programs that help our neighbors and favors corporations with tax credits they do not need. The cuts close doors of opportunity for most and preserve tax havens and tax loopholes for the few.

Ask a student, ask a senior citizen, a public transit rider, a



nonprofit or small business owner, ask a taxpayer, who does this budget benefit?

We have all heard the same numbers over and over again during the debate, but these are not just numbers on a page that we are all talking about. These are people whom you and I represent. Each dollar cut represents opportunities lost for all Pennsylvanians – students, seniors, retirees, middle-class working families, and especially women.

This budget is most definitely a women's issue. Early childhood education is a women's issue. In 3 years the Republicans have cut the public school's accountability block grant and investment in early childhood development by 60 percent. This money provided thousands of families with an opportunity to get their children off on the right foot and give them the tools they need to succeed.

Medicaid expansion is a women's issue. Medicaid expansion could insure more than 200,000 women in the Commonwealth who are currently making choices between medical care and groceries.

Protecting our pension system is a women's issue. Sixty-seven percent of PSERS (Public School Employees' Retirement System) recipients are women, and we have an obligation to protect their retirement.

Public transportation is a women's issue. It is absolutely essential to the economic welfare of my district. Get on the bus or on the trolley or on the incline in my district, and chances are you will be sitting next to a woman. Women are 20 percent more likely to use public transportation to get to work.

Job creation is a women's issue. The unemployment rate for women is 7.7 percent, only slightly below the Commonwealth as a whole. Women are particularly devastated by the cuts to State and local government jobs, where they make up more than 60 percent of the workforce nationwide. Tens of thousands of women in Pennsylvania have dropped out of the labor force or are underemployed. They are part of that population waiting for the job growth that we have performed so pitifully at.

This whole budget is a women's issue, a family issue, and a Pennsylvanian's issue. This is a budget more concerned with the well-being of our citizens housed in post office boxes in Delaware than homes in Beechview or Mount Washington.

This whole budget, unlike the last two of Governor Corbett's budgets, is a disaster for the people of Pennsylvania. I have sat in the stands with the rest of Pennsylvania disgusted. Every break given to Fill-in-the-Blank, Inc., subtracts from the investment we should have made in the lives of Mom and Dad, Inc.

Today I am not watching; I am participating. And although this budget may pass, I will continue to speak out for better government that serves the people, for investment in my district and all of yours, and for the voices of women not represented here today.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask that my colleagues join me in voting "no" on HB 1437. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the lady from Philadelphia County, Ms. DeLissio.

Ms. DeLISSIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on May 23 I held my second Voices of the Community budget hearing for the citizens of the 194th Legislative District. During almost 4 hours of testimony, I heard from a variety of engaged citizens.

Constituents representing Jane and John Q. Public and executive directors of facility- and community-based organizations testified and wanted to be clear about what they thought the State's budget priority should be to better support their efforts to work, live, and play in thriving communities.

A retired transportation planner expressed strong interest in transportation funding, particularly related to mass transit and to Amtrak.

A public school teacher emotionally related the devastating impact on her first grade students as a result of the chronic and disproportionate underfunding of our public schools. There are zero dollars, she told us, for resources and materials for next year for her students; zero dollars, Mr. Speaker.

The executive director of a local economic development corporation testified that without long-past-due improvements and enhancements to a major travel corridor, he would be at a severe disadvantage to attract new businesses to the district.

Individuals who are in the front lines of providing services to some of our most vulnerable individuals, those citizens who have an intellectual, developmental, or physical disability, testified about their frustration with burdensome rules, mandates, and insufficient funding to permit them to do their jobs in a manner that best serves their clients, who are my constituents.

One CEO held focus group meetings among his residents to better relay to me their thoughts and concerns about the State budget priorities. It was made perfectly clear that the funding that these residents no longer have access to has indeed compromised their independence.

Another provider indicated that while providing funding for folks with intellectual disabilities who are currently on the waiting list is indeed a concept that is laudable, the reality is that the rates that the providers are paid will not allow them to offer services to those individuals whose needs are complex. Testifiers were clear that the impacts of Act 22 of 2011 have a half-life that still threatens to jeopardize programs, and no one has been privy to the amount of fraud, waste, and abuse that has been discovered and the dollars saved, which was the ostensible purpose of Act 22.

One parent testified that the parents have undertaken to fundraise \$100,000 to help fill the \$700,000 loss of funding to his son's school. That effort is indeed praiseworthy, but those funding efforts should be directed at programs that enhance the educational experience and not to ensure delivery of the basics.

An eighth grade student testified that his school had applied for and was awarded a \$30,000 grant for musical instruments. The irony is that their music teacher is no longer in the budget. This particular student also wanted to know how the Governor thought schools could be in compliance with State and Federal mandates given the lack of funding for programs and education basics. It should be noted that this student testified with poise and eloquence and with no written notes. My concern is that his future educational experience will not be commensurate with the educational experience that brought him to this point.

A nun testified that MA expansion was a jobs bill and conveyed her vexation and dismay that the legislature was not yet behind this opportunity, not to mention the fact that healthier citizens would be more productive and less costly to our currently overburdened health-care system.

As I was last year, I was impressed and heartened by those who made the time to have input into our budget process. My take-away from this hearing included the facts that testifiers

were clear that they are aware the economy is still recovering, that the legislative process must include stakeholders at all levels to help identify efficiencies so that program dollars will go further, revenue opportunities have not been exhausted and they were looking for answers to why additional revenue has not been included.

Due to the glaring inadequacies of this budget, Mr. Speaker, I will be a "no" vote today and urge my colleagues to be the same. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Maher.

Mr. MAHER. Mr. Speaker, I believe that all members of the House attach great importance to education. From the debate that I have listened to today and in connection with some of the amendments, I think the importance of education has been underscored again and again, and not just by the words that have been spoken but by the underlying arithmetic. I would suggest that we have a demonstrated need for some remedial arithmetic in this chamber.

We have heard relentless repetition of the claim that public school funding has been reduced a billion dollars, when in fact if you look – start with looking at the basic education line; you will see that this year it totals \$5.5 billion. Back at the year which is being pointed to as a high-water mark, the final year of the past Governor's budget, that amounted to \$4.7 billion.

Now, I daresay that any child in a third grade class would not have much difficulty understanding that \$5.5 billion is an \$800 million increase in the support for basic education, and yet I am told again and again by my colleagues that somehow or another this is a decrease. And I would suggest that if you cannot tell the difference between an \$800 million increase and a billion dollar decrease, well, maybe that actually explains how the State got in the fiscal mess that it did in the past administration.

Total education funding has also increased overall, even taking into account the billion dollars of Federal money that was there and is now gone. Nonetheless, total education spending is increased overall. Now, to the extent that you have got concerns about that billion dollars of Federal funds being discontinued after fiscal year 2011, how many of you have written to the President and asked for him to return it? You are in the wrong room to complain about that. Send a letter to the President and ask him to restore that billion dollars. That is where it stopped. It did not stop here.

You know, one of our colleagues suggested there is disparity in how these funds are distributed for education and ticked off a number of districts. I am pleased that he thought to mention Upper St. Clair, which is my home, and incidentally, USA Today just recognized as one of the best school districts in Pennsylvania. People in Upper St. Clair take education very seriously. In fact, a lot of people choose that community because of its commitment to education. Now, basic education funding in Upper St. Clair comes in at a whopping \$5.29 cents per day, per pupil; \$5.29.

Now, the gentleman who is suggesting that somehow there is a disparity that favors districts like Upper St. Clair, his district receives five times as much, five times as much. There is in fact a disparity. My communities and many of the other members here's communities really pay for their school districts locally with a bit of help from the State but then contribute to the greater good to fund other school districts like my friend from

Lancaster. I would suggest that if he wants to cure this disparity and have an even distribution of funding per child to every school district in the State, then my people would probably welcome it. They would be very happy to take that on. But if you cannot tell the difference between \$5.29 a day and \$25.81 a day, well, I guess I can understand why you might see things as being unfair, but I do not, I do not.

Let us stick to honest arithmetic. We have got a balanced budget, we are looking to be on time, and we are not spending money that we do not have.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Sims.

Mr. SIMS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues rose this morning to quote a Republican President, and I was reminded this morning of a quote by President Abraham Lincoln, when he said, "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crises. The great point is to bring them the real facts."

Mr. Speaker, it is in this spirit that I rise today in opposition to this budget that once again refuses to take responsibility for the fate of Pennsylvania's children. This budget continues to undervalue, undereducate, and undercut those who must one day stand in our shoes in this very chamber. I refuse to accept the notion that we have done all we can to provide for the education of our children, that we have given our teachers and public school employees the tools and resources required to deliver a first-class education. I refuse to even consider the claim that a 10-percent restoration after a \$1 billion cut is somehow record funding of education. I refuse to accept that denying 500,000 Pennsylvanians access to quality, affordable health care is somehow in the Commonwealth's best interests. I refuse to accept that continuing to dole out corporate handout after corporate handout at the expense of public education is a genuine and sustainable path to job creation and economic development.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, as do many of my colleagues in this chamber, that investing in the innovators, the job creators, and the workforce of tomorrow is the wisest and most fiscally prudent course of action today. I believe that dollars invested in schools today are dollars we do not have to spend on prisons and courts tomorrow. I believe no less that the children we empower, inspire, and educate today will be best equipped to take on the problems of tomorrow. But this budget sacrifices those children. It sacrifices their future in favor of a politically exposed and entrenched Governor, a Governor who has forced the legislators in his own party to shoulder the burden of his pet projects gone wrong.

You see, Mr. Speaker, I look at this room, at my colleagues, and I see former public school students. I see public school parents. I see former public school teachers, administrators, and experts. I see no less than the room best equipped to actually solve this enormous problem, and we have the tools to begin to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania must opt in to Medicaid expansion for so many reasons, and the devastating effects on our budget if we do not are among the best. Opting in means 500,000 Pennsylvanians, a half a million of our friends and neighbors, will finally have access to quality, affordable health care. Opting in will create 40,000 jobs all across the

Commonwealth and stem the tide of job losses that health-care facilities across the State are facing. Mr. Speaker, opting in will put tens of billions of dollars of Federal funds into our State and our local economies over the next decade. Moreover, it will immediately lessen the tax burden that this Governor has placed on counties and municipalities desperately trying to provide services despite a State government determined to eliminate them.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, opting in to Medicaid expansion will free up enough money in our budget to begin to restore the funding our public education system so badly needs and deserves, and that is where we find ourselves here today.

This budget we are debating is a bad budget. It is antieducation and it is anti-Pennsylvanian, a budget that will not only hurt hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians directly today but will ultimately hurt millions of us perhaps for a generation to come if we do nothing. We can do better and we must do better.

There are 203 legislators in this room, most of who, just like me, are not thinking about the Governor. We are not thinking about our campaigns. We are not thinking about political action committees or even the pressure from our own parties. What we are all thinking about are our neighbors, our families, and an entire generation of children that we cannot fail in this critical way. We have the collective and the specific knowledge to fix this problem, Mr. Speaker, to do better, and this is where we can start – here, today. We will not solve everything, and I am certain we will not agree on everything, but we simply have to start.

Mr. Speaker, in the slightly amended words of Dr. Martin Luther King, quote, "I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men" and women "can build up."

I may be new in my role, Mr. Speaker, but I know already that the men and women of this great body, on both sides of the aisle, want better for our children, and we have the expertise and the experience to make that happen.

Let us vote down this bad legislation—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. SIMS. —and roll up our sleeves, do the work we were sent here to do, and send the Senate and the Governor a bill that is an honest and authentic reflection of our best efforts.

For these reasons and those given by my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members vote "no" on HB 1437.

The SPEAKER. Your time has expired.

Mr. SIMS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Roebuck. The gentleman waives off.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Northampton County, Mr. Freeman. The gentleman waives off.

Shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Kortz.

Mr. KORTZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to address the education portion of this budget and some of the comments made by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, the statement was made that this Republican budget represents the most money ever given to education in this State. So I went back and compared what happened in the

last administration's budget compared to my schools that will receive money this year. I have five school districts, Mr. Speaker: Baldwin-Whitehall, McKeesport, South Allegheny, West Mifflin, and West Jefferson Hills, otherwise known as TJ that I share with my colleague from the 39th District. The results show the following, sir: West Jefferson Hills – TJ – still loses \$541,000. They did not gain any money. West Mifflin still loses \$601,000; South Allegheny loses \$840,000; Baldwin-Whitehall loses \$999,000; and McKeesport loses \$2,544,000. The total losses of my five schools are \$5,528,000. We did not get any more money. Now, maybe my colleague from Crawford County, his schools got more money, and the current speaker who represents Upper St. Clair, maybe his district got a lot of money, but mine did not.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear: Governor Corbett and the Republican-seal-of-approval budgets have cut education by nearly \$1 billion overall. K-to-12 education was slammed along with higher ed. The cuts inflicted on K to 12 incurred the following pain to the school districts that still resonate today, and it includes 20,000 teachers and staff laid off, increase to class sizes, certain classes and programs cut like language classes, "Science: It's Elementary," dual enrollment. Some schools instituted pay-to-play for their sports, and the poorest districts were slammed the hardest, like Duquesne and Chester Upland.

The results to the homeowners, Mr. Speaker, their property taxes have gone up. Tell them that they have not gone up. That is not true. They all know they have gone up, and they all know who incurred it, Mr. Speaker.

Further checking into higher education, which I was compelled to do, we saw that Governor Corbett in budget year number one proposed a 50-percent cut, and to the credit of this body, it was reduced to only, only a 19-percent cut, but that is still a loss of \$47 million to Pitt, a school in my county. The community colleges were cut \$23 1/2 million, Mr. Speaker. In my district the Community College of Allegheny County has lost \$3.5 million for the last 2 years, and we are going to have another \$3.5 million loss this year. It is unacceptable. The results of these cuts to higher ed: programs and classes cut, layoffs, building maintenance deferred, and tuition increases, Mr. Speaker. The tuitions have gone up and have forced some of these students out of school.

Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago we had the opportunity to right this wrong by adopting the Markosek omnibus amendment that would have provided a path to restoration over 3 years, but the Republicans that control this body voted "no." His second amendment would have added some funds to basic ed, dual enrollment, school improvement, PA accountability grants, educational assistance program, and others, but that was not adopted either.

Representative Samuelson proposed a budget-neutral amendment to help fund community colleges, voted down by this body. The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is this: Governor Corbett's budget, in collaboration with his Republican allies, has cut education – period. And the pain continues, Mr. Speaker.

This Republican Caucus cannot change history nor the facts. And there were moneys left on the table that could have softened the pain, but we refused to address it, like temporarily halting the phaseout of the capital stock and franchise tax, \$120 million; charter and cyber school reform that the good

chairman proposed, \$360 million; Marcellus Shale, a small reasonable fee, \$800 million. There is \$1.2 billion, not even counting the Delaware loophole.

Mr. Speaker, the people who are suffering from these cuts do not care where the money comes from, State or Federal. Their perspective is that the cut is there and this Republican Governor did this, and I might add, the current poll numbers reflect this in their disapproval. Trickle down has evolved into hammer down, and the people have felt this crushing effect of these poor policies, Mr. Speaker.

For all the students in this State, for their parents, for all the property owners, I ask for a "no" vote on HB 1437. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE (JOHN MAHER) PRESIDING

#### REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentledady from Fayette County, Representative Kula.

Mrs. KULA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to submit my remarks for the record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentledady and wishes to repeat that the gentledady is submitting her remarks for the record. Thank you.

Mrs. KULA submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote against the Republican budget, HB 1437. This budget does little to support the priorities that my constituents – and most Pennsylvanians – hold dear. In fact, voting for this budget is, in effect, a vote against those priorities.

A vote for this budget is a vote against education. This budget will not restore the 20,000 education jobs that have been lost over the past 3 years, nor will it improve our Commonwealth's ranking of second for average college student debt.

A vote for this budget is a vote against human services. This budget will not restore funding for at-risk youths, mental health services, intellectual disabilities, and drug and alcohol programs. So if a friend or family member utilizes any of these services, please let them know that help is not on the way.

A vote for this budget is a vote against seniors. This budget assumes the plan by the Governor to sell the Pennsylvania Lottery. Despite overwhelming public opposition to the sale of the lottery – and the rejection of the contract by the Attorney General – the Governor persists in spending millions of taxpayer dollars in pursuit of a solution to a problem that simply does not exist, dollars that could be used to expand services to seniors, not to put them at risk.

A vote for this budget is a vote against accessible, affordable health care. This budget does not assume the financial benefits that would be gained through the expansion of Medicaid. By opting into Medicaid expansion, we can provide health care to half a million uninsured Pennsylvanians, while bringing tens of billions of Federal dollars into the Pennsylvania economy.

A vote for this budget is a vote against job creation. This budget repeats the same failed ideas as the two before it. Even though average, middle-class Pennsylvanians have been told to tighten their belts and do more with less, the Governor and our Republican colleagues somehow found over \$1 billion in tax breaks to lavish on corporations. We were told that this would spur job growth, and yet Pennsylvania

still has a higher unemployment rate than the national average. We are still waiting for those jobs.

It is said time and time again that a budget is a document of priorities. This is a budget proposal of misguided priorities that turns a deaf ear to the wants and needs of everyday Pennsylvanians. If you support the strengthening of education, if you support a strong social safety net, if you support our seniors, if you support access to health care, and if you support the creation of jobs, then you must vote "no" on HB 1437. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On the question of final passage, the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative DiGirolamo, is recognized.

Mr. DiGIROLAMO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is a song from when I was growing up back in the sixties by The Byrds that I think many of you are familiar with. It is called "Turn! Turn! Turn!," and it is based from the Bible, Ecclesiastes, and it says that there is a time for everything. So here we are in our legislature, a time to work and pass our State budget.

And I have been here for, this is my 19th State budget, and the one thing that I have learned from dealing with all of them is that if you are looking for that perfect budget to vote "yes" on, that you are going to be here for 119 years and you are never going to find that budget.

But saying that, I would like to just concentrate for a little bit on the human services part of the budget. Three main issues: first, when it comes to the block granting of human services, and I have made no secret that I am not a fan of block granting human services. I do not believe you should be pitting these poor people fighting amongst each other for a limited source of revenue. But with that said, we have a 20-county pilot block grant program right now in place in the State of Pennsylvania that some people want to expand, and I think it is premature to talk about expansion. It has only been up and running since the end of January. Let us give it some time to see how it is working. What is wrong with doing an evaluation, let us say, afterwards working a year before we talk about expansion? I think that is the only reasonable thing to do.

When it comes to funding of human services, there is some good news in this budget. There is an additional \$20 million for the waiting list, which is really, really good news. The moneys that our counties get to fund human services is level-funded. I would really like to see some more money being put back into the moneys that our counties get for these poor, vulnerable citizens of ours. And we have 2 1/2 weeks left to go. I realize that, that when we talk about the budget, it is an eternity, so it is my hope and absolutely my prayer that if there is additional money before we pass the final budget, that that money goes into human services. I think that should be a priority.

And the third issue I would like to talk about, which I really think is the elephant in the room when we talk about the budget, is Medicaid expansion. That is the elephant in the room. As far as I am concerned, it is the most important decision Pennsylvania has to make in the 19 years that I have been here in the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Two separate issues when we talk about the affordable health care act that are important for everyone to understand. We have the one issue of the exchanges and the penalties and the business and the mandates. A lot of people do not like that. There are some things in there I do not like. Put that on the side of one issue.

The second issue is the Medicaid expansion. States and Governors in 30 States, and many of them are no fan of the affordable health care act, have decided that expanding in the Medicaid is the right thing to do for their State, and there are a couple reasons why, and there are a lot of misconceptions. First, the population that Medicaid expansion is going to cover is the working poor. Almost 100 percent of these people are in the workforce. They are making \$8, \$10, \$12 an hour with no health-care benefits at their place of employment.

Another important point that was brought up at a hearing I had last week, that if we expand in the Medicaid, that we can cover 50 percent of the uninsured veterans that live in Pennsylvania. I want to say that again: We can cover 50 percent of the uninsured veterans that live here in the State of Pennsylvania. Three studies, from the Independent Fiscal Office, the Economy League, and the RAND foundation, all point to the economic benefits: \$3.5 to \$4 billion coming into the State of Pennsylvania; 35,000 to 40,000 new jobs. It has been said over and over again.

You know, I know there are some concerns, but I think there is a way that we can make this work for the State of Pennsylvania. I have introduced a bill, 1492. I think I have addressed some of those concerns.

And I would like to remind the members that Ronald Reagan during his Presidency expanded Medicaid three times during his Presidency, Ronald Reagan.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, 2 1/2 weeks to go. When it comes to the budget, it is an eternity. I hope we can address some of these issues before we pass the final budget, and I remind the members that we are going to get another vote here in the House on this budget.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentledady from Philadelphia, Ms. Bishop.

Ms. BISHOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It seems that this administration has developed a pattern of shortchanging the children, the youth, and the families around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but I will continue my fight against this by sharing my opposition to this budget.

Mr. Speaker, resources are greatly needed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for our children. The budget shortchanges the State Attorney General's Office. We must provide adequate funding to the Attorney General so that she is fully equipped with the necessary staff and all of the resources needed to carry out investigations that keep drugs and weapons off the streets and protect the children from child sexual predators. We simply cannot continue to expect the current Attorney General to adequately protect our children with over 100 vacancies, open positions that have not yet been filled. We have to make sure that the Attorney General has the agents, the attorneys, and other resources necessary to carry out investigations that shield our children from great danger.

Mr. Speaker, critical county human services programs for children and youth are all on the line. As Democratic chairwoman of the House Children and Youth Committee, I have heard from numerous providers across Pennsylvania. I have heard about the difficult choices that they are forced to make whenever it comes to staffing, providing services to children and families in need. Now, we must give our counties

the funding necessary to keep staff on hand to meet the needs of the children and families in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Education is grossly underserved by this budget. We need to get back to the business of where we were before the \$1 billion cut in education was implemented. Putting money back into education, both basic education and higher education, will benefit our children by preparing them for a brighter future and putting them in a positive path of success and well-being. It will also keep them out of jail. Study after study has shown that investing in education pays off down the road, it really does. It puts Pennsylvanians back to work, allowing many parents to again provide for their children, provide for their families.

The budget is missing out on many funding opportunities, one of them being Medicaid expansion. Expanding insurance coverage to over 500,000 Pennsylvanians will improve the health and well-being of low-income adults and children. Medicaid expansion will also bring well-paying jobs into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, allowing parents and caregivers to make family-sustaining wages.

My priority is the children. If we do not give them the tools they need to be healthy, to be educated, to be prepared for the future, then we are not investing in Pennsylvania's children.

Mr. Speaker, the cries of the children are not Democratic cries. I am sure you have heard that before from me. The cries from the children are not Republican cries. The cries of the children are not Black and White, they are not Asian, they are not Hispanic, but the children are crying out of pain because they are hungry, because they are neglected, and because they are in need, and we need to hear the cries of our children and vote "no" for HB 1437. Again, Mr. Speaker, unless we vote "no," we are just sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

It is time for me to close, but let your fingers do the talking by pushing your vote for "no" on HB 1437. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentledady and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentledady from Montgomery County, Ms. Daley.

Ms. DALEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For those members who may not know me that well, in my previous job I ran the financial operation of a department at the University of Pennsylvania. In that job, I was responsible for creating and managing my department's budget. At Penn we followed the principle that the budget is a statement of priorities for the organization and that the budget tells the story of what is important. To that end, watching this budget process I see a glaring hole in our priorities, mainly in the area of education funding.

In the past two budgets, we have seen drastic, drastic reductions for public education funding. These cuts have real impacts in our districts. They create hard choices for our school districts, putting immense budgetary pressure on school budgets to the point where class sizes balloon, after-school services disappear, and teachers file for unemployment. HB 1437 is no different. HB 1437 does not reverse this tide; it only perpetuates it. If a budget is a statement on priorities, this budget certainly does not prioritize public education.

Education is an investment in our children, in our neighborhoods, in our economy, and in our great State. Starting with early childhood education through higher education, education is an investment. Many of us proudly bring groups of

students to the Capitol when they win State championships or excel in academic areas. Yesterday we applauded a group of students excelling in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) studies. Last month I was fortunate to attend an awards ceremony for Lower Merion School District students in my district that included the science olympiad team that placed first statewide for 16 consecutive years. I am fortunate to represent wonderful school districts that provide excellent public education and have the support of the local taxpayers. The taxpayers in my district understand that education is an investment, and they move into these areas because of the excellent schools.

But this is not the full story. One of my school districts is planning on using furloughs and demotions to make up their budget gap. Other school districts are planning property tax increases. These actions have real impact on our children – larger class sizes, fewer after-school programs, loss of instructional programs, and elimination of school counselors – but the taxpayers, and in particular, seniors on fixed incomes, suffer when their property taxes are increased, because in my district, in addition to great schools, we have food banks and community assistance programs, and my staff spends time helping constituents file for LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) assistance and property tax rebate applications. These are real issues for the people in my district who support public education with their local tax dollars.

And then if we look at public education statewide, or even regionally, we also see the lack of investment in areas with greater levels of poverty. My district borders Philadelphia. We benefit by living so close to a great American city that provides jobs, culture, shopping opportunities, and great sports teams, but we also understand the disparities in education between our great school districts and our neighboring Philadelphia School District. Many of my constituents teach in the Philadelphia School District. They are dedicated individuals who work hard to provide a good education to their students, but they spend their own money on school supplies for their students, for paper, even for toilet paper, because all of these items are not always provided in the Philadelphia schools. What a difference from the school districts that I represent. What a sad story for the children attending Philadelphia schools and what a sad story for Pennsylvania, because a great education produces economic gains and ensures the success of our State.

Remember I told you that I view education as an investment and that budgets tell a story. The priorities of this budget are unfortunately clear with the cuts per student to almost every school district in the Commonwealth, when we compare it to the 2010-11 budget.

I respectfully urge a "no" vote on HB 1437. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentledady and recognizes the gentleman from York County, Representative Grove, on the question of final passage.

Mr. GROVE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today we have the opportunity to set the spending priorities of the Commonwealth. HB 1437 makes historic investments in K-through-12 education, provides funding for public safety, protects our most vulnerable, and increases funding for environmental protection. This is a realistic budget based on actual revenues.

While the billions of temporary and borrowed Federal stimulus money has evaporated, we dug in and balanced our past two budgets within our means. Now we are reaping the

rewards of revenue growth without raising taxes on struggling families and job creators. This budget increases spending by over half a billion dollars without raising taxes. We are creating a job-growth economy by holding the line on spending, not raising taxes, and ending the double taxation of job creators. What we will be voting on today will continue to place our Commonwealth on the path of prosperity.

Education funding is obviously a topic of every budget. It is an important aspect of our budget. It encompasses a large section of our budget. Between 1998 and 2008, the General Assembly increased education funding by 66 percent. It was met at the local level with property tax increases totaling 77 percent, while inflation was around 30 percent. The spending priorities of school districts are not connected to State spending. More money does not equate to less school property taxes. That is a local decision by local school districts.

Another aspect I have been hearing today is about Medicaid expansion and all these Republican Governors joining in. There has been one State to date that has signed on the dotted line, and that is California. No other State has actually signed on the dotted line. Why? Uncertainty. We have a Federal government that has yet to pass a budget under the current administration. We have a Federal government that promised special education funding and has not delivered. Are there questions whether the Federal government, without having to come up with a budget, with borrowing money just to fit basic funding priorities, are they going to meet their requirements under the Medicaid expansion? Is it wise to put one in four Pennsylvania residents under welfare programs? Is it wise to move children off the CHIP program for less benefits under Medicaid expansion? Is that wise? We have a Governor that said, let us wait. Let us have discussions. Let us find out what this actually means and not dive into it as dollar signs accumulate across this Commonwealth to say it will provide us more money. Well, that might not be the case, and it is not wise to jump into any major decision that can be a detriment to our children and Pennsylvanians.

I urge my colleagues to support HB 1437. Let us focus on growing our economy, providing core functions of government, and not raising taxes on struggling families and job creators. Revenue growth will come from holding the line. We will get more money by not raising taxes. It has worked for the past few years. We have done an exceptional job of holding the line and growing jobs. At one point Pennsylvania actually grew more jobs than every other State combined, every other State combined.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this wonderful spending priority for Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman, noting he had over a minute remaining of his allotment, and recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Representative Gainey, on the question of final passage.

Mr. GAINNEY. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. How are you today?

I rise to oppose HB 1437 for various reasons, but one of the main reasons is, I came here to be a State Representative. I wanted to serve. I wanted to make sure that we provide the greatest opportunity to the greatest asset that we have, called our children.

I have heard a lot of conversations about how we have restored the funding that we have cut from education, but if you

cut \$1 billion and only restore \$100 million, you have done nothing, nothing to close the gap. We know that we have so many of our school districts that are in trouble, that right now have been devastated by the cuts to education. In the city of Pittsburgh, by 2015 they may be bankrupt. We have lost \$824 per student in the city of Pittsburgh. We have lost \$724 in Wilkesburg per student.

We have an obligation, if we do nothing else, to make sure that we provide education to our kids. The worst thing we could have done was cut education by 50 percent and put the cart before the horse as if it could move forward. The only thing it can do is trip and fall over, and that is what we have done to public education. We have allowed it to be cut to a point where we are not properly educating the kids in the Commonwealth who are, who are our greatest asset.

You talk about transportation, and since I have been up here, I have been amazed. I hear this conversation about the rural areas, saying that we need money for our bridges and our roads and our infrastructure and mass transit for the urban areas. We are one Commonwealth. We need money for roads, bridges, and mass transportation. In one Commonwealth, if we are talking about business development, if we are talking about getting people to goods and services, we need transportation that works. So whether you are from the rural area or from the urban area, we have one obligation: to do transportation for the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We cannot continue to cut. We have cut it so much from human services, and you know that we need these programs. You talk about we want to be tough on crime. How can you be tough on crime when you continue to cut programs that help the people in this Commonwealth – \$23 million in funding cuts to children and youth, \$3 million in child-care programs, almost \$3 million to the physically disabled? We cannot continue to grow if we are cutting programs that help this Commonwealth. We need to be up here governing for the best issues and the best interests of the people in this Commonwealth.

So today I come to oppose HB 1437. There is no way that we can say this is the way to go. All I hear is cut, cut, cut, cut. When are we going to talk about revenue generators? When are we going to start talking about stop cutting and making sure that we have things in place that can tax Marcellus Shale? They even said, hey, we are getting it everywhere else. Why not here that can generate revenue for this Commonwealth, where we can really close the Delaware loophole, not manipulate it, but really close it? When are we going to create revenue-generating policies to make sure that we are doing what is adequate, to make sure that we are funding programs that are needed in this Commonwealth like education and transportation? We want to sell off everything from the gaming to the liquor stores to everything that is coming down. We want to sell it off or we want to cut it. We cannot be this Commonwealth of backward government; we have got to be the Commonwealth of forward thinking and forward government.

Let us oppose HB 1437, and let us work for an agenda that empowers the whole Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and appreciates that he also used 4 minutes instead of 5. Thank you.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE CANCELED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority whip, who asks that the gentleman, Mr. Mark Keller, be removed from the leave list. That is granted.

## CONSIDERATION OF HB 1437 CONTINUED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On the question of final passage, the gentleman from Cambria County, Representative Barbin.

Mr. BARBIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to note for the record that this is not final passage. This represents the first read of budget priorities as decided by a majority vote of this House. It will be changed by the Senate. It will come back to us on concurrence, and it will include not only the priorities of this House as determined by majority vote but also the Senate and the Governor.

Today I would like to point out one thing that I think merits the attention of the legislature when we determine our budget priorities, and that is, there was a miracle that occurred in Pittsburgh in January of this year. They discovered a way for traumatic brain injury wounds to be seen. It is called high definition fiber tracking. It was discovered as a result of the development of work that was done by the University of Pittsburgh-educated chemist, Paul Lauterbur, who shared the Nobel Prize for MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) technology. What they have done is they have taken that technology and they found a way to measure water molecules, which will show individual fiber tracks in the brain. Up to this point no place in the world has been able to show a brain injury, a TBI injury, or a post-traumatic stress injury. What it does is allows the doctors to figure out what to do next.

Funding is necessary for this technology so that all of our returning veterans, 19,000 National Guardsmen can have access to this technology when it will help them the most. It costs \$3.3 million to put this technology on a mobile unit that could go to every one of the towns throughout Pennsylvania and provide an X-ray, quality diagnostic tool that would show every soldier whether you really are injured or are not injured with the TBI, whether you have nerve damage that causes post-traumatic stress disorder.

We need to put it in the budget. Until we do, I will be voting "no." Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question of final passage, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative Clymer.

Mr. CLYMER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of HB 1437 and the increased dollars allotted to education, a record \$10.3 billion and an increase of \$280 million over this past budget.

I had listened to some of the comments regarding early education as it impacts on the education budget, and so I looked at, as you have already heard, the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts subsidy, which was increased; Head Start supplemental assistance, which was increased; and early intervention, all showing increases from the year before.

Mr. Speaker, the opponents, at least some have tried to frame this debate, and we have heard it before, by saying Republicans cut \$1 billion from the education budget. We recognize that that was a Federal economic stimulus that ended, and of course, that did reduce the budget fiscally, but Republicans put back additional moneys so that many of these programs could continue and to do the jobs that were necessary, provide the services that are necessary.

Mr. Speaker, these are difficult times, and Pennsylvania does not have the luxury of running huge unsustainable deficits such as the Federal government. While those on the other side of the aisle continue to bemoan education failure, I submit there are literally hundreds of success stories never told, success stories in the classroom. Our professional corps of teachers, administrators, and support personnel are doing a yeoman's job in educating our youth, and I thank them for their service and for their dedication to the education process and to educating our future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, for the record, a student's success in the classroom can often be measured by the support in the home, for which there is no monetary value. Local school boards are important in the education process because they negotiate contracts and they also negotiate new construction, and the business communities are important policymakers in the success of a school as well. Yes, the business community, those who are defined as "rich." I guess those who are earning over \$400,000 get that classification. I refer to them as fulfilling the American dream. We are giving them economic opportunity as they come to America to fulfill their dreams. So now do we penalize them? Will other enterprising individuals want to risk starting a company if all they hear is that they are going to be taxed, taxed, taxed for making over \$400,000? Do we remove that important welcome mat to our business community?

Mr. Speaker, despite criticism from the other side of the aisle, the business community is probably one of the strongest proponents of public education. In Philadelphia, and I am sure elsewhere, it is not unusual for a business to adopt a school and provide services to make certain the school is not without. How often do we hear of a large, rich corporation investing millions of dollars in higher education for their research programs, into medical facilities, into the arts? And yes, they employ thousands of people who are earning good-paying, family-sustaining jobs. If they left, where would those people work?

I heard the need for jobs. Yes, we need to have jobs in Pennsylvania. Local businesses create jobs, and much of the tax revenue that supports education comes from a vibrant, vibrant job market. Guess what? Many employers are not hiring until they know about the affordable health care plan. Already insurance premiums for our health care for many of these companies are on the increase.

Mr. Speaker, there is a dark cloud named "uncertainty" hovering over the land. Many small and midsized companies are reluctant to risk expanding because of these troubling developments with the affordable health care program. A recent news article that appeared in the Patriot of yesterday illustrates my point. I cannot read it all, but it says that until these problems with insurance and taxes are cleared up, very few small businesses and midsized companies are going to hire. And, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that it is the small businesses that provide 80 percent of the new jobs in any job market. So how can we get more income and how can we employ more

people if these companies are not going to hire because they fear government taxes and Federal bureaucracy?

Mr. Speaker, I certainly do ask for support of HB 1437.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentledady from Philadelphia, Ms. Donatucci.

Ms. DONATUCCI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I rise in opposition of HB 1437. Simply put, this budget is just more of the same. I cannot support any budget that severely underfunds education in Pennsylvania for a third year running and fails to properly fund senior programs. This budget is almost identical in the spending cuts proposed in the Governor's shameful budget proposal. When this budget was first introduced and I had the opportunity to look it over, I could not help but say out loud, "We can do better than this." After cutting nearly \$1 billion in the first Corbett budget, we can do better than the relatively insignificant \$100 million addition proposed in HB 1437.

After watching the Philadelphia School District undergo a massive overhaul that saw mass cuts to vital programs, I can say with certainty that much more is needed if the members of this esteemed chamber ever plan to say in good conscience that we are doing everything we can for the children of this Commonwealth. For those members of this chamber who speak in dollars and cents, let us not forget for a second the correlation between investments in education and the future economic success of this State. We can do better.

From one vulnerable yet important demographic to another, HB 1437 fails our senior population. This failure is not due to a lack of effort; rather, this failure is due to a lack of vision. The plan to outsource the Pennsylvania Lottery is shortsighted and imprudent. The lottery is on track to exceed last year's record for ticket sales and profits. Why is selling this guaranteed source of revenue even an option? We can do better. I am certain we can do better because my colleagues and I have supported a proposal that would keep the State-run lottery intact while generating even more revenue for senior programs. See, we can do better.

When I think about the potential revenue this budget ignores, I become even more frustrated. How can HB 1437 pass once again on the opportunity to tax one of our State's biggest resources – Marcellus Shale. A responsible natural gas severance tax on Marcellus Shale drillers would provide \$142 million to help meet Pennsylvania's needs. It is reasonable that we ask drillers in Pennsylvania to pay what they pay in every other State. We can do better.

We have the opportunity to truly close loopholes for multistate corporations. We can do it. We can expand Medicaid like 23 other States are doing, including our neighbors in New Jersey and Ohio. We can do it. All it would take is more diligence, a greater commitment on behalf of the members of this chamber to try in good conscience to get it right this time around. We owe it to the citizens of this Commonwealth to put forth a budget that is in their best interest, because is not their best interest ultimately ours? We can do better.

So let us do it. Let us do what the skeptical citizens of this Commonwealth are betting that we cannot do. HB 1437 is not a bill that works in the best interest of Pennsylvanians, and it is not something that I can put my name behind.

For those reasons I am giving a "no" vote, and I would urge all of you to do the same. Thank you. And thank you, Mr. Speaker.



The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentlelady and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Representative Wheatley.

Mr. WHEATLEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when I first was elected 10 years ago, one of my mentors, former Speaker K. Leroy Irvis, sat me down and talked about the difference between being a politician and a statesman. And he led that conversation off by saying, remember, the first thing in front of your name is Honorable State Representative. It is not the 19th District; it is not Pittsburgh; it is not Democrat.

What I think has happened through our process, we have failed Pennsylvanians – both Democrats, Republicans; majority, minority. It has happened over the 10 years that I have been in this process around budgets and priorities. We rarely put our differences aside, and we are driven by printouts of what happens to our particular areas of interest. When we look out across the Commonwealth, there are everyday, regular citizens – our neighbors, our friends, and our families – who are suffering, many because we have gotten into this process around here of playing politics with the people's future, and it is led by our budgetary process and our budgetary priorities and how we set it.

Now, I am not one who ever gets into trying to demagogue someone else, because I accept my role in this process. But at the end of the day, we represent more than ourselves. We represent more than the districts we come from. It is my hope that after we go through this process today, that the next couple weeks we really spend time trying to evaluate how can we utilize whatever source of revenue we have to address some real serious problems that the Pennsylvanians throughout our Commonwealth are faced with, because at the end of the day, that is what they judge us by.

HB 1437, in my opinion, is a starting point; it is not the finished product. What I would hope and I think what we have heard from many on our side of the aisle is a plea to try to put some of our quality ideas on the table along with some of the ones that were worked on in 1437. And whatever comes back from – when we send it over to Senate and hopefully get to a product we know we all will not agree 100 percent on, but one that will be inclusive of all the great ideas that Pennsylvanians have because they have sent us here with them in hopes that we could work together to address some real complex issues as we move forward.

The problem or the challenge that I have seen over our 10 years is we get caught in our politics and we cannot get out of our own way. I am hoping – because there are millions of Pennsylvanians who are dependent on this – I am hoping that we are not going to be too shortsighted and not be able to get out of our own way.

The fact of the matter is, we do have an educational problem, regardless if you think we have put enough money into it or not. We are not getting what people think that we should get from it. We do have an infrastructure problem, irrespective if you think we have invested in it or have not. So we have to do something to address it. We do have a serious problem with the funding of our local municipalities and townships and their financial future, irrespective if you think we have done enough or have not. They are looking to us as leaders throughout the Commonwealth to help them find solutions. We can no longer hide behind this process to not do enough to address the realities on the ground for our citizens.

So I am just going to implore us, Mr. Speaker, to not get caught up in our silos, and that we open up the doors of compromise around this chamber and really get to work to address the real complex issues of all of our citizens across this Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster County, Representative Denlinger, on the question of final passage.

Mr. DENLINGER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to address the chamber on HB 1437, the budget proposal that is before us, recognizing that we have covered many issues already today, and we have covered particularly the educational issue quite heavily. We come recognizing that members on the other side of the aisle have decried the funding levels of education and social services that are generally stagnant, and the members on my side of the aisle are laying the blame at the loss of Federal stimulus dollars. Each side has its narrative and those points of view will not change anytime soon, certainly not during today's debate.

But, Mr. Speaker, I tend to take a holistic or enterprise-wide view toward the fiscal health of our Commonwealth and this State government. In Harrisburg we do not print money and we do not borrow it for day-to-day operations or our annual obligations. We are, in real dollars terms, limited by an economy that is not expanding. In fact, we are stuck in neutral and our budget reflects that fact.

While I hear the concerns of the other side on specific line items, absent is any real discussion on how we expand the economic pie, how we get the economic engine of this State running once again and provide the opportunities that our citizens need, and that will provide budgetary flexibility. If members want more dollars for their priorities, the answer is simple: grow the economy. We need to grow the economy of this State.

Mr. Speaker, I support HB 1437, recognizing its limitations, yet convinced that, though tough times mean hard choices, HB 1437 is a reasonable spending plan. While we work for more growth, this plan will best utilize our currently available resources. And Mr. Speaker, I truly do believe that all of us, both sides of the aisle, seek educational success for our youngest children, help for those that are at the margins of society, that we seek communities that are safe and prosperous, and job opportunities for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, HB 1437 is a spending plan on which we can build. It is not perfect, that is recognized by all, but it is a measured plan that meets our requirement, the requirement of our Constitution for a balanced budget, and it is a reasonable plan for this time of great economic challenge. I encourage its adoption.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative Santarsiero.

Mr. SANTARSIERO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this proposed budget, HB 1437.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address my remarks primarily on the issue of education, and there has been a lot of discussion about it already today. And frankly, there has been a lot of discussion about it last year and the year before it, because we have had the

same issues, namely, cuts to our education budget. And I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that there is a single member in this chamber, Republican or Democrat, who wants to see our schools harmed. I really do not. I think there are people of goodwill on both sides of the aisle who want to do the right thing. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow our discomfort with a budget that cuts education, to stand up and tell the public that we are not doing that, because the fact of the matter is, it is exactly what we are doing.

The two school districts I represent alone will see yet another \$2 million cut in their appropriation from the State government in the coming year; that is the fact. Now, today we have heard a theme where we are trying to blame this on the Federal government, and we know the reality, that that is just not the case. The fact of the matter is, as we have just shown many times in the past, that the base of these cuts comes from State funding. Now, those are the facts. And we can get up and we can debate this and we can exchange rhetoric on both sides, but I would rather dispense with that, and I would rather reach across the aisle and ask my colleagues to work with us.

As the other gentleman from Bucks County noted before, this is not going to be the final budget. We have another 18 days to get this budget done, and there are other revenue sources that we can use without resorting to a broad-based tax increase. And it does not have to be all or nothing. It does not have to be the full loaf, but we can work together to make this situation better.

We do not have to restore all of the billion dollars in cuts to education, but let us work together to see whether we can do better than the \$100 million that is being proposed. We do not have to restore all the \$200 million cuts to higher education, but let us see if we can do better than perpetuating those cuts. Let us have the discussion. We have talked many times in this chamber about Marcellus Shale. We have had many of the members on our side of the aisle raise the issue again, and believe me, despite what many people may think, I am not for bankrupting the oil and gas industry. I actually would like to see the oil and gas industry thrive in Pennsylvania, provided that the extraction process is done in a responsible and safe way. But I would also like to see those companies pay their fair share, and frankly, I think that they are not opposed to doing that. And if we had a meaningful discussion on that issue alone, it would enable us to bring in much more revenue that we would be able to use to help balance this budget and restore funding to education.

Yes, the revenues and the expenditures may equal out in this budget, but it is not balanced currently. It is not balanced as a matter of policy. It is not balanced for our schoolkids; whether they are in Republican or Democratic districts, it does not matter. They still need our help. And we still have time where we as Democrats and Republicans can work together to try to make this budget better. I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to come together and make that effort.

I will be voting "no" on this proposed budget today, but there is still time, and I urge you to take the opportunity and let us get this done right.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery County, Representative Painter.

Mr. PAINTER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to HB 1437. For the past 15 years I had the privilege of serving as tax collector in Limerick Township in my district. I have many memories of

that experience, but some of the most vivid ones are the times that taxpayers came to my office and cried. They cried because they did not know how they were going to be able to pay their school taxes; they did not know how they were going to be able to keep their homes.

The claim that this budget does not raise taxes will ring hollow in Limerick Township, where in a few weeks my taxpayers will be receiving record-high school tax bills for the seventh straight year. The claim that basic education funding is higher than ever will ring hollow in Pottstown, where per-pupil funding is down \$440 compared to 2010. These boasts ring hollow in Stowe, in Royersford, in Linfield, in New Hanover, in Sanatoga, and everywhere else in my district where property taxes are going up and education funding is going down.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have any shale gas in my district, which may be why we do not get a lot of attention from Harrisburg, but we have a resource that has more value than shale gas – we have our young people. We have heard about the pension funding problem. We have heard about the so-called senior cliff and concerns that we will not be able to meet our obligations 20 years down the road. Well, we will if tomorrow's workforce is educated and skilled, and tomorrow's workforce is today's public school students. We need to give them the training and education that will allow them to fulfill their potential, make the most of themselves, and deliver to the rest of us a strong and prosperous economy in 2030.

I would support a budget that would lead us in that direction; unfortunately, this one takes us in the opposite direction. It condemns our students to less education, less prospects, and a sluggish economy down the road. Therefore, I am voting "no" on this bill and ask my colleagues to do this same. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland County, Representative Bloom.

Mr. BLOOM. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For decades the taxpayers of Pennsylvania stood helplessly by as their elected officials irresponsibly raised taxes and increased government spending. Year after year after year spending and taxes climbed higher, far over and above the rate of inflation, putting a tighter and tighter squeeze on the hardworking taxpayers of this Commonwealth.

Two years ago we did something historic in this chamber. We bucked the system, we bucked the powerful special interests, and we bucked the naysayers who said it was impossible. We enacted an on-time, balanced State budget that actually cut bloated government spending – a budget with no new taxes.

Last year we did it again, setting a bold new vision of responsible fiscal stewardship, serving the taxpayers we were elected to represent, standing up to withering pressure to go back to the old big-spending status quo. And today we have an opportunity to once again put our taxpayers first for the third year in a row.

This budget is responsible, balanced, on time, under the rate of inflation, with no new taxes, and I would urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks and applauds the gentleman and recognizes, on the question of final passage, the gentleman from Lycoming County, Representative Mirabito.

Mr. MIRABITO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to rural Pennsylvania, there are three lessons I have learned from the budget debates. First of all, rural communities are fundamentally different in their economic structure from the more affluent parts of the State. Put simply, rural communities are poorer and they are less able to sustain massive State cuts in funding than affluent communities. In fact, rural communities share many of the problems and economic struggles of our urban areas. Second, although we may try to reduce State spending, the problems in our rural and urban communities do not go away. Third, reductions in State spending are a form of tax shifting, which ends up burdening poorer rural communities in devastating ways by shifting taxes onto those least able to sustain them.

Mr. Speaker, all of us have to answer to our constituents when we vote, but we also have to answer to something else, and that is to history. When history is written about this budget and the budgets of the last 2 years, history will say, those were the budgets that institutionalized poverty in rural Pennsylvania. History will say, those were the budgets that increased local property taxes in rural Pennsylvania. History will say, those were the budgets that kept in place massive cuts to education and human services that hurt rural Pennsylvania the hardest. And finally, Mr. Speaker, history will say, those were the budgets that failed to expand Medicaid and left almost half a million people in rural Pennsylvania without access to health insurance, and our rural hospitals are paying the price for that inaction.

Mr. Speaker, take a look at what has happened in Lycoming County to education funding over the last 3 years: Loyalsock School District was cut \$17,000 per classroom; South Williamsport School District, cut \$39,000; and Williamsport School District, cut \$48,000 per classroom. Now compare that to the affluent areas of this State. The majority chair of the Appropriations Committee, Radnor Township School District, cut only \$2,700; the majority leader's school district in North Allegheny, cut \$6,000 – \$2,000 v. \$48,000, \$6,000 v. \$48,000. This is not equity, Mr. Speaker; this is institutionalizing poverty in rural communities. I urge my colleagues from rural communities to look at the cuts and what they are going to do in your school districts.

Mr. Speaker, Medicaid expansion is critical for rural Pennsylvania. Recently the Pennsylvania Health Law Project and the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health released an important report entitled, "Medicaid Expansion: A Benefit for Rural Pennsylvania." The report showed that in 2011, 12 percent of the rural population in Pennsylvania, over 400,000 people, did not have health insurance.

Medicaid often is the only health insurance program for the working poor. These are not people looking for a handout, Mr. Speaker. These are people working in low-wage jobs, often two members of the family working, with children. As a result, rural residents are often uninsured for longer periods of time than the affluent parts of the State. Rural workers have less access to insurance provided by their employers, and individually purchased health insurance is expensive. Rural Pennsylvanians are more likely to have serious health-care needs, such as chronic diseases, hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, and arthritis; all of this came out in the reports. We need to address the urgent need for Medicaid expansion in this budget.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the budget cuts of the past 2 years have affected the public safety of residents in rural Pennsylvania. The budget fails to restore funds for the Pennsylvania State Police aviation unit at the Montoursville Airport. This unit served a broad area of rural Pennsylvania, including 10 counties: Bradford, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, and Tioga Counties. This aviation unit provided services to our local and State law enforcement agencies to help reduce crime in rural communities, and yet nowhere in this budget have we taken the time and the attention to care for these rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this chamber to fight for equity in rural Pennsylvania and to vote "no" on HB 1437. We have a responsibility not to institutionalize poverty but to expand the quality of life to our rural communities. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Representative Harris.

Mr. J. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise not as a Democrat or as a Republican, but I rise as an educator. Mr. Speaker, I rise not to give another political speech, but to give a speech about the future of our Commonwealth. You see, I have had the honor, I have had the privilege of standing in the front of a classroom, standing in front of students whom it was my job to fill them with knowledge. They came into my classrooms as an empty vessel, and they were waiting to take part in the process that we told them could change and transform their lives; the process that could level life's playing field for them, that process being education.

Mr. Speaker, Article III, section 14, of our Constitution, a Constitution that we all swore to uphold and defend, provides that "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth." Respectfully, Mr. Speaker, passing this budget will make us derelict in our constitutional responsibility, because this budget, Mr. Speaker, fails to properly support public education in this Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, in Philadelphia County, our nation's birthplace, the largest city in this Commonwealth – and might I remind you, a district that this State actually runs – had to send out pink slips to more than 3700 of its employees, 3700 pink slips to employees stating that their services are no longer afforded; not needed, but afforded. That is 676 teachers, 283 counselors, 127 assistant principals, 1,202 noontime aides. How can we expect our children, how can we expect the families of this district to survive these massive cuts to the system, or do we just expect them to fail?

Mr. Speaker, this is not just an urban area problem, but it is a rural area problem as well. Currently there are 234 schools in this Commonwealth that have not made adequate yearly progress in 3 consecutive years – yes, 234 of them. Additionally, 94 of them are our traditional public schools and these schools spread over 41 counties, from Adams County to Luzerne County, from Mercer County to York County. These schools are in Republican members' districts; they are in Democratic members' districts.

Now, I know there will be those that will argue that increased funding does not include increased outcomes, but clearly no one can argue that a decrease in funding will help us educate our children.

Mr. Speaker, let me be even clearer. There are 40 school districts in this Commonwealth where a single grade grouping of students do not have an option of a school that provides them with a quality education. Let me be abundantly clear: There are school districts in this Commonwealth where every single school has not made adequate yearly progress in 3 consecutive years. And if we think that cutting public education is going to fix that problem, we are seriously mistaken. This is not about a rural issue or an urban issue, because that school district, Mr. Speaker, is not in an urban area.

It has long been considered axiomatic that you can tell what a person values by where they spend their money. Mr. Speaker, I wonder what those who are watching this process will say that we value. Do we value our children, whom we fill with these dreams of a quality education that will set them on a course of life that they will have a part in determining? Or are they seeing that we are giving lip service to the future of this Commonwealth?

Today, Mr. Speaker, we choose between a brighter future for our children through an investment in their basic education, or the systemic unraveling of the American dream by dooming the poor to a poor standard of education. I urge a "no" vote on HB 1437.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative O'Neill.

Mr. O'NEILL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of HB 1437. Like a lot of other people in this chamber, I have a great passion for education and for education funding, along with a lot of other services that we provide in our budget. But I can tell you, I stood here before under the previous administration and listened to all the good things about his budget, and now I am listening to all the good things about the current budget, and anybody in this chamber could take either budgets from either Governor, either administration, and pick them apart piece by piece. The bottom line is what you have to deal with on a day-to-day basis, what you have to deal with in your budget, as you do at your home budget. You cannot, underneath your home budget, just constantly go into debt and buy things that you cannot afford, and it is basically what is happening here.

Under the previous administration – because we hear tit for tat about the education backfunding of \$1 billion – under the previous administration, myself and a few other members made a recommendation to the leadership and the prior Governor and his administration to take the stimulus money, that \$1 billion, and put it into the pension fund where it would benefit every taxpayer in Pennsylvania in every school district, but the previous administration would not agree to that. So he cut down, he cut down the money that he was putting towards education and then backfilled it with this money, knowing, after we told him several times, it would leave a drastic hole, and with the foresight of what was going to happen: We were going to be in a big hole with a deficit. So for people to say that we are cutting education, I cannot agree. We are just going to have to agree to disagree on that.

But something that I have a passion for, along with Senator Browne, Representative Mundy, and many other people, is early childhood education. And one of the things this budget does is it provides \$87.3 million for Pre-K Counts. This is a 5-percent

increase, which will serve 580 additional children in full- or part-time programs and provide 2,000 children with the opportunity to participate in a 2-week summer kindergarten readiness program for at-risk children, transitioning them into kindergarten. This bill also provides \$39.2 million for Head Start Supplemental Assistance. The \$1.9 million increase will serve an additional 210 children and provide 500 children with an opportunity to participate in a 2-week summer kindergarten readiness program.

Between the Department of Education and the Department of Public Welfare, HB 1437 provides \$350 million in State funds for early intervention services. This bill also provides \$298 million in State funds for child-care services. HB 1437 invests the savings obtained through the consolidation of the Child Care Information agencies to provide subsidies to child-care services to additional families and provide incentives for providers to expand and to reach high-quality care and education in Pennsylvania for at-risk children.

I would like to also add, Mr. Speaker, that in this bill we are increasing and meeting the needs – although we cannot go far enough; we are still working our way toward that – for our intellectually disabled community, which is something that so many of us fight for. So we can all agree to disagree on what is going on in this community, but the one thing this budget does do, it reaches out to the kids and the people with disabilities who need it the most.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentledady from Montgomery County, Representative Dean.

Mrs. DEAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today as we consider final passage of HB 1437. I offer one thought that many others have spoken about too: Budgets reflect priorities. Budgets reflect who we are. As one who came to my work here in Harrisburg following 10 years teaching at the university level, and as a mother who wants nothing more for my children than a good education, there is one priority that I will focus on.

So let us look back to the last budget passed by this General Assembly and signed by Governor Corbett as compared to the last budget of the prior Governor. It cut community colleges by \$23.5 million, a 10-percent cut. It also cut the State System of Higher Education by \$90.6 million, an 18-percent cut. It cut Penn State University by \$53.5 million, a 19-percent cut. It cut the University of Pittsburgh by \$31.9 million, a 19-percent cut. It cut Temple University by \$32.8 million, a 19-percent cut. It cut Lincoln University by \$2.6 million, a 19-percent cut. It cut Thaddeus Stevens by \$544,000, a 5-percent cut. All told, this was \$235.6 million cut from institutions of higher education in Governor Corbett's last budget, as tuitions are increasing and as Pennsylvania's college students are graduating with the nation's second highest debt.

Fast-forward to today, and we are considering flat-funding institutions. Let us face it, this is not flat-funding; it is continuing the deep cuts. And I contrast this with the measures considered in just our House Finance Committee, that single committee. To date, a rough tally of the bills passed out of our committee would give away – through tax repeals, tax credits, exemptions – over \$320 million in General Fund revenue. We are sinking our own ship. We stand at 49th in job creation, down from 7th when Governor Corbett came to office. Business

groups warn us that our workforce is not trained for today's jobs, and some would callously claim that those seeking employment cannot pass a drug test.

Education is the key to our economic future. In a special message to Congress on February 20, 1961, President John Kennedy argued for increased education funding, saying, "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education.... The human mind is our fundamental resource...." We must continue to invest in this resource, invest in our children, knowing that our commitment today will determine the outcome that is our tomorrow.

Budgets reveal priorities, reveal who we are. Join me in voting against HB 1437 and fight for our children's education and for Pennsylvania's workforce of tomorrow.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentlelady and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from York County, Representative Schreiber.

Mr. SCHREIBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of HB 1437, representing the 95th District of York County, a geography which includes a very dense urban area.

I represent the York City School District, one of the few districts in our Commonwealth presently in financial recovery. The district was pushed into recovery due to their need for advanced payment from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there are 8,000 children in the York City School District and thousands surrounding it in the townships and boroughs. I ask my colleagues to think of what these kids in these districts across Pennsylvania have been through in recent years: lay off of teachers; elimination of programs, including art, sports, and physical education; we have closed actual school buildings. These kids have absolutely no consistency from year to year.

In York city alone, 90 percent of these children are eligible for free or subsidized lunch programs. There are four times the special-needs students than the State average, and over 20 percent of our students are learning the English language. We do not even provide transportation to the students in this district, rather they are told to walk, find a ride, or take mass transit.

Investment in education is the best investment this Commonwealth can make. Ben Franklin said it best, it "...pays the best interest." And rather than recognize this and modernize the funding allocation and ensure money is properly invested in our next generation of Pennsylvanians, we have reduced funding. These reductions have disproportionately and negatively impacted urban school districts across Pennsylvania, including York.

Mr. Speaker, this is not simply a dollars-and-cents issue. This is a moral issue. This is a civil rights issue. And it is unequivocal that the reductions in State funding have led to local property tax increases. The residents of 95th District cannot continue to bear unpredictable spikes in local taxes. It is our Pennsylvania constitutional obligation to provide a thorough system of education across the State – that is a system and not systems. The ZIP (Zoning Improvement Plan) code one lives in should not predict the quality of education that they receive.

On behalf of my constituents, and on behalf of all of the students and teachers in the 95th District, I oppose this budget, and I am asking that we direct the necessary State funding to properly fund education in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentlemen and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Armstrong County, Representative Pyle.

Mr. PYLE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tip my hat to my colleagues today. I think there has been a genuine quality in exchange of ideas here and philosophies.

Mr. Speaker, as many of you know, before I came here I was a classroom high school teacher. And today I have heard some things that have raised questions for which I am going to need a little bit more guidance. Earlier we heard the gentleman from Upper St. Clair tell about how USC school district spends on average under \$5.50 per student, and yet they achieve Presidential Blue Ribbon status. Well, Mr. Speaker, I obviously am not from Upper St. Clair; I am from Armstrong School District, my home. We spend considerably more than that, about \$9 per student, and yet we are not Presidential Blue Ribbon.

Now, Mr. Speaker, most of our thought – political, economic; however you wish to perceive it – is drawn from the same root source, the Greeks: Aristotle, Plato, Socrates, linear logic. For this to happen, these things must happen. Now, if I would believe the points that have been presented today, every single one of our kids, from the shores of Erie to the great city, from the hills where I live to the northeastern corner of the State, all we have to do is shovel money at it. But, Mr. Speaker, that is really, in a pure, classical sense, not logical, because as you just pointed out, USC spends less money per kid and achieves higher statuses.

Now, here is the question. Mr. Speaker, this year the State is going to put more gross amount of money straight from our tax base into our schools than ever before in the 300 years there has been a Pennsylvania. Yeah, I would like to do that, but I know the well is only so deep, Mr. Speaker. So maybe, if nobody minds, we can take this away from education just for a second.

Seven point two million added for diabetes, epilepsy, ALS support services, Tourette's syndrome, biotechnology, poison control centers, and lupus. Now, if you do not recognize that, how about these: \$20 million more to reduce the waiting list for intellectual disabilities. How about 17-percent more for autism intervention and services? We continue to drive out increased funding to our nursing and skilled-care homes for our elderly. We increase funding going into our rape and domestic violence centers by 10 percent. We put all the money back into the conservation districts that was taken out last year. We fund our heritage parks. We put more money into DEP environmental safeties.

Mr. Speaker, where I live is kind of rural. We are outside of Pittsburgh. So we do depend on the State Police, and when we add 300 troopers to the complement, that is huge – for us, that is gigantic. These guys are like the Texas Rangers where I live, Mr. Speaker. They are 40 miles in any direction on a moment's notice, because there are so few of them.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to close by asking people to vote for 1437, and I want to make a statement, and this is not from Jeff Pyle, legislator; this is Jeff Pyle, a person who put 14 years in a classroom and loved his kids dearly. Perhaps I am taking this the wrong way, but equating my ability to teach a lesson according to how much money I am going to get paid is insulting. And frankly, I know there are a lot of teachers on this floor. I know the game plan: Go for as much as you can get. I was a member of PSEA (Pennsylvania State Education Association); not anymore. But are you serious, Mr. Speaker?

We put \$100 million back into public education. We get e-mails that say, good start. Are you kidding? I know we increased the amount, Leader, thank you.

But back to the original thought, Mr. Speaker. If you are going to tell me that the quality of a teacher depends on how much money you pay them, I'm calling you out on it. You could not be more wrong.

Please vote for HB 1437. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentledady from Philadelphia, Representative Brownlee.

Ms. BROWNLEE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I rise to oppose HB 1437. Governor Corbett, during his first budget address, stated because of the economy there had to be a shared sacrifice on everyone's part. It would be a budget of austerity.

My dear sainted grandmother always told me the devil was in the details, and she was right, the devil is in the details.

The only shared sacrifice I have seen is among the parents whose children need child-care services; the children of this Commonwealth who have endured early childhood basic and higher education cuts; the people who cannot help themselves – those with functional, intellectual, mental, and physical disabilities; and the people who need health care – senior citizens, the middle class of this Commonwealth; as well as State employees, public servants, teachers; and let us not forget the environment. I do not see big business sharing in this austerity budget. I do not see big business sharing in this sacrifice.

Three budgets now have completely ignored the fundamental truth that Pennsylvania's ensured prosperity lays in the hands of our future scientists, teachers, artists, elected leaders, economists, and more, yet this year's House budget offers a paltry answer to the billions of dollars in cuts that have placed the promise of that prosperity in grave danger. I know we have heard from many of my colleagues on these devastating cuts happening in our schools, but it cannot be overstated.

In my district, and all over Philadelphia, we are watching 10 percent of our brick-and-mortar schools being gutted. Let me repeat that: In the birthplace of American democracy, 1 out of every 10 schools will be lost forever. Our youngest children, who so desperately need the advantages of early education opportunities, are being deprived of that basic right, yet we give billions in corporate welfare away year after year.

Calling this budget more of the same is being too kind. It is not more of the same; it is a new level of ignorance to the basic tenets of our duty. We should be ashamed if this bill passes, because if it does, this State is basically saying, we choose corporate interests over our children, and we are okay with 20,000 teachers losing their jobs. I am not okay with that, and I know there are others who are not okay with that.

We know that the school districts and municipalities placed under the control of the State have not improved, and why do you think that is? Because each June this administration and the Republican-controlled Assembly come together and willfully choose to undercut and underfund the most vulnerable. It is a shame and it needs to stop now.

The bill also fails to anticipate the robust and available Federal funding for Medicaid expansion under the ACA (Affordable Care Act). When we consider the associated costs of leaving 500,000 Pennsylvanians uninsured, I am left to believe that passing a budget bill that does not account for new

health-care exchanges and their benefits is irresponsible and shortsighted. Pennsylvania will be losing out on tens of billions of Federal dollars.

And for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I oppose this budget. Thank you for your time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentledady and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative Petri.

Mr. PETRI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today we are going to consider a spending bill – a spending bill, not a bill with regard to substance, but substance, of course, underlies everything we do. Let me remind all members, we do have a balanced-budget requirement, and the implementation of this budget leaves us at the end with a cash balance of zero. So we have a lot of work to do to focus on what zero means at the end of the next fiscal year.

What it could mean, if we are not careful, is that we would have to freeze the budget during the year, or worse yet, have tax increases at a time when the economy cannot sustain those kinds of things. So when we are talking about wanting to spend more money, let me remind members, there is no more money to spend in this budget.

You know, the real problem with our State budget, from my perspective as a suburban legislator, is the archaic formulas we have that have hold harmless clauses. You know, many members talk about their situations, whether it be in school, in aging, drug and alcohol, or any other items; remember that without proving actual need, you get more and more money each year.

At a recent Aging hearing, I was shocked to find out that a local area on aging was complaining that if we eliminated the hold harmless clause, they would not have money to fix private seniors' homes. Well, let me tell you, that is a luxury that we do not have in most parts of the State. How about treating everybody, every taxpayer, every constituent the same? Would that not be nice?

You know, a lot has been made about the Federal stimulus money. I am here to say that it was a mistake to have taken that Federal stimulus money, because as a result – and I knew it would happen – we are here today, and it is the only place that I know of where you can argue that more is actually less. Well, let us look at the figures.

Philadelphia, under this budget, receives \$30.7 million more than last year. For my colleagues in Bucks County, as a total, we receive \$7 million more among our schools. More is in fact more. In fact, across the State budget, \$8.48 billion, billion – does anybody know what \$8.48 billion looks like for education over last year's \$8.26 billion? That is the 2.7-percent increase, Mr. Speaker. The facts do not change: More State dollars are being put into education, and it is a really, really, really big number.

You know, I do not blame our teachers and I do not blame our students. In fact, I feel sorry for them because the real problem in education is a lack of oversight. We have had Appropriations hearings where we have seen disturbing audit results of school districts that have mismanaged their funds at the expense of education and at the expense of students. You know, there is a school district in our State that cannot even tell you for certain what their attendance is. They actually refuse to sign the attendance sheets that are required under the certification because they do not really know what their school attendance is. So if you want to fix education, let us start with

not just supplying the check and the checkbook, but making sure we have the tools to provide proper oversight to what is going on in the mismanagement at the administrative level at the expense of our students and our teachers. You know, this money is lot of money and it will go very far if used properly. That is the issue we should be focused on.

Let me leave members with this thought: Eighty percent of our budget, if not more, goes to education, welfare, and higher education – 80 percent. Do members realize that we run all of our agencies and all three branches of our government on roughly 10 percent of the budget? Ten percent. We are able to run thousands of employees in all, and the rest of the budget goes towards education, welfare, and higher education.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect budget. There is no perfect budget. We would like to spend more but we do not have it. There is no more money to spend.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the members to support this bill as the very best we can do at this time. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna County, Representative Kavulich.

Mr. KAVULICH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few days I have heard that this is a compassionate budget, but how much compassion is there for the tens of thousands of teachers who have been fired thanks to cuts? How much compassion for our senior citizens who have been forced from their homes because of property tax increases passed on to them by cuts? How much compassion for nearly 600,000 people living without health insurance, who either do not see a doctor when they are sick or are forced to treat the emergency room like their family doctor? Where is the compassion for people paying higher taxes and higher insurance rates to cover the uninsured? And how much compassion is there for families of those people living with mental illness when those county-level programs continue to be cut?

Governor Bob Casey once asked, "What did you do when you had the power?" Well, with this budget, the answer to that question is, nothing to help those in need and nothing to help working families.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentlelady from Bucks County, Representative Quinn.

Ms. QUINN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the opportunity to add my comments to this debate, and I wish to begin by acknowledging the hard work that has been put into this product, led by Chairman Bill Adolph.

Today we have heard from those on both sides of this issue. We have heard that the cuts are too deep. We have heard that there is not enough money for this line item or another. Every one of us in this room can find line items that we would like to add to, and we could even find some line items that we think were too generous, too, in this budget. Given over \$28 billion, there is no doubt that we could all prioritize different line items.

I have spent more time in this chamber serving in the minority than I have serving in the majority. I have played the role of looking for a problem in the bill to help justify my "no" vote. However, I have voted for budgets while serving in the minority because at the end of the day, I asked myself, is this a responsible budget? Are we living within our means? Is it reflective of today's economy? Are our core priorities

addressed? Are we asking for more money from our constituents before we look to what we can do to cut government spending, waste within government?

I have heard many speakers discuss the budget and compare this budget to previous budgets. This approach might work for some, but not for me. You cannot drive while looking in the rearview mirror; you have to look at what is in front of you and at the present conditions. We do not have the stimulus money to work with. That money was a one-time shot; it was here, it was spent, it was gone. I believe a previous speaker said, write to the President if you would like it again. We do not have that benefit. We do not have the grants right now from the Federal government to have that money.

Mr. Speaker, this is my seventh budget season. Like previous budgets, I like some line items and I do not like others, but we have one vote and we have the responsibility to govern, and in doing so, to send a budget to the Senate so this discussion can continue over there.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in supporting HB 1437, and in doing so, face the reality of the fiscal situation that the Commonwealth faces today and not faced in previous budgets. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentlelady and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Kinsey.

Mr. KINSEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is my first term going through the budget process, and I want to thank my colleagues, especially those who worked hard to present HB 1437 and their concern to get the budget passed by June 30; however, Mr. Speaker, it is not enough.

You see, Mr. Speaker, I know that numbers are important. As I look around, I know that my colleagues recognize the importance of numbers as well. But let us be practical. Let us talk about the number of people that will be impacted if we approve HB 1437. Those are the real numbers that we should be talking about today.

Let us talk about the hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians that will be impacted if we do not expand Medicaid. Let us talk about the tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians who receive supports and services through our Human Services programs that will be impacted.

Let us talk about the hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians that will be impacted without adequate funding for education. Let us talk about the countless numbers of Pennsylvanians who will lose their jobs if we pass HB 1437. Each of us took an oath, an oath of office to obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth. In fact, a bit earlier one of my colleagues actually shared that in Article III, section 14, it states, "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth."

Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I think that we need to think about that. I think we need to think long and hard about serving the Constitution, the people of this Commonwealth, and the Constitution of this Commonwealth. And again, as I opened up, Mr. Speaker, I opened up by thanking my colleagues, and that is a sincere thanks. But I am also sincere about saying that it is not enough for the folks that we represent in this Commonwealth, because if we really care about the numbers, and I mean the real numbers, then we care about the people that we represent. And

if we care about the people that we represent, then let us make sure that there is adequate funding for those numbers. And those numbers should mean the most to us, Mr. Speaker. The people of this Commonwealth that we represent, those are the numbers that we should be concerned about.

So I strongly urge my colleagues to think about those folks, think about those numbers, and vote "no" on this shortsighted, shortchanged budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Tioga County, Representative Baker.

Mr. BAKER. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in support of the budget bill before us, and I do want to talk about some numbers. I have heard a lot of numbers today, and a lot of them are in relation to Medicaid and the welfare budget. We have already heard from the gentleman from Bucks County that nearly 80 percent of our entire State budget is either education, the combination of education and health and human services through the Department of Public Welfare. Under the Governor's proposed budget – and again, this is the starting point; we are going to get a different budget for final approval – the Governor provides more money. He increases State funding to DPW by over \$315 million, or 3 percent.

And let us stick to the numbers. This accounts for nearly \$11 billion in State funding and \$28.4 billion in total spending in the Department of Public Welfare. That is a combination of State, Federal, and other sources. It is an amazing number. It exceeds nearly our entire budget. The budget prioritizes funding to address the needs of Pennsylvanians with intellectual and physical disabilities. It increases funding for senior citizens, children, and low-income families. Again, let us look at the numbers. We are expanding services for individuals with intellectual disabilities, expanding services for older Pennsylvanians, our senior citizens. We are expanding services for individuals with physical disabilities. We are expanding services under the child-care assistance program. We are extending services to improve the quality of child-care programs. We are improving services to help at-risk children. We are improving services to specialized hospital services to fund critical supplemental payments to hospitals, including neonatal facilities, burn centers, trauma centers, and critical access facilities. Again, let us look at the numbers. In Pennsylvania's Medicaid program, we are already experiencing crowd-out in other areas, such as transportation, education, and other public services.

The fact is, approximately \$22 billion in total funds is spent annually on Medicaid currently, without expansion. Currently we are spending welfare dollars for one in six people in Pennsylvania: \$8 billion in State funds, nearly \$12 billion in Federal funds, \$2 billion in other funds. Total Medicaid spending accounts for 73 percent of the entire department's budget and nearly 30 percent of the entire General Fund budget. That is just Medicaid. The cost of the program is over 30 percent of the entire Pennsylvania General Fund budget and continues to grow.

The Department of Public Welfare projects growth by nearly \$600 million in new State dollars alone in the next fiscal year. Again, let us stick to the fact. We currently spend more as a portion of our General Fund on Medicaid than every other State in the nation except for Missouri. Our average cost per enrollee is around \$7,400, while most States spend between \$4,000 and \$5,000 per enrollee.

Fact: 2.2 million people are already enrolled in medical assistance. We have seen an 8-percent increase in medical assistance enrollment in the last 3 years alone. Our program features statewide managed care for physical and behavioral health services with over 68,000 medical assistance providers, and it processes more than 17.4 million claims a year.

Pennsylvania's Medicaid program has already expanded over time to include populations and services that most other States do not afford their citizens. Mr. Speaker, let us pass HB 1437. It is balanced. It is on time, has no new taxes. Let us get her done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Representative Waters.

Mr. WATERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to join in this conversation that we are having today on the floor of the House as we discuss the budget, and I want to just discuss it from a perspective that we could do better. No matter what side of the aisle that we are on and if we support or do not support the budget, one thing is for sure, we talk about facts. We could do better. We know we could do better. We know that when there is revenue that is left on the table and does not come into the budgetary discussion because those numbers are missing, like about the \$800 million that we would be able to add to the budget if we just did a reasonable severance tax on Marcellus Shale, we could do better. And what makes me more concerned about that is the fact that the people who are in that industry have declared that they are willing to pay the severance tax. They only want the severance tax to be fair and competitive to what they are already paying in other States where they are willingly paying the severance tax.

When I walked Broad Street a couple of weeks ago with the students in the Philadelphia School District who are complaining about resources for their education that they deserve, that we are constitutionally bound to provide, I say, we could do better. When we are talking about the teachers that are going to lose their jobs, and in some counties, I was listening to the news yesterday where a neighboring county over in York County, where they were talking about teachers are going to have to take a pay cut and also contribute a bigger contribution to their health-care plan. That is an additional pay cut. So the 15-percent pay cut and then paying out for their health-care plan. I say that we can do better. The \$800 million is real money.

So while we are saying this is a balanced budget, it is balanced because we are refusing to increase the revenue that is readily available to Pennsylvanians. When we talk about the expansion of the Medicaid and the jobs that are good family-sustaining jobs that would help provide quality health-care services to the people of Pennsylvania, and we are not even, and we do not even want to accept buying into that program, how are we a State that even is beginning to approach the conversation of job creation and looking out for Pennsylvania?

When we want to talk about the fact that smokeless tobacco, here we are in Pennsylvania, where the other States have had, saw that as a reasonable tax to apply to a product that probably brings more harm than good to the users of it anyway. Maybe at the end, we will get people to leave the product alone. That is not a bad thing, either. But for the ones who want to use it, they should be taxed like other States tax them. We could do better. And what we did here in the House – I did not vote for it, but it



was done – where the combined reporting was voted and passed this House. That is a lot of lost revenue that did not come into this budget process. We could do better. To go back to our constituents and tell them that this is the best we could do is a sham. We could do a whole lot better, rather than pass it on to taxing, the burden to those folks who are now going to have to make up the shortfalls that this budget is offering them. It is easier for me to go back and tell people anywhere in this State, any of the 67 counties, why I voted against this budget. And I do not know how you are going to go back if you vote for this budget and tell them that we could not have done better by our constituents.

At the end of an election, when we run for office, we have to remember one thing. We should not be thinking about we are running so that we could win. The people who should win an election are the people in your district, the people in your community, and the people in this Commonwealth, not us. We should be voting for what is in the best interest of this Commonwealth. That is why I say vote "no" to this budget, 1437.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Chester County, Representative Ross.

Mr. ROSS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One of the prior speakers might have mistakenly led the people of Pennsylvania to believe that there were cuts to environmental protection in this year's budget, and I just wanted to clarify and explain so that there was no confusion on that point. If you look at the numbers that we are offering today compared to last year, general government operations in the department are going up \$108,000; the environmental program management line is going up \$1,159,000; Chesapeake Bay pollution abatement is going up \$12,000; environmental protection operations are going up \$2.73 million; sewage facility planning grants that were not available last year are going to come back at a level of \$400,000. In addition to that, moneys coming from the Marcellus Shale, Act 13, for DEP operations are coming in at an increase of \$6 million. For the conservation fund, the conservation districts, they are getting an additional \$5 million, and the Environmental Stewardship Fund is getting an additional \$27.276 million additional. All other line items in the department's section are at least being level-funded.

Now, it is true that Federal government dollars to the State of Pennsylvania in environmental areas were cut by \$34 million, but even netting that out, we still are winding up with \$27.5 million of additional funding in the environmental protection area. So I think we can comfortably vote for this budget, and I recommend a positive vote, knowing that we are doing much better on the environmental line items than we did last year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Clinton County, the minority whip, Representative Hanna.

Mr. HANNA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today we have before us a budget proposal full of wrong priorities and false choices, a budget almost identical to the budget the Governor introduced in February. The wrong priorities and false choices are the reason our economy has

plummeted from 7th to 49th in job growth. Let me repeat that: We have plummeted from 7th to 49th in job growth. It is clear the Corbett economy is not working. We must do better for Pennsylvania workers.

Mr. Speaker, this budget institutionalizes the last 2 years' billion-dollar cut to public education. Monday, and again today, we heard the majority leader and the majority Appropriations chairman insist that they did not cut funding for public education. It is time to cut through the rhetoric when it comes to this subject. If you want to know if your schools have been cut, then ask your school board members, teachers, parents, and students. They will tell you that they are feeling the pain from devastating cuts that are made permanent in this budget. In fact, due to this budget, 75 percent of school districts plan to reduce instructional programming in 2013-14; 47 percent of school districts expect to increase class size in 2013-14. This is on top of larger class sizes imposed by 51 percent of school districts last year and 70 percent of school districts in the years before.

Thirty percent of school districts plan to reduce course offerings, such as those in foreign languages, arts, music, physical education, and even some courses in math, science, English, and social studies. Elective courses were already reduced by 43 percent of school districts last year and 44 percent of school districts in 2011-12. Twenty-two percent of school districts indicated they plan to reduce or eliminate programs that provide extra help or tutoring for struggling students, and 20 percent plan to reduce extracurricular activities, including sports, or to establish fees for participation in such activities.

And I know some of you have heard from your parents about that. They are shocked when they find out their kids can no longer participate in extracurricular activities without paying additional fees. Thirty percent reduced those extracurricular activities last year, and 33 percent the year before. And we are not making these facts up. These are facts from the PASBO-PASA (Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials-Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators) survey. I have the survey here if you want to see it. You can see these results. These are facts, Mr. Speaker. These are what has actually happened out there and what is happening.

So the facts clearly show your drastic cuts to education. And most importantly – and this is the part I want you to remember – we can argue about numbers all you want, but after a decade of improvement under Governor Rendell, the facts are in, Mr. Speaker. Quality of education is being affected by your budgets and the scores are declining. The scores are declining. The quality of education is being affected by your budgets. And do not blame the Federal stimulus money. Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the Governor's Office. If you want to help kids, you could. So say what you want. The facts are the facts. You cut education and hurt students. We must do better for our children.

Mr. Speaker, the State trooper complement is in dire straits. Since he took office, the Governor did not come through on his promises to increase the State troopers and ensure public safety. I know the Governor has stood here three Februarys in a row and promised more troopers, and I know the majority Appropriations chairman promised again today to fund more troopers, but facts are facts. I have the year-by-year impact of your budgets. I have it right here. Any one of you can come look at it. We have had a net decline in troopers every single year since Governor Corbett came to office. Current vacancies

in the State trooper complement are 538 – 12 percent of the entire force. Additionally, 1500 current troopers are eligible for retirement this month. Combine those numbers, and the Pennsylvania State Police could lose nearly half its contingent under the failed leadership of Governor Corbett.

Bottom line, Mr. Speaker: The current State Police complement is dangerously low and critically undermines the safety of the Commonwealth, and your budgets are making it worse. We must do better. And, Mr. Speaker, the majority leader and Appropriations chair proudly argue that this is a responsible, no-tax-increase budget. How can you say that when any responsible budget would address transportation and fix our crumbling roads and bridges? Yes, any responsible budget would raise taxes to fix the number one public safety problem in Pennsylvania. So I hope you are all here and ready to vote for a tax increase next week so we can do that.

Mr. Speaker, in February the Governor said Pennsylvania is "home to the hardest-working people in the world." That certainly is not what his vision is here today. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on HB 1437.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Monroe County, Representative Scavello.

Mr. SCAVELLO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I remember growing up when I would be repetitive of my dad. I would try to repeat the same thing when I was not getting my way, and he would say, "la stessa canzone." That is "the same song." You know, I sat back there for 4 years, 4 years stood at that back mike and brought up the fact that we were not funding our pensions. The pensions were underfunded. We tried to put an amendment on the floor to take care of that issue.

Since we have talked about the Rendell years, let us talk about it. In the last 4 Rendell years, we put \$1,441,898,000 into the teachers' pensions. Does anyone know what the number should have been? Just shy of \$2.7 billion. And the State employees, under the last 4 Rendell years, we put \$469 million. It should have been \$975 million. In the first 3 Corbett years, \$998 million.

So just add that \$2.6 billion in the first 3 Corbett years in the pensions for the teachers, and that other \$998 million that went into the SERS (State Employees' Retirement System) for approximately \$3.6 billion of an underfunded pension system, which I really have not heard much about. That is a tremendous amount of money. We talk about education and the fact that it was cut. I am going to throw a number out to the folks, \$5,493,042,229; \$5,493,000,000. I dare anyone to challenge it. Please find me at any time in the history of this Commonwealth more State dollars in basic education. You will not find it, Mr. Speaker, not State dollars.

And I heard from the earlier speaker, do not talk about stimulus money. Stimulus money is what created that problem. You know, I talked about the letter that the Senate sent out warning school districts to be careful. Better yet, my own family was affected because of stimulus dollars. My daughter got a promotion in her school district because of stimulus dollars, and I told her to be very careful. Do not bank on it because that is money that that school district is not going to have in future years, and sure enough, she was put back into the classroom. And that has happened across this Commonwealth.

Philadelphia in the last 4 Rendell years received over \$1 billion— We put \$1 billion into basic education, new money. Philadelphia got 25 percent of that money. Twenty-five

percent of that \$1 billion went to Philadelphia, \$248 million. The school districts that we mentioned earlier, a couple of the members mentioned, in the rural areas, the rural areas, those rural areas got shafted in those budgets. The inner cities did very well: \$10, \$5, \$15, \$20 million at one shot. And meanwhile my school districts were counting coins because they had \$176,000; \$636,000; \$445,000. We were hurting. So I feel the pain. But in a way I am kind of blessed because we did not get the dollars and they did not grow their budgets. They were warned, Mr. Speaker. That money was not going to be there. How can you grow a budget— It is almost – and I have said this before – it is like a business going to the bank on Friday to borrow money to pay their employees. What is going to happen the following week and the following week after that? That is what we faced.

Our Governor walked into office with 4.1 billion less dollars, 4.1 billion less dollars than the prior Governor, between the stimulus money and the \$1 billion shortfall that he had in revenue. And you know, for the last couple of years – and I did not hear much of it today, so I am really thankful in a way – that we have been leaving a billion dollars on the table, a billion dollars on the table. Thank God we did not listen. Could you imagine if we spent that \$1 billion, anticipating that revenue, the mess we would be in here today?

I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, this is a great budget, because it starts, we are putting ourselves and we are living within our means. I recommend that you guys please support 1437. I challenge, I would like anyone to question those numbers and tell me what happened and where did those dollars go. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman from Chester County, Representative Lawrence.

Mr. LAWRENCE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Could I have a 3-minute clock, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. We cannot quite adjust it—

Mr. LAWRENCE. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. —but I appreciate your determination towards that goal.

Mr. LAWRENCE. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of rhetoric today. We have heard quite a bit from both sides of the aisle, and I hope to offer a little bit of a fresh perspective. I am going to say right up front, this is not a perfect budget. In fact, I offered some amendments to the budget. In fact, I think I offered more amendments to this budget than any other Republican member. Certainly, there were a number of amendments offered from the other side of the aisle as well, and this is all part of the process.

Now, the first rule when you are submitting amendments to the budget is this: If you add a dollar to one line item, you have to take it from another line item. All of my amendments were fully funded from elsewhere in the budget, because we have to have a balanced budget. But many of the amendments offered, particularly some by the other side, were not funded. They added funds to various line items without stating where the money is going to come from.

Now, in my opinion, and it is just my opinion, this is simply being disingenuous. I would love to add money to line items in the budget without saying where the money is going to come from. I would love to spend money out of thin air, but that would be reckless. That would be the type of reckless spending that we see in Washington, DC, and we can see the results of

Washington-style budgeting. It sure is fun to spend money you do not have, but \$16 trillion in national debt shows the fallacy of this type of governing.

And I would like to echo the comments of the good gentleman from Monroe County. We have heard quite a bit today about education funding in this budget and what kind of priorities this budget sets, but we have not talked enough about the fact that this budget puts over \$1 billion, with a "b," for the first time into PSERS, the pension fund for schoolteachers. Have we talked about the fact enough that if this budget is passed, the State will put roughly the same amount into PSERS during the first 3 years of the Corbett administration as we did during the entire 8 years of the Rendell administration? Now, I am sure it would be more politically expedient to follow the example of the previous Governor and shirk our responsibilities to the State pension funds and use that money elsewhere to boost spending, but it would also be the height of irresponsibility.

At the end of the day, this budget is fully balanced. It fully funds the State's contribution to SERS and PSERS. There is no new debt, and it does not lay any new State taxes onto the people of Pennsylvania. That is a tremendous accomplishment, and I tip my hat to the gentleman from Delaware County, the majority Appropriations chairman, and his staff on a solid budget for the people of Pennsylvania.

I encourage an affirmative vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Cohen, on the question of final passage.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the problem with the Pennsylvania budget is that it is much too small. Pennsylvania is a leading State in the creation of tax loopholes. We probably do as good a job in creating tax loopholes as any State in the nation. But we do not do a very good job in raising revenue to meet urgent needs. We have a \$28.3 billion budget for nearly 13 million people. New Jersey, which is 4.4 million people less than Pennsylvania has, will spend \$31.7 billion this year, \$3 1/2 billion more than Pennsylvania. New York State, which is less than twice the population of Pennsylvania, will spend this year about four times our budget. New York will spend \$121 billion this year. Maryland, which has less than half the population of Pennsylvania, will spend \$37 billion this year. Virginia, with a Republican Governor and a historically very conservative State with 4 1/2 million people less than Pennsylvania, will spend \$42.45 billion this year.

We are underspending in the vast majority of categories. We can compare this year's Corbett budget with last year's Corbett budget and say, look, we have made some improvements, but the improvements are too small. We are not a dynamic State. We are a very static State. Yes, there are some people who come to Pennsylvania from other States. But the fact is, year after year there are many more Pennsylvanians leaving Pennsylvania than coming into Pennsylvania. Pennsylvanians are going to the dynamic States that spend money on behalf of their people, on behalf of economic development. According to today's USA Today, 49 percent of American women, 49 percent worry about homelessness for themselves, not others, but for themselves.

There is a lot of economic marginality in Pennsylvania and in other States, and this budget gives short shrift to that. Yes, a program here or a program there has a small increase in appropriations, but it does not really deal with the depth of

economic despair. It is easy to craft a budget if you sit around and worry, what is Grover Norquist going to think about this? We all know what Grover Norquist thinks about it. He does not think government has any real purpose. But it is tough if you start trying to look at what we can do to help ordinary people, people in Philadelphia, people all over the State. This budget does not do enough to help ordinary people. Category by category, comparison by comparison, our budget simply does not do enough. It is disgraceful how low the education spending is. It is disgraceful how low the social welfare spending is.

The statistic that Pennsylvania spends the highest percentage of its money for Medicaid of all the States merely means that we spend very, very little money overall in the budget. We ought to be spending more on Medicaid. We ought to be spending more on social programs. We ought to be taking advantage of the Federal Medicaid expansion. We ought to defeat this budget. We ought to send a message that we want to really deal with Pennsylvania's problems.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, on the question of final passage, recognizes the gentleman from Centre County, Representative Benninghoff.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There have been a lot of comments made, lots of statistics thrown out here so I am not going to get into a lot of numbers, but I rise in support of HB 1437. I wanted to speak a couple moments more to those that are watching in TV land or those who may be listening to us somewhere. For one, I wanted to let you know that if you are just listening and cannot see us, we are actually all in the same room and we are all actually looking at the same budget, although you would not know that by listening to the debate. It is amazing, the differing of opinions, and I guess that is what makes the General Assembly so interesting. You have 203 members elected here by you, the people, and you have at least 203 different opinions, at least.

The interesting thing that I wanted to raise to the viewers, because you get lost in a lot of this dialogue about numbers and percentages, are two things. Number one, we keep hearing about education being cut, both public education and higher education, but just earlier this year I stood with many of the presidents of higher education who stood with our Governor, who stood and agreed publicly to level-funding, level-funding. That is not a cut. They got exactly this year what they got last year as an agreement that they would not raise tuition, because we know and they know that as they raise tuition back home, it makes it more and more difficult for people to go to college. Tuition rates have skyrocketed. Back in the nineties when we were having pretty good wealth across the Commonwealth, tuition was rising in double-digit numbers. So in good faith effort with the Governor, the presidents of our universities that we heard were getting cuts actually agreed to level-funding. Get that out to the people. It was level-funding. They were not cut.

Public education. We have heard it multiple times, and I am going to reiterate it one more multiple time, and that is, they are getting more educational funding than they have gotten in the past. But the bottom line is, the interesting thing about the 203 people elected to this chamber is we could have 203 budgets before us to look at, review, and vote on. But the reality is, 18 days before our constitutional mandate to pass a balanced budget, we have one budget before us currently, one budget, and that is the budget we need to discuss. That is the budget we need to pass, and that is the budget the people in the Commonwealth expect us to do and get done on time.

So we can throw lots of rhetoric out about what we want, but as I used to tell my children when they were younger, and sometimes they still hear it now that they are adults, life is not always about what you want; it is about what you can afford. And I do not think any of the taxpayers back home want us to continue running State budgets like the Federal government does and spending money they do not have. And more importantly, they do not want us to be borrowing money to pay stuff today in future dollars. The reality is, this administration inherited a tremendous amount of debt. Ten years ago there was about \$400 million of State debt, then we got up to \$4.4 billion because the previous Governor decided to borrow, borrow, borrow.

The bottom line is, the general citizen out there does not want us to do that. They want us to live amongst their means, and then therefore, they elected a Governor. So what does, the Governor comes in. He may not be your favorite person. He may not be the party that you like, but you have a Governor elected by the people of the Commonwealth who said three things: I am going to pass a budget without raising taxes. I am going to balance a budget. And most importantly, I am going to do it in a fiduciary manner and get it done on time. In all the years that Governor Corbett has been in office, he has done that, and we are going to do it again this year because the people of Pennsylvania should expect no less. There are people waiting on appropriations from us, trying to balance their budgets. To delay past June 30 and not get this one done, pardon me, done on time is irresponsible by the General Assembly.

You have one budget in front of you. If you do not like it, vote "no." That is your choice. If you like it and you want to get done your responsibility of what the people expect us to do to pass a balanced budget on time without raising taxes and spend no more money than what we have, then vote in favor of HB 1437. Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

For the information of the members, we have reached that stage where there is just one speaker left on each side of the aisle prior to the Appropriations chairs and the floor leaders having the final word by tradition. So if there is anyone else inclined toward recognition, please make yourselves known to the rostrum so that we can proceed with the closing conversations from the Appropriations chairs and the leaders.

On the question of final passage, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna County, Representative Farina.

Mr. FARINA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have saved the best for last for sure.

Mr. Speaker, I chose to seek this position because I want to make Pennsylvania a better and safer place for our citizens and for our children. If you look at my voting record in the 6 short months I have been here, it depicts that I have represented the best interests of the people, not the interest of either party. In the 6 short months I have been here, I have developed relationships with various members on both sides of the aisle, with a few of these members that stand for a specific interest. These members have changed my view of particular issues and undoubtedly made me a better person. By listening to these members, I have been able to put my preconceived notions aside and vote what is right for the people and not for myself or party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote with their hearts today, to vote for the first time without looking at the board to see what your party is doing. Vote what

you truly believe is in the best interest of the great people of Pennsylvania. I can tell you this, this budget is not in the best interest of the people, not because it is a Republican budget, I just feel we can do better for the people. I told you, I have shown bipartisan support in my short time here. After you cast your vote, you can look your leader in the eye and tell him a great leader produces other great leaders, not followers.

If we vote this way for once, we will truly have done our jobs. We will make our leaders great leaders, and we will make PA a better place. Please vote "no" to HB 1437. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman and, in his spirit of saving the best for last, recognizes the gentleman from York County, Representative Moul, on the question of final passage.

Mr. MOUL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the correct pronunciation on my name as well.

If I may digress for just a brief moment, I would like to wish a very happy 89th birthday to my dear friend, the President, Mr. George Herbert Walker Bush. Happy birthday, Mr. President. And to emulate my dear friend— Come on; the guy is 89 today. To emulate my dear friend, "Read my lips: no new taxes."

Please vote for 1437. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question of final passage, the Chair recognizes the minority leader, the gentleman from Allegheny County, Representative Dermody.

Mr. DERMODY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, for the third year in a row we have a budget once again with skewed priorities. It is the third year in a row we have a budget that leaves millions of Pennsylvanians behind. It leaves our children behind. It leaves our disabled citizens behind. It leaves our senior citizens behind. And 500,000 Pennsylvanians without health insurance will be left behind. But what it does do, of course, is protects the tax cuts and tax breaks for some of the wealthiest corporations in the world, while middle-class taxpayers are seeing their property taxes rise because of the cuts in funding for education. Mr. Speaker, you can keep saying as often as you would like that you are spending records amount for education; every property tax payer in the Commonwealth knows it is not so.

Mr. Speaker, we heard earlier about a report from the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials and Association of School Administrators, and it paints a grim picture of the State of Pennsylvania's public schools. It states that "For a third consecutive year, Pennsylvania's public school finances continue to weaken, forcing school districts to once again cut course offerings, increase class size, delay textbook purchases, reduce tutoring programs for struggling students, eliminate summer school, reduce field trips, and cut extra-curricular activities, including sports and close school buildings." This is exactly what we have been saying all along.

This budget once again turns its back on our children. Pennsylvania has lost a staggering 20,000 public school jobs as a result of Governor Corbett's \$1 billion cut to education, and this budget does not come close to repairing the damage from that massive cut. From one corner of the State to the other, we see even more pain and suffering inflicted on students, on teachers, and parents thanks to the Corbett budget cuts.

The School District of Philadelphia stands as perhaps the most disturbing and depressing symbol of the failed legacy of Governor Corbett's policies. Last week it was announced that nearly 4,000 workers in the Philadelphia School District will get their pink slips. That is nearly 700 teachers and nearly 300 counselors. The city of Pittsburgh's public schools have laid off over 500 teachers and staff over the last 2 years, but it is not just our larger cities that have been affected. They have had cuts in staff and services throughout the Commonwealth. This survey shows that virtually every school district in Pennsylvania has been impacted by the reckless budget decisions in Harrisburg over the last 2 years, and this budget does not come close to reversing that trend. According to the survey, the cuts continue to be widespread, impacting three-quarters of the school districts across the State. As we have already heard, 75 percent of school districts statewide plan to reduce instructional programming in the next school year. Nearly one-quarter of school districts said they plan to delay the purchase of textbooks next year, and jobs will continue to be cut under this wrongheaded Republican budget. This is what these cuts have done to Pennsylvania's schools. Our school districts have been forced to slash the most fundamental tools necessary for educating our children: teachers and books. It is unconscionable. It is shameful. And as I said, you can say it all you want. Every parent, every student, every teacher, every taxpayer in this Commonwealth knows one thing: their budget, their numbers, their money for their schools has been cut. It has been cut \$1 billion. You have done very little to restore it, and the suffering continues.

Mr. Speaker, we need a swift and dramatic course correction to save our schools, and that is why House Democrats proposed an amendment that would have begun a 3-year initiative to fully restore Governor Corbett's education cuts. House Democrats had a plan that would have made a down payment on our schools. We had a plan that would have invested in our children, our Commonwealth, and our future. Republican majority, you blocked it. You blocked our efforts to build a stronger Pennsylvania, a more vibrant Pennsylvania.

We are now left with this inadequate embarrassment of a budget which falls far short in educating our children and protecting our most vulnerable citizens. We are left with a budget that continues to seriously underfund our public schools, hindering our ability to compete in the global economic marketplace, but we can begin to make our children's education the priority it can be, and it should be. We can begin to reverse the damage caused by this administration's policies. We can begin to move Pennsylvania forward. And the first thing we can do to begin with all of that is to vote "no" on this budget.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question of final passage, the Chair recognizes the majority leader, the gentleman from Allegheny, Representative Turzai.

Mr. TURZAI. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Responsible, prioritized, compassionate, caring, fiscal stewardship, recognizing that we have to live within our means while providing for a great educational system and making sure that the most vulnerable are taken care of. This budget does both. This budget represents an increase in spending from last year's budget of almost \$600 million. It is a budget that in fact spends \$28.3 billion, and it spends almost \$10 billion in State

revenue on public education, Pre-K through grade 12. It also spends about \$11 billion in State revenue on those programs for the most vulnerable, including those with intellectual disabilities, those in need of long-term care, of about \$11 billion.

And keep in mind, when we spend that money in this budget, it is money that is coming from the hardworking taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The personal income tax, we take 3.07 percent from people's paychecks, and it represents, on the revenue side of the budget, \$11.8 billion. And our consumption taxes, including the 6-percent sales tax we charge for every transaction on particular items, represents total about \$10.5 billion, and the sales tax alone, \$9.2 billion.

On the businesses that we want to have in Pennsylvania, employers that we want to be here to provide family-sustaining jobs for our citizens so that they can pay their personal income taxes and sales taxes, we also take approximately \$5 billion annually from those employers. The \$28.3 billion is coming from the taxpayers of Pennsylvania, and we, we the legislators of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have the honor, obligation, and privilege to prioritize, in a responsible manner, how we spend their hard-earned money. This budget is a blueprint for good governance. This budget is in fact a document that represents responsible governing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It does not increase taxes. It lives within its means, yet it provides the highest level ever of State tax dollars for public education at close to \$10 billion. And in addition, it provides for the most vulnerable: our Medicaid population, including long-term care, including those with intellectual disabilities, including those with physical disabilities. Why? Because this body, this group of legislators in the end is both responsible and recognizes their fiscal stewardship role, but is also compassionate and caring and wants to make sure that every dollar spent of taxpayers' dollars is being wisely used.

Keep in mind that with respect to public education, the reduction in State taxes for public education started under the prior administration when there became a reliance on Federal stimulus borrowed money. That money left, and everybody knew it was going to be gone. And since we have come back into the majority, we have steadily increased our spending on pre-K to 12 public education in State tax dollars, and we are doing it in a manner that lives within our means, just like families and businesses across the State of Pennsylvania.

And in the end, I might tell you that those big bad businesses that some folks like to rail against, in the end, our neighbors, yours and mine, are employed by those large and small employers, and they are folks that are coming home day after day and providing for their families, making sure that they are contributing at work to get good product and service to the market, and doing their job with pride and making sure that in fact they are paying their taxes on time and that they are raising their family in a good community and good school. And they do that because they have employers that are here in Pennsylvania.

In the end, businesses are about people and about making sure we have family-sustaining jobs. This is without a doubt a responsible blueprint that could go to the Governor's desk, and it would tell all the citizens of Pennsylvania, we are in fact meeting our constitutional obligation to allow a budget to once again be done on time and to be done in a caring manner, where we prioritize needs while making sure we are respectful to taxpayers. Nobody could ask more from a group that is charged

with making laws to administer the public policy and affairs of the good citizens of Pennsylvania. This is what we were charged to do, and I am honored today to be standing in support of really, of really a truly responsible budget.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question of final passage, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, the minority Appropriations chairman, Representative Markosek.

Mr. MARKOSEK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my good friend and colleague, the majority Appropriations chair, has said on many occasions relative to this proposal that this is not the final budget; this is not the final budget. My response to that is, thank God.

This budget, as we all know, misses out on tremendous opportunities, is full of false promises, and just simply does not treat the people who elected us – the citizens, the men and women of Pennsylvania who put us here to take care of their needs – in an efficient and proper manner. What we have to do from this moment on, first of all, I would ask everybody certainly to vote "no" on this for all the reasons that many of us spoke about. But if that does not happen, then we have to move on and work hand in hand, both sides of the aisle, with our brothers and sisters over in the Senate, in putting together a budget, a final budget, that will restore, at least start to restore the \$1 billion in basic education funds that we have had to endure, that our school districts and students of Pennsylvania have had to endure over the last 2 years, restoring needed money for higher education that our students and their parents have had to endure, the cuts from that, to work very hard to ensure that we have sufficient health care for all of our constituents, for the young and the old, for people that cannot afford it. We need to work so that we can include in this budget funding for Medicaid expansion, which the Governor has been extremely tardy in making a decision and making the proper decision to expand and to accept Medicaid expansion as he should do.

We have a lot of work to do ahead of us, because my friend and colleague is correct, this is not the final budget. But I think the people in Pennsylvania, those that understand the process, they know it is not the final budget, but they are looking for much, much more from us. They are looking for us to do much, much better than what HB 1437 presents to the people of Pennsylvania.

I cannot support the bill for many, many reasons, as you know. We had, I think, some reasonable answers to a lot of the problems here. We restored a lot of the funding that is so important to most Pennsylvanians, and we did it in a manner that is reasonable and we can find that revenue that is reasonable that we could make those restored cuts, because those are cuts that we can do. Those are restorations, excuse me, that we can do. They are restorations that we must do. And at the end of the day, they are restorations that we as elected members of the General Assembly should do.

I would ask everybody to please vote "no" on HB 1437. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## THE SPEAKER (SAMUEL H. SMITH) PRESIDING

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Adolph.

Mr. ADOLPH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For those that follow the Philadelphia Phillies, today I feel like I am the lead-off guy, Jimmy Rollins, and also Ryan Howard, the cleanup man. If you follow the Phillies, sometimes they are not having a real good day, but I tell you what, I have listened to each and every one of you very intently over the last 4 or 5 hours, and I have a lot of respect for each and every one of you in this General Assembly. And it is a very difficult job, trying to get a consensus on a State budget. Each year it seems to get harder. Revenues are tough; no one wants to raise taxes on the working people and businesses in Pennsylvania. However, we have to pay for services, and we expect real good services, from education to roads and highways, and we have heard all that today.

I heard my colleague, Chairman Markosek, talk about, thank God this is not the final budget. Well, I want to share a story with you, what the loyal opposition said when Ben Franklin discovered electricity many, many decades ago in the City of Brotherly Love: "Bad day for the candlemakers." You are supposed to laugh at that now, come on. I sat there all day listening to the devastation, the sky-is-falling rhetoric regarding our education funding. Mr. Speaker, there is no question about it, that there was a \$1 billion loss of education funding, but make no mistake about it, it was not as a result of State tax dollars. Make no mistake about that. When you start comparing what our school districts received in those 2 years that they received Federal stimulus and then have the audacity to use today's figures as a comparison, you are not dealing with the facts. You are not dealing with the facts.

All you have to do is go to Lancaster County and you will see a comparison about how we distribute money. The city of Lancaster's school district receives about 40 percent of its funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A suburban school district, Manheim School District, receives about 18 percent from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; a perfect example, just a couple miles from each other. Pittsburgh School District – and I do not mean to be picking on the Steel City, because I think it is a great city. I am very proud that it is in Pennsylvania – but their cost of educating per pupil is \$21,000, 21,000. The cost of educating someone from Pittsburgh in the public school system, \$21,000. Forty percent of that comes from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all your taxpayers.

My home district, because they, sometimes the loyal opposition likes to pick on my school districts. I live in Springfield School District, very proud of it. Representative Watson is a graduate of Springfield High School, also taught there. My youngest son is a public school teacher in Springfield Township. The cost of educating a child in Springfield School District, where you can see the Philadelphia skyline from most of our streets, is \$15,000. Eighty-five percent of our school district is funded by local property taxes. A little over

15 percent comes from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is an absolutely outstanding school district. I am proud of the dedicated schoolteachers, the school board, the elected school board. They put together a good product at a very reasonable cost. This budget spends \$10 billion on K-12 education. That is a lot of money. That is a lot of money. Ten billion dollars for human services, a lot of money, a lot of money.

You know, we were able to put together this budget, \$28.3 billion, and we are not increasing the State income tax. We are not increasing the Pennsylvania sales tax on the hard-working residents of Pennsylvania. I heard some good suggestions today, and as leadership of this House works with the leadership of the Senate and this administration, I am sure there are going to be some line items that will change, but the total spend money will have to be made up by the taxpayers of Pennsylvania.

I ask each and every one of you not to pick one line item, but look at this overall spending plan. The highest, the highest State spending for public education in the history of Pennsylvania. It equitably distributes the money to all 500 school districts of Pennsylvania. It is not perfect. It is not perfect. We need to get more people back to work here in Pennsylvania, and I think some of the legislation that we have passed in the House is doing just that. We are creating good-paying private-sector jobs, which is what makes this nation great.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your participation in this great democracy, and I urge you to support the passage of HB 1437. Thank you very much.

**GUEST INTRODUCED**

The SPEAKER. I just want to take a second and mention a visitor on the floor, back by the door to the members' lounge, a former House member and now Judge Wogan from Philadelphia. Judge.

**CONSIDERATION OF HB 1437 CONTINUED**

On the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The SPEAKER. Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

The following roll call was recorded:

**YEAS—108**

Adolph	Fee	Lucas	Rapp
Aument	Fleck	Mackenzie	Reed
Baker	Gabler	Maher	Reese
Barrar	Gillen	Major	Regan
Benninghoff	Gillespie	Maloney	Rock
Bloom	Gingrich	Marshall	Ross
Boback	Greiner	Marsico	Saccone
Brooks	Grell	Masser	Sankey
Brown, R.	Grove	McGinnis	Saylor
Causar	Hahn	Mentzer	Scavello
Christiana	Harhart	Metcalfe	Simmons
Clymer	Harper	Metzgar	Smith
Corbin	Harris, A.	Micozzie	Sonney
Cox	Heffley	Millard	Stephens
Culver	Helm	Miller, R.	Stern
Cutler	Hennessey	Milne	Stevenson
Day	Hess	Moul	

Delozier	Hickernell	Murt	Swanger
Denlinger	James	Mustio	Tallman
DiGirolamo	Kampf	O'Neill	Taylor
Dunbar	Kauffman	Oberlander	Tobash
Ellis	Keller, F.	Payne	Toepel
Emrick	Keller, M.K.	Peifer	Toohil
English	Killion	Petri	Truitt
Evankovich	Knowles	Pickett	Turzai
Everett	Krieger	Pyle	Vereb
Farry	Lawrence	Quinn	Watson

**NAYS—92**

Barbin	Deasy	Keller, W.	Painter
Bishop	DeLissio	Kim	Parker
Bizzarro	DeLuca	Kinsey	Pashinski
Boyle, B.	Dermody	Kirkland	Petrarca
Boyle, K.	Donatucci	Kortz	Ravenstahl
Bradford	Evans	Kotik	Readshaw
Briggs	Fabrizio	Kula	Roebuck
Brown, V.	Farina	Longietti	Rozzi
Brownlee	Flynn	Mahoney	Sabatina
Burns	Frankel	Markosek	Sainato
Caltagirone	Freeman	Matzie	Samuelson
Carroll	Gainey	McCarter	Santarsiero
Clay	Galloway	McGeehan	Schlossberg
Cohen	Gergely	McNeill	Schreiber
Conklin	Gibbons	Miller, D.	Sims
Costa, D.	Goodman	Mirabito	Snyder
Costa, P.	Haggerty	Miranda	Sturla
Cruz	Haluska	Molchany	Thomas
Daley, M.	Hanna	Mullery	Vitali
Daley, P.	Harhai	Mundy	Waters
Davidson	Harkins	Neilson	Wheatley
Davis	Harris, J.	Neuman	White
Dean	Kavulich	O'Brien	Youngblood

**NOT VOTING—0**

**EXCUSED—3**

Godshall	Hackett	Miccarelli
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The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the Senate for concurrence.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND RECOMMITTED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES**

**HB 821, PN 2032 (Amended)** By Rep. HARPER

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in municipal authorities, further providing for purposes and powers.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

**HB 1253, PN 1601** By Rep. HARPER

An Act amending the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, further providing for definitions and for administration and enforcement.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

**BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE,  
CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED**

**SB 351, PN 1222** (Amended) By Rep. HARPER

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in municipal authorities, further providing for purposes and powers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

**LETTER SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD**

VOTE CORRECTION

The SPEAKER. The Speaker is in receipt of a communication from Representative Haggerty, which the clerk will read.

The following letter was read:

House of Representatives  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

June 12, 2013

The Honorable Samuel Smith  
The Speaker  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Rm. 140 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Speaker Smith:

I write to correct the record on the vote on A-01792 (Baker) to HB 1437, the General Fund Appropriations bill for 2013-14 fiscal year.

On A-01792, which provides for an increase in the state appropriation for women's service programs to be used for grants to no profit agencies whose primary function is to promote childbirth and assist pregnant women seeking alternatives to abortion, I was incorrectly recorded in the negative. I can only attribute this incorrect vote to a button malfunction during the vote.

I wish to correct the record to be recorded in the affirmative, and have my remarks spread upon the record.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Respectfully,  
Kevin Haggerty  
Member, 112th Legislative District  
Lackawanna County

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Bedford, Mr. Hess, for the purpose of an announcement.

Will the members just hold on. There is just one announcement, and I think then we are pretty much— There are a couple of announcements, if we just give the members attention, just a little wee bit, please.

The gentleman, Mr. Hess, may proceed.

Mr. HESS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The House Transportation Committee was to meet at 4 o'clock. The meeting will commence immediately upon the recess in B-31. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. There will be a Transportation Committee meeting immediately upon recess in B-31.

**COMMITTEE MEETING CANCELED**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Barrar, for the purpose of an announcement.

Mr. BARRAR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting scheduled for today has been canceled. We are going to reschedule that for Monday. The members will get a notice of the time and place. Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY MR. SACCONI**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Saccone, under unanimous consent.

Mr. SACCONI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to say that it is my 34th anniversary, and many of you know my wife. She is here. You have met her before and have seen her around at events. I just want to say two things publicly to her on this day. One, I loved her from the first day I saw her, and number two, I have loved her a little more every day since for 34 years. Thank you. Happy anniversary, Hon. God bless you.

The SPEAKER. You are going to make us all look bad.

**BILLS REMOVED FROM TABLE**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the following bills be removed from the tabled calendar and placed on the active calendar:

HB 128;  
HB 131;  
HB 1020;  
HB 1101;  
SB 4; and  
SB 194.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the motion?  
Motion was agreed to.

**BILLS REMOVED FROM TABLE**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the following bills be removed from the tabled calendar and placed on the active calendar:

HB 135;  
HB 324; and  
HB 968.



On the question,  
Will the House agree to the motion?  
Motion was agreed to.

### **BILLS TABLED**

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the following bills be removed from the active calendar and placed on the tabled calendar:

HB 135;  
HB 324; and  
HB 968.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the motion?  
Motion was agreed to.

### **BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER**

The SPEAKER. Without objection, all remaining bills and resolutions on today's calendar will be passed over. The Chair hears no objection.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The SPEAKER. Seeing no further business before the House, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Flynn, from Lackawanna County, who moves that this House do adjourn until Monday, June 17, 2013, at 1 p.m., e.d.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the motion?  
Motion was agreed to, and at 4:17 p.m., e.d.t., the House adjourned.