

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

SESSION OF 2023

207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 9

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 9 a.m., e.s.t.

THE SPEAKER (JOANNA E. McCLINTON) PRESIDING

PRAYER

HON. DARISHA K. PARKER, member of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Good morning, and thank you, Madam Speaker.

Today we offer the Serenity Prayer together as a celebration of our friendship and as a sign of hope for unity within this chamber.

Personal perspective here: "Respect" is an action word that should be practiced, prayed, and applied daily amongst each other. We must continue to be respectful and polite daily amongst each other by starting and ending our day in prayer.

I saw this simple prayer every day during my youth, as it was embossed on a decorative plate hung on the wall opposite my seat of my family's dinner table, but I did not appreciate the profound sense of joy one can achieve from living by it until decades later, when I was well into my adulthood.

Colleagues and guests, please clear the distractions from your minds, and feel free to recite this prayer along if you know the words:

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

And together all God's people say, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. We would like to take this time to acknowledge the guests who are here in the House.

The gentlelady from Chester County, Representative Christina Sappey, has brought a guest today. Phoebe Fisher, please stand. Phoebe is a constituent of Representative Sappey

and is here to shadow her today. She is also a senior at Holderness School in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Welcome to Harrisburg.

The gentlelady from Allegheny County, Representative Emily Kinkead, has, seated in the gallery, Professor Defenderfer and students in her State and local government class at Bloomsburg University. Please stand, all of the students from Bloomsburg University. Welcome.

JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Monday, March 6, 2023, will be postponed until printed.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. Leaves of absence. Are there requests for leaves of absence?

The Chair recognizes the majority whip; the Chair recognizes the minority whip. There are no requests for leaves of absence.

MASTER ROLL CALL

The SPEAKER. The Chair is about to take the master roll call. Members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

PRESENT—201

Abney	Flick	Krupa	Rapp
Adams	Flood	Kulik	Rigby
Armanini	Frankel	Kutz	Roae
Banta	Freeman	Kuzma	Rossi
Barton	Friel	Labs	Rowe
Bellmon	Fritz	Lawrence	Rozzi
Benham	Gallagher	Leadbeter	Ryncavage
Benninghoff	Galloway	Mackenzie, M.	Salisbury
Bernstine	Gaydos	Mackenzie, R.	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gergely	Madden	Sanchez
Bonner	Gillen	Madsen	Sappey
Borowicz	Giral	Major	Schemel
Borowski	Gleim	Mako	Scheuren
Boyle	Green	Malagari	Schlegel
Bradford	Gregory	Maloney	Schlossberg
Brennan	Greiner	Marcell	Schmitt
Briggs	Grove	Markosek	Schweyer
Brown, A.	Guent	Marshall	Scialabba
Brown, M.	Guzman	Matzie	Scott
Bullock	Haddock	Mayes	Shusterman
Burgos	Hamm	McAndrew	Siegel
Burns	Hanbidge	McNeill	Smith

C Freytiz	Harkins	Mehaffie	Smith-Wade-El
Cabell	Harris	Mentzer	Solomon
Causer	Heffley	Mercuri	Staats
Cephas	Hogan	Merski	Stambaugh
Cerrato	Hohenstein	Metzgar	Steele
Ciresi	Howard	Mihalek	Stehr
Conklin	Innamorato	Miller, B.	Struzzi
Cook	Irvin	Miller, D.	Sturla
Cooper	Isaacson	Moul	Takac
Curry	James	Mullins	Tomlinson
Cutler	Jones, M.	Munroe	Topper
D'Orsie	Jones, T.	Mustello	Twardzik
Daley	Jozwiak	Neilson	Venkat
Davanzo	Kail	Nelson, E.	Vitali
Davis	Kaufner	Nelson, N.	Warner
Dawkins	Kauffman	O'Mara	Warren
Deasy	Kazeem	O'Neal	Watro
Delloso	Keefer	Oberlander	Waxman
Delozier	Kenyatta	Ortitay	Webster
Diamond	Kephart	Otten	Wentling
Donahue	Kerwin	Owlett	White
Dunbar	Khan	Parker	Williams, C.
Ecker	Kim	Pashinski	Williams, D.
Emrick	Kinthead	Pickett	Young
Evans	Kinsey	Pielli	Zimmerman
Fee	Klunk	Pisciottano	
Fiedler	Kosierowski	Probst	McClinton,
Fink	Krajewski	Rabb	Speaker
Fleming	Krueger	Rader	

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Zabel

The SPEAKER. Two hundred and one members having voted on the master roll call, a quorum is present.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority chairman of Appropriations, Representative Harris, for the purposes of a committee announcement.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The House Appropriations Committee will meet immediately in the majority caucus room.

The SPEAKER. The House will be at ease while the Appropriations Committee meets.

The Appropriations Committee will meet immediately in the majority caucus room.

The House will come to order.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The SPEAKER. The Chair is in receipt of a report of the Committee on Committees, which the clerk will read.

The following report was read:

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In the House of Representatives,
March 7, 2023

Resolved that,

Representative Donahue, Lackawanna County, is elected a member of the Judiciary Committee, Representative Zabel resigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Morgan Cephas
Chair
Committee on Committees

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?
Resolution was adopted.

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

HB 2, PN 5

By Rep. HARRIS

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time, further providing for infancy, insanity or imprisonment; in matters affecting government units, further providing for exceptions to sovereign immunity and for exceptions to governmental immunity; and making a repeal.

APPROPRIATIONS.

CALENDAR

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 2, PN 5**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time, further providing for infancy, insanity or imprisonment; in matters affecting government units, further providing for exceptions to sovereign immunity and for exceptions to governmental immunity; and making a repeal.

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 Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks County, Representative Rozzi.

Mr. ROZZI. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I just want to thank my colleagues once again for helping us get this passed out of the House. It is like déjà vu all over. My message really today is for the other side of the chamber, the

Senate, that they could take up this bill and we could finally get justice for victims. So I just want to encourage the Senate to do their part and end this 18 1/2-plus struggle for victims.

So thank you again to the members of the House, that we are bringing justice or on the path. And again, with this type of bill, the Senate could take it up and we do not have to wait for the November ballot. They could pass it and we could end this next week.

So thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

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—134

Abney	Flick	Kulik	Rozzi
Adams	Frankel	Labs	Ryncavage
Bellmon	Freeman	Lawrence	Salisbury
Benham	Friel	Mackenzie, M.	Samuelson
Benninghoff	Gallagher	Mackenzie, R.	Sanchez
Bizzarro	Galloway	Madden	Sappey
Bonner	Gaydos	Madsen	Scheuren
Borowski	Gergely	Malagari	Schlossberg
Boyle	Gillen	Maloney	Schmitt
Bradford	Giral	Marcell	Schweyer
Brennan	Green	Markosek	Scott
Briggs	Gregory	Marshall	Shusterman
Brown, A.	Guenst	Matzie	Siegel
Bullock	Guzman	Mayes	Smith-Wade-El
Burgos	Haddock	McAndrew	Solomon
Burns	Hanbidge	McNeill	Steele
C Freytiz	Harkins	Mehaffie	Struzzi
Cabell	Harris	Merski	Sturla
Causar	Hogan	Miller, D.	Takac
Cephas	Hohenstein	Mullins	Tomlinson
Cerrato	Howard	Munroe	Venkat
Ciresi	Innamorato	Neilson	Vitali
Conklin	Isaacson	Nelson, N.	Warren
Curry	Jozwiak	O'Mara	Watro
Daley	Kaufner	Ortitay	Waxman
Davis	Kazeem	Otten	Webster
Dawkins	Kenyatta	Parker	Wentling
Deasy	Khan	Pashinski	White
Delloso	Kim	Pielli	Williams, C.
Donahue	Kinthead	Pisciottano	Williams, D.
Emrick	Kinsey	Probst	Young
Evans	Kosierowski	Rabb	
Fiedler	Krajewski	Rapp	McClinton,
Fleming	Krueger	Rigby	Speaker

NAYS—67

Armanini	Flood	Krupa	Pickett
Banta	Fritz	Kutz	Rader
Barton	Gleim	Kuzma	Roae
Bernstine	Greiner	Leadbeter	Rossi
Borowicz	Grove	Major	Rowe
Brown, M.	Hamm	Mako	Schemel
Cook	Heffley	Mentzer	Schlegel
Cooper	Irvin	Mercuri	Scialabba
Cutler	James	Metzgar	Smith
D'Orsie	Jones, M.	Mihalek	Staats
Davanzo	Jones, T.	Miller, B.	Stambaugh
Delozier	Kail	Moul	Stehr
Diamond	Kauffman	Mustello	Topper

Dunbar	Keefer	Nelson, E.	Twardzik
Ecker	Kephart	O'Neal	Warner
Fee	Kerwin	Oberlander	Zimmerman
Fink	Klunk	Owlett	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Zabel

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.

GUEST INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes more guests that have joined us on the floor of the House.

The gentleman from Lancaster County, Representative Ismail Smith-Wade-El, brings to the floor of the House Lauren Slessor. Please rise and be greeted.

LEGISLATIVE FELLOWS AND ARCHIVES INTERNS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. In the gallery, we are pleased to recognize guests of the Chief Clerk. We have the PA House Fellowship Program here on the floor of the House. Please rise as we clap for all the hard work you are doing this semester. Welcome.

The Pennsylvania House Fellowship and House Archives interns for the spring 2023 semester, this group is sponsored by the House of Representatives through the Bipartisan Management Committee and the Office of the Chief Clerk. There are five students who are participating in this spring 2023 semester program.

We have Katerina Coffman, a student from the Pennsylvania State University College of Agricultural Sciences, assigned to the Republican Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, supervised by Kerry Golden.

We have Daulten Dombrowski, a student from Elizabethtown College, assigned to the Democratic Gaming Oversight Committee, supervised by Hank Beaver.

Ariana Genna, a student from Lebanon Valley College, assigned to the Democratic Local Government Committee, supervised by Jon Castelli.

Nathaniel McCloud, a student from Dickinson College, assigned to the Democratic Legislative Policy and Research Office, supervised by Jerry Morris.

William Simmons, a student from Penn State Harrisburg, assigned to the Republican Transportation Committee, supervised by Josiah Shelly.

The House Archives Internship, sponsored by the House of Representatives through the Bipartisan Management Committee and Office of the Chief Clerk, has two students participating in this spring 2023 semester program, under the supervision of Associate Archivist Jennifer Ott. Keli Ganey attends Messiah

college, pursuing a bachelor's degree in history with public history concentration and digital history. And finally, we have Sara Bokus. She attends York College, pursuing a bachelor's degree in history.

We are so glad to have you all working in the Capitol and appreciate you being on the floor of the House today.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR JOINT SESSION

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication in writing from the office of His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth:

Governor
Josh Shapiro

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Kim Ward President Pro Tempore Senate of Pennsylvania	The Honorable Mark Rozzi Speaker Pennsylvania House of Representatives
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Dear President Pro Tempore Ward and Speaker Rozzi:

If it meets with the approval of the General Assembly, I am respectfully requesting a Joint Session of the General Assembly on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. The purpose of this session would be to address the members of the House and Senate for the annual budget address, at a time that is convenient to the General Assembly.

All the best,
Josh Shapiro
Governor

RECESS

The SPEAKER. The House will be in recess until 11 a.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

AFTER RECESS

The time of recess having expired, the House was called to order.

The SPEAKER. Members and guests, please take your seats.

As a reminder to our members and guests, unless granted special permission by the Speaker, photographs and video are not permitted on the floor of the House or in the galleries during today's joint session. Today's ceremony will be broadcast live, and House photographers are on the floor for any photography needs you may have.

FILMING PERMISSION

The SPEAKER. The Speaker has granted permission to take still photos for a period of 10 minutes to Amanda Mustard from the Pennsylvania Capital-Star, and Dan Gleiter from PennLive.

The Speaker has granted permission to take still photos for the duration of the joint session to James Robinson from the Senate Democratic Caucus, and the Speaker has also granted permission to take video or photographs for 10 minutes to Greg Berkey of WGAL.

SENATE MESSAGE

JOINT SESSION

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate
March 7, 2023

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in a Joint Session today, March 7, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing an address by His Excellency, Governor Josh Shapiro; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a committee of three, on the part of the Senate, be appointed to act with a similar committee on the part of the House of Representatives, to escort His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE TO ESCORT GOVERNOR

Mr. BRADFORD offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
March 7, 2023

RESOLVED, That the Speaker appoint a committee of three to escort the Governor to the Hall of the House for the purpose of attending a Joint Session of the General Assembly.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker appoints as a committee to wait upon His Excellency, the Governor, Representative Steele, Representative Smith-Wade-El, and Representative Marcell. The committee will proceed with its performance of duties.

The House will be at ease as we await the arrival of the Pennsylvania Senate.

The House will come to order.

ARRIVAL OF SENATE

The SPEAKER. The Senate is now entering the hall of the House. Members and guests, please rise.

The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Madam Speaker, the Senate is now present in the hall of the House.

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

The Chair requests that the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Austin Davis, preside over the proceedings of the joint session of the General Assembly. The President pro tem of the Senate, the Honorable Kim Ward, is invited to be seated on the rostrum. The members of the House and the Senate will greet our guests and then take our seats.

Members and guests, please take your seats. Members and guests, please take your seats.

It has and continues to be the honor of my life to be my community's voice here in Harrisburg, to serve my neighbors from southwest Philadelphia to Yeadon Borough to Darby Borough, and for this chamber to make the decision to flip a page in history just last week to be the first woman to be Speaker of the House is an incredible honor. Thank you. Thank you.

But I must say, this morning I am so very excited that a former member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, one born in Allegheny County from the 35th District, who has always been a shooting star, a voice to the voiceless, who has gone above and beyond serving his district down in the Mon – another historymaker is in our midst. And it is now the honor of the day for me to present my gavel to the first African-American Lieutenant Governor in this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Let us give a warm welcome to Austin Davis.

JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (AUSTIN A. DAVIS) PRESIDING

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. It is my privilege to be the first Lieutenant Governor to preside over a joint session to use these two words: "Madam Speaker."

This being the day and the hour agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives to hear an address by His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Josh Shapiro, this joint session will now come to order.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ESCORTING GOVERNOR

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The General Assembly will be at ease while it awaits the arrival of the Governor.

The General Assembly will come to order. The Governor is entering the hall of the House. Members and guests will please rise.

The Chair recognizes the chair of the committee to escort the Governor, the gentlewoman from Montgomery County, Senator Pennycuick.

Mrs. PENNYCUICK. Mr. President, Madam Speaker, members of the General Assembly, as chair of the committee to escort the Governor, I wish to report that His Excellency, the Governor, is present and is prepared to address this joint session. Thank you.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks Chair Pennycuick and the committee.

Members of the General Assembly, I now have the honor and privilege of presenting His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Josh Shapiro, who will now address this joint session.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET ADDRESS OF GOV. JOSH SHAPIRO

The GOVERNOR. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Lieutenant Governor Davis, Madam Speaker McClinton – hang on, stay on your feet – Madam President Pro Tem Ward; Leader Pittman, Leader Costa, Leader Bradford, and Leader Cutler; Acting Attorney General Henry, Auditor General DeFoor, and Treasurer Garrity; and members of this General Assembly, thank you for welcoming me, our First Lady, Lori Shapiro – you all are real smart to clap for her. I want to welcome two of our four children, Sophia and Jonah, who are with us today, along with our Second Lady, Blayre Holmes Davis, who joins us. Madam Speaker, let the record reflect, there were some members of the Senate who rose to clap for Ms. Holmes Davis prior to the Lieutenant Governor standing up, all right? I also want to welcome our distinguished Cabinet and senior members of our team, led by Dana Fritz, here today.

I am very mindful of the high honor it is to address you from this rostrum. I sat through seven budget addresses as a House member. In fact, I sat right there in Manny Guzman's seat, in seat 75, for most of them. The last time I spoke in this chamber, it was from this very rostrum when Speaker Sam Smith invited me to deliver my farewell remarks on December 15, 2011.

In that speech, I talked about our shared responsibility – not just in this building, but all across this Commonwealth – to confront our greatest challenges and move Pennsylvania forward. I said that day, and I believe it in my core 12 years later, that the tasks we face are too great for any one man or any one woman to address, too great for any one legislator or one Governor, too significant for any one political party or another. And it was Speaker Smith who taught me one of the most valuable lessons I learned as a member of this House. In this building, the Speaker said, the three most important numbers are 102, 26, and 1. It takes 102 House members, 26 Senators, and 1 Governor to accomplish anything. And as those numbers make clear, it requires a collective effort, and while we should hold firm to our individual values, that should not preclude us from opening up our minds and our hearts to one another to find common ground so we can deliver the results that the good people of Pennsylvania deserve.

People like Elizabeth Strong, who owns a hair salon on Liberty Street in Allentown. She traveled to Harrisburg last month to join me as I signed an Executive order improving our licensing, permitting, and certification processes so it would no

longer prevent someone like her from getting that small business off the ground. Because people like Elizabeth work hard, she deserves certainty and a State government that works as hard as she does.

People like Jess Porter, a third grade teacher – stand up, Jess – people like Jess Porter, a third grade-teacher from Pittsburgh. Jess works hard every day to give her students the skills and the knowledge that they need to succeed, to give them a shot and open up the doors of opportunity regardless of their ZIP (Zoning Improvement Plan) Code. Jess just wants the Commonwealth to give a damn about her students and ensure that they have access to a quality education and a safe, healthy learning environment. Jess is with us today as a reminder of the work we need to do to create opportunity for all of God's children. Their stories and the stories of more than 13 million Pennsylvanians, that should define the work that we do here in this Capitol.

This, of course, is the people's chamber, and I stand before you today as the 48th Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania humbled by the trust that they placed in me and committed to repaying that trust by showing them that government can be a positive, productive force for good. I believe that in my core, as I did 12 years ago when I said farewell to my colleagues here in this House. I left that chamber feeling optimistic about our future, and I return today feeling more optimistic than ever before. And I am optimistic because the people of Pennsylvania, well, they have inspired me, and I have faith in all of us that we can do this work together.

Seven weeks ago, when I took the oath of office, I spoke about the mandate that people have given us: they want us to reject extremism and division, and they want us to get real things done again. We have the opportunity to pass a commonsense budget that speaks to their needs, that addresses their problems, that creates real opportunity, and advances the cause of real freedom for them, the people of Pennsylvania, and I believe we can do that work together.

Listen, this budget proposal is a reflection of our reality. Let me explain what I mean by that. A moment ago I introduced the three people seated behind me here, three historymakers: Pennsylvania's first Black Lieutenant Governor, Austin Davis; the first woman to serve as the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; and the first woman to serve as the President pro tem of our State Senate. Now, today, today in this chamber, we are witnessing history for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it is important to note that we all share in that progress. But it is also really important to note that among these two distinguished women leaders, one is a Democrat and one is a Republican, and nothing gets done unless a majority in her chamber and a majority in her chamber agree. You see, Pennsylvania is one of only two States with a divided legislature. And lucky for us, we are the only one with a full-time divided legislature.

Together, we represent many Pennsylvanians who also divided their vote. They cast their ballots for you, and they cast their ballots for me. Through their votes, they asked us to implicitly come to the table, put aside the gimmicks and the partisan litmus tests, and deliver commonsense solutions to the very real problems that we are facing every day. And the good news is, we have the flexibility to do this work because, together with my predecessor, you have all put us in the position where we can make critical investments in our future. Taken together, the General Fund surplus and the savings in the Rainy Day Fund are the largest in the Commonwealth's history. And we have built

our budget around a conservative revenue estimate, so conservative in fact – hear me on this – that we are using projections that are \$3 billion – with a "b" – \$3 billion lower over the next 5 years than the Independent Fiscal Office, a notoriously cautious group of economics forecasters. We are prepared to weather a storm should it come.

And we can also afford to make critical investments for the good people of Pennsylvania right now, investments that build an economy that works for everyone, to create safe and healthy communities, to ensure that every child receives a quality education, and to protect real freedom. And so now let me show you what that means.

Let us start by lowering costs for Pennsylvanians. Many of our neighbors, we all know, are being crushed under a mountain of rising prices, most of which are out of their control. And let us be frank, a lot of it is out of our control as well, but that does not mean we should not try to help them. There are some commonsense solutions that we can implement to take some of that burden off of our fellow Pennsylvanians' shoulders.

First, let us eliminate the State cell phone tax. In today's world, practically everyone has a cell phone, and being connected to the rest of the world is critical to economic stability, safety, family, and success. By eliminating the cell phone tax, we will save Pennsylvanians \$124 million every year; that is real money back in their pockets. I remember the moms in Erie who told me that their cell phone bill – with lines for them, their husbands, and their kids – is their largest single monthly bill. They just need a little bit of help, and so my budget delivers for them.

Second, let us expand the property tax and rent rebate program for our seniors and for disabled Pennsylvanians. I see some things did not change. Some people did not know if they were supposed to stand up there or not. It is all right. Give me a chance. We will keep working through this. You see, it gives a rebate to low-income renters and homeowners every single year, putting money back in their pockets so they can stay in their homes, homes where seniors like Gaylene Macuska raised their families, lived their lives, and made memories over so many years. Thanks for being with us, Gaylene.

Let me tell you about Gaylene. She is a mother, she is a grandmother, and she is a great-grandmother. She made the choice to start college at 43 after leaving an abusive marriage. She then went on to earn three different degrees. She is an active volunteer who loves to give back to her community in Scranton, and she is living with stage 4 breast cancer. Gaylene's life has been full of family, full of learning, and full of community. The property tax and rent rebates have helped Gaylene stay in her home, but understand, it has been 17 years since Pennsylvania took a look at what seniors actually need to get by; 17 years since the formula that provides relief to people like Gaylene has actually been updated. I think it is time for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to catch up, and so my budget proposes a significant expansion in the property tax and rent rebate. I want to raise the maximum rebate for seniors from \$650 to \$1,000 – hang on – and, and I want to increase the cap for renters and homeowners to \$45,000 a year. Finally, finally – and this is important – I want to tie that cap to increases in the cost of living so that this Commonwealth never has to tell another senior, hey, sorry, you are out of luck because your Social Security payment went up, but we did not act. Under my plan, nearly 175,000 more Pennsylvanians will qualify, and the 400,000 people who already qualify – people like Gaylene – will see their rebates nearly double. So in a nutshell, this would nearly double the number of

seniors who qualify for relief as well as the amount they receive to help them stay in their homes.

Listen, I have heard from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle who want to expand the property tax and rent rebate because it helps seniors in every single county – 17,000 seniors in Westmoreland County, in fact; more than 14,000 in York and more than 11,000 in Lehigh Counties alone. Gang, these are our neighbors. Let us get this done for them. It is what they deserve, and it is common sense.

And it is not enough just to help seniors and the disabled stay in their homes. We also need to make sure that people living paycheck to paycheck can maintain their homes. I have directed the Department of Community and Economic Development, under the leadership of Acting Secretary Rick Siger, to move swiftly to disburse the Whole-Home Repairs funds, get them out on the street right away. In fact, the first payments are expected to go out as early as next week, providing much-needed help and comfort for our neighbors. I look forward to working with everyone in both chambers to support and grow this initiative for many years to come.

We need to lower costs for families, for seniors, those who are disabled, and folks who are struggling to stay in their homes. We also need to lower costs for businesses so that we can create more jobs, hire more workers, and pay them a higher wage. We need to continue the work that this body began last year, finally lowering the corporate net income tax. Pennsylvanians used to have the second highest business taxes in the nation, making it too difficult for companies to grow and succeed, and more challenging, frankly, for us to be able to sell this Commonwealth. This year my administration is sending a different message: Pennsylvania is open for business. We are going to make our Commonwealth a leader in innovation, in job creation, and in economic development. If we want the next scientific breakthrough to happen here, if we want our workers to build our future, if we want to plant a flag and say, we are going to be a leader, then we need to keep lowering the corporate net income tax. And while that work you began, while that work you began is critically important, it is my view that we need to speed up those cuts, so I ask all of you, let us work together to do just that.

Just last week I spoke at the Spark Therapeutics groundbreaking in Philadelphia, where they are building a global center of research and innovation in gene therapy that is literally going to save lives, a company born out of one of our great health-care institutions and with the help of an early investment from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The very next day I visited Astrobotic's headquarters in Pittsburgh and saw the lunar lander that will become the first commercial spacecraft to land on the Moon. Think about that. In just 2 months, a spacecraft built in Pittsburgh by the hands of homegrown entrepreneurs will travel more than 225,000 miles to land on the surface of the Moon – again, a company that this Commonwealth believed in and invested in, built by the brains that studied here at one of our premier higher ed institutions. All of us should take pride in that. Two sides of our Commonwealth – two very, very different companies – but one story of Pennsylvania's ingenuity and innovation.

We can tell that same story about so many industries and so many entrepreneurs and so many inventors. Thanks to our world-class universities and research institutions, our bountiful natural resources, our skilled workforce, Pennsylvania is poised to be a leader for decades to come.

We can secure that future, but to do it, we need to invest more in economic opportunity, cut through the red tape, and move at the speed of business. In my first week as Governor, by Executive order, I created the Office of Transformation and Opportunity, a one-stop shop for businesses to help connect the dots and give them the support they need to grow and thrive. Already, our chief transformation officer has met with dozens of business leaders, identifying bottlenecks companies face when they want to work with the Commonwealth and coming up with a plan to streamline these processes. And that is just the beginning.

In week 3, I signed another Executive order to transform how State government approaches licensure, certification, and permitting. We all know that our licensing and permitting process takes too damn long. Those delays – true – those delays make it harder for a barber to relocate his business, harder to finish a major infrastructure project, harder for nurses to start critical jobs in our hospitals. Delays like that exacerbate the challenges that we face – like a lack of access to health care in our rural communities. We have been held back by bureaucratic delays and inefficiencies, but I say no longer. That is why I have directed Commonwealth agencies to compile a comprehensive catalog of all the licenses, certificates, and permits that they issue by May 1. My office will then put a firm timeline in place for each application, and agencies will be expected to meet those timelines. And hear me on this, we are going to put our money where our mouth is. If we fail to deliver on time, we are going to give Pennsylvanians their application fees back.

This budget also makes a significant down payment on innovation and economic development, like a 50-percent increase in the Manufacturing Innovation Program, which connects our universities with our businesses to find new solutions and spur on innovation. This will be cutting-edge research done by Pennsylvania students right here in our Commonwealth – like what I just witnessed at Astrobotic.

We also need to have more funding to attract and retain businesses here in this Commonwealth. Look, we have seen what other States are doing, and we need to get in the game. The next time a company like Intel looks to build a semiconductor factory in the United States, they should be looking at Pennsylvania. And listen, whether folks in this room like me or not, the one thing I hope you can all agree on is I am competitive as hell and I am sick and tired of losing to other States. It is time to compete again here in Pennsylvania. We will compete again.

We stand on the precipice of a major opportunity for energy and tech jobs, and Pennsylvania must lead the way, securing at least one regional hydrogen hub here in this Commonwealth. I want you to know that the Shapiro-Davis administration supports Pennsylvania's applicants, and we want the future of hydrogen to come right through our Commonwealth. But listen, it takes money to be competitive, and so here is what I am asking of you today: believe in us, believe in our workers, believe in our businesses, believe in our students, and make these investments so we can bring more innovative business to Pennsylvania and create thousands of good-paying jobs in the process; believe in us.

You know, when I walked the streets of McKeesport with Austin Davis, he told me about his hometown. There are a lot of communities like McKeesport all across this Commonwealth, communities that have oftentimes felt forgotten, have felt ignored, have lacked real investment. From Village Acres Farm in Juniata County to a Latino-owned auto body shop in North

Philly, I have heard from too many people from so many different walks of life who feel like the system just does not work for them. They feel like it is unfair – and folks, come on, let us be real, we know it is unfair. It is unfair that in rural communities, many lack access to health care, affordable high-speed Internet, and capital. And it is unfair that Black and Latino businesses are twice as likely to be denied a loan. We have to break down these barriers and invest in communities that have been left out of our shared prosperity. It is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do, because that is how we will create jobs and grow the economy.

I know that Mayor Matt Tuerk of Allentown understands this. Allentown is a city that is on the rise because he is building bridges, welcoming folks to his community, growing the economy, and making sure that government works for everyone. Latino families are moving to Allentown and helping create vibrancy and excitement in the Lehigh Valley. They chose Pennsylvania. Now we have to help them succeed and boost the local economy. That is the kind of work we need to do now at the State level.

And so for the first time ever, the Commonwealth is going to put sustainable State funding into what is known as the Historically Disadvantaged Business Program. We will provide long overdue funding for women- and minority-owned businesses all across this Commonwealth, to support their growth and open up new doors of opportunity. I visited with Latino business owners in Reading who are trying to meet their community's needs but they just need access to a little more capital. Just last month I spoke about this with Black business leaders in Pittsburgh. I want every Pennsylvanian to know that our Commonwealth values what you bring to the table, and we will take an active role in breaking down those barriers to progress and partnering with you.

On top of that, my budget significantly increases funding for our Main Streets through the Keystone Communities Program. You know, one thing, one thing I have always loved about Pennsylvania is that no matter where you are, nearly every place has a Main Street, and those Main Streets matter. But unfortunately, too many of our Main Streets – like so many of those I have walked with so many of you – they lack the kind of investment that they need to help them thrive again. We have seen communities like New Castle get hollowed out, but we have also seen what communities like Phoenixville can do when the Commonwealth shares and invests in their vision. We need to make those investments not only for our towns and our Main Streets, but for our farms too.

Pennsylvania's agriculture sector is critical to our economy, contributing \$132 billion a year, but it is facing serious threats. We have not even hit the spring migration season yet, but poultry farmers are already dealing with high-path avian influenza, and my administration has taken action. Under the leadership of Acting Secretary Russell Redding, the Department of Agriculture is working to improve biosecurity efforts on our farms and make farmers who lose birds whole. Pennsylvania is one of the only States with a fund of \$25 million here to help fill the gap in covering losses from this terrible disease, and I want to put another \$25 million into that fund this year for our poultry farmers. Our farmers and ag workers do hard, important work in challenging, and sometimes dangerous, conditions, and so I am asking you to work with me to support them and invest more in our agriculture sector.

You know, we have 52,000 farms, many of them passed down from family to family for generations. They need more access to capital, and we need to open up more markets for them, because when we do that, people have more opportunities to enjoy healthy, fresh foods from our farmers. There is a direct line between the work farmers do and the food that sits on our kitchen table. And so when people buy Pennsylvania-grown organic fruits and vegetables, they should know they are getting the best of the best. So my budget includes funding for a new Organic Center of Excellence to continue the Commonwealth's long tradition of agriculture leadership. This budget also strengthens the connection between our farmers and our small businesses so that more of us can eat farm-fresh Pennsylvania-grown food. We need to support our farms and businesses that want to grow here.

So as we support our farms and our businesses, we have to help our communities thrive. But as we all know, as any employer out there will tell you, the foundation of our economy is our workforce, our people. And we need to make sure our people get a fair shot. And so that means breaking down barriers – like I did on my first day in office, when I signed an Executive order announcing that 92 percent of our State government jobs do not require a college degree. I want to tell you, I want to tell you why I did that and why I did it right out of the gate. Because my vision for Pennsylvania is one where every resident, every worker has the freedom to chart their own course and the opportunity to succeed.

For people to succeed, we need to make sure that they can earn a fair wage, so let us treat workers with the respect they deserve and finally raise the minimum wage. Let me state the obvious: \$7.25 an hour is not a livable wage in the year 2023; it is not. Our minimum wage makes it harder for Pennsylvania to compete and it has not been raised in 14 years. It is lower than that of 30 other States, including every one of our neighbors here in Pennsylvania. We are facing a workforce shortage and higher competition in the job market. Businesses get this, and that is why so many of them are not sitting back and waiting for us to act – they are raising wages aggressively from department stores to diners. So I am asking you, respectfully, to work with me to finally raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour here in Pennsylvania.

You know, to me – I got to tell you – to me, this feels like one of those fights that has gripped our politics for so long that some people entrenched on the other side do not even know why they are opposing Pennsylvania workers anymore. Enough is enough – let us raise the minimum wage here in Pennsylvania.

And while we work to raise the minimum wage, we also need to protect worker rights. As Attorney General, I took on company executives when they tried to screw over their employees. When a major employer stole over \$20 million from Pennsylvanians doing backbreaking work on our roadways, we prosecuted the largest Davis-Bacon wage-theft case in American history and returned every penny back to workers right before Christmas. As Governor, I will not let anyone threaten our workers. That is why this budget provides funding to hire a new class of labor law compliance investigators so we can make sure every employer follows the law and treats their workers with dignity and respect. And I would say to those employers who choose to lobby against this funding, I got a simple question for you. What are you afraid we might find when we investigate?

When it comes to dignity and respect, all workers should have the right to organize and bargain collectively. And so hear me on this: So long as I am Governor, Pennsylvania will never be a right-to-work State.

That will not be the only way we protect our workers. When a worker loses their job, I know it is devastating. And in the past, this Commonwealth has not always done right by them, because when they needed us most, our unemployment compensation system failed them. One of the first things Acting Secretary of Labor and Industry Walker did was establish a plan to fix the mess. We have already hired dozens of new employees and we are updating technology, with the goal of reducing the backlog of people waiting for help. A year ago that backlog stood at 100,000; today, it is down to 33,000. Now, that is progress, but I need you to know that I am by no means satisfied. We must do better. When Pennsylvanians are unexpectedly out of work, they do not need another roadblock; they need help. So join me in this. Let us invest in our system to provide Pennsylvanians with timely and accurate answers and support.

We cannot ignore the fact that it is hard today for moms and dads to get to work in the first place if they do not have affordable child care. In any given year, over a third of Pennsylvania parents report that child-care problems impacted their job. And our State economy loses nearly \$3 1/2 billion a year because of a lack of child-care options. Right now what is really holding us back is that we do not have enough child-care professionals like Cynthia Thomas from York Day Early Learning, who joins us here today. Thank you, Cynthia.

Pennsylvania has nearly 4,000 unfilled child-care jobs and 38,300 children on waitlists. If those jobs were filled, we could make sure nearly every child on that waitlist actually had a spot. We have kids ready to learn, parents ready to work – we just need more teachers and professionals on the job. In order to hire those vital frontline workers, we need to pay folks like Cynthia a competitive salary and give them the benefits they deserve. That is why I am proposing a \$66.7 million investment in Child Care Works to give more parents access to stable child care for their kids. And I will tell you what, while we are at it, this budget also invests more in Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, because we need to give our kids a ladder up and a real opportunity.

So worker shortages are one of the biggest challenges our Commonwealth must address in the years ahead in order to be competitive and to have safe and healthy communities. Consider this: one in four nursing jobs in Pennsylvania are unfilled. We are short more than 1200 municipal police officers. And we do not have enough teachers, with hundreds of unfilled positions in our public schools. Nurses, cops, teachers – we all know how vital they are for our communities. We do not have enough. And if we do not act now, the trend line shows greater shortfalls.

Let me say to all of you who believe that starving government is the answer – tell that to a kid who is crammed into an overstuffed classroom, the nurse who has to work a double shift, or the cop that is forced to walk the beat alone. That should be unacceptable to us, and this is a moment – it is unacceptable – this is a moment, for all of us, when we have to believe in people and invest in those on the front lines who are teaching our kids and keeping our communities safe and healthy.

We have to invest in cadets like Hannah McCurdy and Jermaine Graham. Please stand up. Hear me on this: Policing is a noble profession, and good people want to do it. So let us just make it a little easier to become a trooper, a police officer, a nurse, or a teacher. My budget creates a new tax credit to

encourage more Pennsylvanians to join their ranks. Here is how it works. For anyone who earns a new license or certification in one of those three fields, or for anyone who has a license and decides to move to Pennsylvania for work, we are going to put up to \$2500 back in their pockets each year for the next 3 years. That is better schools, healthier families, safer communities, and that is what my administration is fighting for in this budget.

It is my firm belief that every Pennsylvanian deserves to both be safe and feel safe. Unfortunately, for too many, our communities feel anything but safe. The moms and dads in West Philly who have lost a son to gun violence. The Latino family in York who came up to me not too long ago and said all they wanted was for their kids to have a safe street to play on. That is why I appointed Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis to lead the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency – because this is the issue that called him to a life of public service.

You see, when he was 16 years old, a person was shot on his block in McKeesport, and he got to work bringing people together to make our communities safer. He knows the impact that violence can have on a community. Just last month Officer Chuck Thomas was shot, and his partner, Officer Sean Sluganski, was killed when they were called to the scene of a domestic dispute in McKeesport. Officer Sluganski made the ultimate sacrifice protecting all of us. Our prayers are with his family, and with you, Officer Thomas, who joins us in the back of the room today, as you continue to heal. Officer, all of us in this room thank you for your service. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

The Shapiro-Davis administration is taking action to prevent violence and stop this cycle of anger and grief that is swallowing up so many of our communities. That is why we are investing more funding in the PCCD and following the leadership of the Legislative Black Caucus, who have championed investments in violence prevention and community-based solutions. Thank you for your leadership. And I know that creating safe communities starts with ensuring police departments are well-staffed, well-funded, and well-equipped. It is critically important that as we hire more police, they be properly trained.

My administration is committed to and we will encourage police departments to pursue accreditation – our highest standard of training across this Commonwealth. For many, especially in our rural communities, the Pennsylvania State Police serve as local law enforcement. They patrol thousands of miles of the Commonwealth's roadways and hundreds of townships and boroughs. That is the work that Cadet McCurdy and Cadet Graham just signed up to do. We need more people like them in service, and so my budget proposes enough funding for four new cadet classes in the Pennsylvania State Police next year, under the leadership of Acting Commissioner Paris. That is nearly 400 new troopers who will protect and serve our Commonwealth.

But we also need to ensure that PSP has sustainable funding well into the future. Since at least 1969, the Pennsylvania State Police has been getting funding out of the Motor License Fund, and it immediately – think about this – sets up this conflict between infrastructure funding on the one hand and public safety on the other, as it takes billions away from repairing our roads and bridges. We should no longer do that. That is why this budget, for the first time, creates the Public Safety and Protection Fund, the PSP fund – you get it? Secretary Monson came up with that. It is a budget joke – which will be a dedicated funding source for the State Police that will reduce our reliance on gas taxes by \$100 million each year for the next 5 years. Think about it. Think about it for a second. This is a win-win. It is common sense. The

men and women of law enforcement get certainty that their funding will be protected for the long-term, and the Commonwealth gets to invest more money in our infrastructure.

Too many of our roads and bridges are just crumbling and too many of our public transit systems are understaffed. We must repair our roads and bridges and make sure that we keep up, and ensure that public transit continues to be an affordable, reliable option for millions of people across this Commonwealth. You see, connecting our communities spurs growth and it creates more opportunity for our people. That is good for our economy and it is good for public safety, and this budget finally allows us to tackle both.

Building safe communities also means supporting our firefighters and first responders, so my budget invests— Come on. We should all clap for our firefighters. Come on. Stand up for our firefighters. So my first budget invests \$36 million in new money for equipment, training, and salaries to support and grow their ranks. They deserve it, and we should deliver for them.

It is my view that the Commonwealth cannot do this work alone. Our local municipal governments and county governments are on the front lines of the efforts to keep folks safe, and we must ensure that they have the resources they need. Here is one key example. Let me give you one example. Our counties run Pennsylvania's 911 emergency dispatch system. They field calls from our constituents when there is an emergency, and then they get police and first responders and mental health professionals to the scene as quickly as possible. Since 2016, as calls have gotten more complex and staffing shortages more acute, the cost of running our 911 system has gone up 23 percent, but the State funding dedicated to supporting these systems during that time has remained flat. So this budget recognizes the challenges counties and 911 dispatchers face and invests over \$50 million in that system, and then ties that funding to the cost of living so it will keep up with rising costs. I hope it is not lost on anybody in this room that every one of you represents a county and every one of those counties relies on the 911 system. So let us come together on this. It is common sense.

Here is another thing we can do to help our municipalities. They cannot keep up with challenges like the rising costs of health care and increasing public safety needs because they are operating on these shoestring budgets. It is not just the 911 systems where local communities are feeling the pinch. In the past, when a local government struggled, municipalities then were forced to shutter their police departments and made cuts that undermined the safety and welfare of our communities. And we routinely saw that nearby towns faced similar challenges. So listen, rather than having the State come in and take over local operations, how about we actually help these small communities band together and share resources and share know-how? Combine services and help more people. Alleviate the burden on the Pennsylvania State Police and other resources.

This budget will invest in the Municipal Assistance Program to help our local communities support themselves. So I said a moment ago – actually, at the rate I am going, maybe it was two moments ago – people have a right to be safe in their communities, but folks also have a right to feel safe in their communities. As Attorney General, I had the privilege of seeing our criminal justice system up close as the chief law enforcement officer of this Commonwealth. I enforced the law without fear or favor and pursued justice for victims. I also saw firsthand the many ways in which our criminal justice system falls short.

I know Speaker McClinton understands what I mean. You see, before she got here, she worked for 7 years as a public defender. Public defenders are champions of justice, ensuring every citizen receives the representation that they are constitutionally entitled to. They do that work despite oftentimes being underpaid and underresourced. Did you know that Pennsylvania is one of only two States in the nation that provides zero State support for indigent defense? Folks, that is not a list we want to be on. And that is why I am proposing today – for the first time – that we make a \$10 million investment in public defenders, this year and every year going forward.

We also need to invest in other parts of the criminal justice system that have just been neglected for too long. The probation and parole systems were originally designed to help people get back up on their feet and then stay out of prison, but that is not what is happening in reality. Pennsylvania has a 64-percent recidivism rate. That means that 64 percent of the people who walk out of our jails and prisons will go back, many of them for nonviolent, technical parole violations. The first step in improving this system is investing in probation and parole services to reduce caseloads, improve training, and enhance services. The more time a P.O. (parole officer) can spend with an individual, the more help they can provide as they look for a job, find an apartment, and settle in to a successful life.

However, while those investments will help, it is long past time to reform our system as a whole and put responsible limits on probation terms. You all have passed that bill before, and I hope you do it again and soon. Put it on my desk and I will sign it.

Finally, as a former member of the Board of Pardons, I know that too many people wait too many years to have their cases heard, so this budget includes new funding to clear out that backlog so second chances can come a little bit sooner.

Now, listen, justice is not only done in our courtrooms. It is also done in our communities. Article I, section 27, of our Commonwealth's Constitution states that every Pennsylvanian has a right to clean air and pure water, and sometimes, sometimes those rights are threatened directly by events largely out of our control.

Since the first hours after that Norfolk Southern train derailed just across the border in East Palestine, Ohio, my administration has been on the ground in western Pennsylvania, coordinating with first responders and ensuring Pennsylvanians have the resources they need to stay safe. We are so grateful for the hard work and cooperation of local and State officials from the area, including the chairman of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners, Dan Camp, who is with us today. Dan's leadership, together with Senators Bartolotta and Vogel, and Representatives Kail, Marshall, and Matzie, has been critically important.

As we speak, the Department of Environmental Protection is conducting independent water sampling. The Department of Health has seen more than 300 people at the health resource center in Darlington Township, answering questions and offering free access to treatment should residents need it. Nothing can make up for the damage that has already been done, but what the people of Pennsylvania deserve right now is accountability.

Last week Norfolk Southern CEO (chief executive officer) Alan Shaw came right here to my office to apologize, and I laid out what he and his company must do to make up for their mistakes. He heard me loud and clear: They need to pay for this

– and they are. I demanded that the company pay for the hours of work Commonwealth employees have done in the wake of their derailment. I demanded they pay to replace damaged or contaminated equipment from local fire departments who responded that night. I looked him right in the eye and told him that the good people of Beaver and Lawrence Counties deserve better, and they need at least that \$1 million for a community relief fund to make up for their loss. And now, that is exactly what Norfolk Southern has committed in writing to do. They are going to make our people whole. This is a floor, not a ceiling, for what they need to do.

Listen, folks, these are real people. Like Emily from Darlington Township, who I spent time with in her home. She evacuated her home and had to throw out hundreds of dollars of food and all of the eggs that her chickens had laid. Like the small business owners who had to miss a day of work or lost customers due to the derailment. All of that will now come out of Norfolk Southern's pocket. And I want to be crystal clear: This is a floor, not a ceiling, for what Norfolk Southern will owe the good people of western Pennsylvania. My administration will continue to do everything in our power to protect Pennsylvanians. We will be there as long as it takes, working together with our partners.

But it is not enough just to respond to this crisis. We also need to protect our communities and safeguard our natural resources before disaster strikes. That is why my administration is tackling a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions right here in Pennsylvania and creating thousands of good-paying union jobs in the process. I have directed the Department of Environmental Protection, under the leadership of Acting Secretary Negrin, to draw down as much Federal funding, together with State funding, to cap and plug orphaned and abandoned wells that dot rural Pennsylvania. It is estimated that there are more than 350,000 orphaned wells across our Commonwealth that make up nearly 8 percent of our total methane emissions. Methane is a particularly dangerous gas because it is up to 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide, warming our planet and contributing to air pollution that damages our lungs and our hearts.

I have seen some of those wells myself. In fact, I have taken a Zippo lighter – made in Bradford, by the way – and watched a big fireball go up. That invisible gas, well, that is the methane that is leaking into our atmosphere every day, and we can do something about it. So let us plug the wells, improve our air quality, and strengthen communities, especially in the northern tier. Let us do that work together.

This budget also improves air quality testing, increases dam inspections, safeguards water quality, and more. It invests in DEP's ability to not only protect our environment, but to process applications and get back to businesses sooner and with more certainty. I believe we need to reject this false choice between protecting jobs and protecting our planet. I believe we can do both. We can embrace the Commonwealth's role as an energy leader, and create good-paying jobs in the process, and fulfill our constitutional obligation to clean air and pure water. Let us do that work together.

Folks, we cannot ignore the science here. We have to be honest and connect the dots between that abandoned well leaking methane into our atmosphere and the impact it has on our people. That methane contributes to rising temperatures and more frequent storms. It is true. And that warm, wet weather creates more mold that infects our crops right here in Pennsylvania, spoiling our corn and potatoes and our farmers' hard work. I know we might not all believe the same things, but I sure as hell hope

you believe in drinkable water and breathable air and good jobs, because protecting our environment will lead to all three things.

As we invest in public health and safety and wellness, we should also be supporting our State parks – the places Pennsylvanians go, from Presque Isle to Pine Grove, to have time with their families, relax, and enjoy our very beautiful Commonwealth. One of my favorite things to do with the First Lady and our kids is hiking on a trail on a weekend morning. We love spending time outside together, enjoying the fresh air, finding a spot along the trail to skip rocks across the lake or the stream. I am sure some of you can agree, how taking a hike can actually help you relax, how it can lower your blood pressure, and give you a real appreciation for this Commonwealth that we call home.

We have to finish the job that you all started last year, when you created three new State parks under the fine leadership of Acting Secretary Dunn. Let us invest in those and our entire park system and give the people what they want: more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with their friends and with their families. We should do that together.

Investing in our State parks is just the start of what we need to do when it comes to public health and wellness. You know, nearly 2 million people in Pennsylvania worry about getting enough to eat every day; 500,000 of them are children. That means one in seven of our children in this Commonwealth do not have enough to eat. They wake up and go to bed hungry, some of them do, desperate for when they will get their next meal. This is not just reserved for one part of the Commonwealth or another. Did you know that roughly the same percentage of people go hungry in Fayette, Forest, and Philadelphia Counties? For many of our neighbors, Federal emergency benefits from SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) provided stability over the last few years, but last week those emergency benefits ended, leaving families once again wondering where the next meal would come from. And let me be very, very clear about something: We did not create this problem – none of us did in this room – but the Department of Human Services, under the leadership of Acting Secretary Arkoosh, is taking action, and I hope you will join us in this.

I am proposing a new State investment in SNAP to raise the minimum monthly benefit by 50 percent so people who are struggling can feed themselves and their families. Come on, folks, how can we expect our kids to pay attention in class and learn and succeed if they have not eaten all day? We cannot. And so that is why I want to give free breakfast to every child in Pennsylvania's public schools. I would respectfully submit to you that it should not be okay to anyone here, especially when we are talking about a \$44 billion budget, that people are going to bed hungry at night and the kids have to go all day without a meal. You know, we do not often talk about this because it is hard to comprehend that in a Commonwealth as well-resourced as ours, people are hungry, but we need to have that conversation. We need to feed our kids.

Another issue that lives in the shadows, and something we should not accept, is that here in this Commonwealth and throughout the country, rates of maternal mortality are rising. For Black mothers, that risk is even greater, regardless of their income or their ZIP Code. Even for the wealthiest Black mothers, their babies are twice as likely to die within the first year, and Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than White women. We cannot accept that. The first step is understanding why that is happening. So for

the first time ever, we are going to put real resources into studying exactly that, so we can make concrete investments to address this disparity. Thank you. Thank you.

You know, from children to seniors, we need to support Pennsylvanians throughout their whole lives. Our Commonwealth is home to more than 3 million seniors – people like Gaylene, whom I introduced earlier – who have worked hard and continue to serve in their communities. They have earned the right to live out their golden years with dignity. For so many seniors, Pennsylvania's AAAs (area agencies on aging) provide critical support, helping seniors access health care, transportation, and the public benefits that they have earned. But as our AAAs are stretched thin, unable to serve a growing population of seniors, we need to act. This is so critically important that I put a former AAA leader, Acting Secretary Kavulich, in charge of the Department of Aging. This budget makes a significant investment in AAAs all across the Commonwealth so we can ensure seniors get the services they deserve and what they need to be able to stay in their homes.

Seniors and mothers and children – I think it is up to us to protect the most vulnerable among us. That includes Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and autism. I have talked to so many parents – I know you have talked to so many parents – who are desperate to get their kids the care that they need. You can see it in their eyes, the sheer exhaustion of working a full-time job and having to care for their loved ones. They come home after a long day of work and then they spend hours ensuring their kids get the attention and the care that they need. Those parents cannot really sleep well. They cannot rest. But you know they do it out of this unconditional love. So many parents need help and they are doing everything right. They have done the research. They have found the program that would actually help their child live a full and productive life. But then they are told to wait, because the government has not invested enough in that initiative. That is devastating to a family. My budget will open up 850 new spots for Pennsylvanians with disabilities, giving hundreds of families much-needed relief. That is hundreds of families that will be able to go to bed without that stress and worry that so oftentimes defines their lives.

We need to help our children, and, folks, we need to listen to our children. Let me explain what I mean by that. I have been inspired everywhere I go by the way young people today speak so openly about mental health issues, about their struggles, about the need for more treatment. For too long mental health has been an afterthought. There has been a stigma associated with people asking for help in this building, asking for help and then those of us addressing it in this building. Our mental health care professionals – like Stephen Sharp from Hempfield School District in Lancaster County, who joins us here today – they know that our mental health is just as important as our physical health. But so many of our schools are unequipped to handle student mental health needs, and our counties lack the resources to be there when Pennsylvanians need them most. We need a comprehensive solution, and this budget is a start.

The first place many people turn is to the 988 hotline, where they can talk to a trained professional about their challenges and get referrals if they need one. We have 13 dedicated call centers across the Commonwealth, but they need more support, and so this budget creates a sustainable funding source to ensure those centers are always staffed and that when people need help, there is someone there to answer the phone. This is especially important for our veterans, many of whom struggle every day

with challenges as a result of their service. We need to do better by them. We need to be there for them.

We are also going to restore full funding for our county mental health programs so people have resources to turn to in their own community. And while we have mental health parity laws in this country, we all know that they are not effectively enforced, and so I have directed Acting Insurance Commissioner Humphreys to make mental health parity a true reality here in Pennsylvania and hold insurers accountable so mental health benefits are covered fairly.

The need for mental health care is especially acute for our schoolchildren. As Attorney General, with the generous support of this legislature, I started Safe2Say, an anonymous tip-reporting system for students to be able to report violence and threats of violence. Since we launched the program 5 years ago, we have received over 100,000 tips. But you know what? Most of the tips were not about violence; 75 percent of those tips were from kids reaching out with mental health issues for themselves and their friends. I have been to their schools. I have asked the students what they need, and they are all very clear: students want someone who can help them. They want people to talk to, someone like Mr. Sharp down the hall, whom they can turn to, and so my budget makes an historic investment in mental health for our students by investing \$1/2 billion in mental health over the next 5 years so schools can fund mental health counselors and services on site at every school. Our kids need help. We need to hear them, and I think we need to act right now.

Now, I spoke a lot about building safe and strong communities, the foundation of which is an adequate and equitable public education system. Last month President Judge Renee Cohn Jubelirer of the Commonwealth Court issued a ruling declaring Pennsylvania's system for funding public education unconstitutional. That ruling was a call to action; literally a call to action. Because her remedy, in her opinion, was for us to get around the table and come up with a solution that ensures every child has access to a thorough and efficient education. While there is still time left to file an appeal, all indications are that Judge Jubelirer's ruling will stand, and that means that we are all acknowledging that this court has ordered us to come to the table and come up with a better system, one that passes constitutional muster.

I want you to know that I am ready to meet you there. In fact, I have already had some initial dialogue with leading lawmakers of both parties, and I think it is fair to report that we are all prepared to work together to find a comprehensive solution. But it is clear that this is not a simple task. It is not something that any one branch of this government can do alone, and let us be honest, it also cannot be fixed overnight. We must approach this responsibility with hope, with ambition, because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to do right by our kids and to empower parents to put their kids in the best possible position for them to succeed. It is going to take all of us – Republicans and Democrats, teachers and administrators, students and families, advocates and community leaders – to come to the table. It will take all of our ideas for not just how many dollars we set aside from the State for public education, but how we drive those dollars out to local districts adequately and equitably.

We are tasked with passing two budgets over the next 16 months, and we must look at each as a necessary piece of a comprehensive solution that makes progress for our children over the long term. This budget is the first step, and today we are making a significant down payment. All in, this budget increases

public education funding by \$1 billion this year; \$1 billion will be targeted support for students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Let me give you a few examples of what I mean. As I said earlier, we are going to provide universal free breakfast in our schools, because students cannot learn on empty stomachs. We are going to invest \$1/2 billion over the next 5 years for environmental repairs and upgrades to our schools. Our students should have world-class facilities that are safe and healthy, and this budget is an initial investment to get us there. And of course, none of this will work if we do not have enough well-qualified, well-paid teachers in our classrooms, so we are going to give our new teachers a tax break and more resources in their classrooms so they can help our students succeed.

Our schools should prepare students for a future and give them the freedom to chart their own course. If they want to go to college, we should make it more affordable. If they want to go straight into the workforce, we should make sure they have the skills and opportunities to be successful and provide for their families. You know, 22 years ago Pennsylvania invested over \$200 million a year in vo-tech, or vocational technical education – some people call it CTE (career and technical education) now – and last year, we spent less than half of that on our young people. As a result, fewer students have the opportunity to pursue a job in the trades. Fewer know that that path even exists. An apprenticeship is a fast track to a good-paying, stable job.

With us today is Freddy Notue, a first-year union apprentice from the Ironworkers Local 3 in Pittsburgh. Thank you, Freddy. Freddy has got a great story. He immigrated to Pennsylvania from Cameroon. He traveled thousands of miles in search of opportunity, and he found a stable future through an apprenticeship. There are so many more kids across the Commonwealth who should have the opportunity to follow in Freddy's path. My administration has a comprehensive plan to invest in apprenticeship programs, expand vo-tech, and bring career and technical education back into our Pennsylvania classrooms.

Look at this. I should quick run the bill right now. You are all up.

We can connect the dots between our schools, our trade unions, our companies, and the public sector. We can create a pipeline from the classroom to the workforce and give Pennsylvanians the tools that they need to succeed, where they can chart their own course, where they can achieve real freedom. Our commitment to our students and our workers like Freddy is uncompromising, so this budget invests in them and in their success.

And for those who choose to pursue college, I think it is on us to rethink our system of higher education, because what we are doing right now is not working. Think about it. Colleges are competing with one another for a limited dollar – they are duplicating degree programs, they are driving up the costs, and they are actually reducing access, particularly for so many in our minority communities. As enrollment declines and questions about the value of a college degree persist, it is on all of us to once and for all have an honest dialogue about higher education in Pennsylvania. And so I have tasked Acting Secretary Mumin to immediately convene our college and university presidents to pick up on the conversation that I have already started with them. They have agreed to engage in a constructive, time-limited

working group so that when I stand before you next year, I can present a comprehensive and meaningful reform plan for higher education. I hope you will join me in that important work.

And in the meantime, this budget makes real investments in our community colleges and technical schools. It devotes real resources to our PASSHE (Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education) system and State-relateds to keep them whole as Federal aid shrinks. But it is time for a blueprint for higher education focused on competitiveness and workforce development and grounded in access and affordability. That is how we keep the doors of opportunity open for generations to come.

Look, if you take one thing away from this address, please let it be this: This budget is packed with commonsense solutions to the problems that the people of Pennsylvania face every single day. We have two significant opportunities over the next year and a half to work together to pass two budgets that deliver results and solve these pressing problems. So let us focus on that, because, look, we all know that there are certain debates that will go nowhere with me. As long as I am Governor, this will never be a right-to-work State. As long as I am Governor, LGBTQ Pennsylvanians will have the right to marry who they love and be who they are. And by the way, by the way, it is long past time we finally pass a nondiscrimination law in Pennsylvania. Come on. As long as I am Governor, women will always have the right to choose and access to abortion and all reproductive health care. As long as I am Governor, the right to vote will never be infringed upon.

So hear me, hear me on this. Those are nonstarters for me. So instead of arguing about that, let us instead focus on this budget. Let us focus on the challenges that it seeks to address. I have put forth a vision of what I think Pennsylvania can be. This budget lowers costs and cuts taxes for Pennsylvania. It cuts red tape and speeds up permitting and supports business. It strengthens our communities and strives to keep them safer and more just. It protects our environment and invests in public health. And it starts the long process of making our education system more fair so that every child in this Commonwealth has a shot. It is common sense. Government can and should be a force for good in our lives. We can do big things together if we just work again together.

You know, I know there is a time-honored tradition in this body that as soon as the Governor finishes his budget address, some of the 203 House members and the 50 Senators race out that door to find the nearest TV camera and bash the Governor. Maybe some even celebrate what he said, and I have no doubt that some of you plan to do just that. But I think the people of Pennsylvania, I think they actually expect more from us, more than just the traditional politics.

As I said, as I said at the beginning of my address, they have entrusted us with the responsibility to negotiate, to come together. So instead of playing politics as usual, let us so show the good people of Pennsylvania that we are up to this task. Let us not just run out of here. Let us instead get around the table and work on commonsense solutions to their problems. The people of Pennsylvania deserve it, and I look forward to doing that work with all of you.

May God bless you, may God bless our fellow Pennsylvanians, and may God watch over the women and men of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Thank you all very, very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair asks that members of the House and visitors to please remain seated for just a moment while the members of the Senate leave the hall of the House.

The business for which the joint session has been assembled having been transacted, the session is now adjourned.

THE SPEAKER (JOANNA E. McCLINTON) PRESIDING

MOTION TO PRINT PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION

The SPEAKER. The House will come to order.

The Chair recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives this 7th day of March 2023 be printed in full in this day's Legislative Journal.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER. The House stands in recess until 2 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

RECESS EXTENDED

The time of recess was extended until 2:15 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The time of recess having expired, the House was called to order.

STATEMENT BY MR. GROVE

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from York County, the minority chair of the Appropriations Committee, Representative Grove, for remarks at this time. Members, please take your seats and cease all conversation.

Mr. GROVE. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and let me first congratulate my counterpart for his election to the Appropriations Committee. I look forward to working with him over the next few months to deliberate a budget for Pennsylvania.

Today we heard the first budget address for the Governor. While I was hopeful this budget would not add additional costs to struggling families and small businesses, it yet again doubles down in supporting RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), adding \$633 million to Pennsylvanians' utility bills. You can find it tucked away and hidden from view in the shadow budget. Madam Speaker, our citizens cannot afford RGGI.

Madam Speaker, with the ending of the Federal bailout dollars, which has masked our structural deficit, deficit spending is back in full force. Instead of proposing a spending plan which addresses the structural deficit, the Governor proposes to spend

over \$11 billion in surplus and Rainy Day funds, which are one-time revenue sources over 5 fiscal years on recurring revenue. Madam Speaker, the House Republican Caucus led efforts to build this reserve fund for economic downturns, and it is not raining. Madam Speaker, this puts the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on path for financial failure.

I have a lot of respect for the Governor and was hoping to see a financial plan which would address our structural deficit and provide a sensible plan to deal with the surplus funds – a plan that realizes a recession is looming, a plan that realizes our families and small businesses are being crushed by inflation caused by the failed economic policies of the President.

Madam Speaker, this budget does nothing to help the thousands of kids trapped in failing school districts. Our families need educational opportunities. Our families need the ability to ensure their children receive the same educational opportunities regardless of their ZIP Codes. Madam Speaker, our families need lifetime scholarships.

And that brings me to the positives, Madam Speaker. I am glad to see the Governor has not proposed any tax on charter schools. Yes, we need to address the Charter School Law, but we do not need draconian proposals bent on destroying school choice. Madam Speaker, this budget proposal sets a reasonable ceiling on education funding. It focuses on career and tech education and workforce development. It provides new classes for our State Police. This budget walks away from failed policies of "defund the police."

This budget proposal funds new DEP employees to reduce permit delays, but we need to ensure this investment will in fact decrease wait times for permits. Accountability should be paramount.

Madam Speaker, this budget increases funding for the Office of Inspector General, which dedicates more of their resources for anti-fraud operations. But we cannot stop there. This administration must commit to ensuring the Medicaid redetermination is completed in 6 months. We have the safety net in place. We worked together to establish Pennie and fund CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program). These programs offer insurance coverage for many Pennsylvanians, and private insurance that is better than what is offered in Medicaid.

We need to ensure commonsense policies are in place to combat fraud, waste, and abuse by enacting legislation to adopt: Do Not Pay program, State Improper Payment law, end Provider Preventable Conditions, and State False Claims Act. We can ensure that we can prevent fraud while holding fraudsters accountable. We worked with Attorney General Shapiro on these initiatives, and we look forward to working with Governor Shapiro on them. After all, there is \$3 billion in fraud we have to address within the Medicaid budget.

In closing, Madam Speaker, the Governor has provided us optimism that we in the House Republican Caucus can work with him to adopt a reasonable spending plan that ensures all children receive an A-plus education regardless of their ZIP Code. We fund our brave law enforcement officers risking their lives every day on our behalf. We protect our most vulnerable while ensuring finite public dollars are protected from fraudsters.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Governor for putting out his vision for the Commonwealth. We stand ready to work with him, our House Democratic colleagues, and the Senate to move Pennsylvania forward and adopt a reasonable, fiscally responsible budget this budget season.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

STATEMENT BY MR. HARRIS

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority chair of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Harris, for remarks.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Good afternoon, fellow members.

Let me start by thanking our Governor, Josh Shapiro, for his thoughtful and reasonable and responsible budget proposal. I am grateful to stand before you today as the newly elected chair of the Democratic Appropriations Committee for our majority caucus, and I look forward to working with my colleague across the aisle as we move through our budget season.

I thank my colleagues for entrusting me with such an amazing opportunity. I use the word "opportunity" because that is exactly what we have in front of us. We are presented with an opportunity to invest in people, to invest in communities, and to make real investments in our economy. From our large cities like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and their sprawling suburbs, to our small towns like Mansfield and Lititz and the forests and farmlands that surround them, we have an opportunity to actually do good for everyone in Pennsylvania.

You know, Pennsylvania is fortunate to be in a better fiscal position than what we have had years ago. Working together, we have a historic Rainy Day Fund of \$5 billion. Our General Fund revenue is modestly ahead of estimates. And in addition, Democrats in Washington, DC, have made significant investments in our nation's infrastructure that will benefit our country, and especially Pennsylvania's workers and families, for years to come.

Compared to when I first got here in 2013, Pennsylvania is on an improved financial footing. Now we must use that footing to invest in our people and strengthen our State. We need to be prudent. We need to be smart. But we also need to move forward.

So now the question is, where do we begin? As a former schoolteacher, it is my strong belief that we must begin with our greatest asset, and that is our children. We have seen historic investments in education from the previous administration, including Level Up funding, which has directed millions of dollars to our neediest districts – places like Allentown and Altoona, Panther Valley and Philadelphia, Williamsport and Wilkesburg, among many others. I commend Governor Shapiro for continuing this trend and prioritizing access to quality education for all Pennsylvanians, regardless of their ZIP Code, by proposing a \$567 million increase in basic education funding.

But we must be honest. Many of us have always known that the education system in Pennsylvania has been inadequate. It has been inadequate and has created Pennsylvania's own caste system of haves and have-nots. Recently our court has confirmed what many of us already knew: Pennsylvania is not meeting its constitutional obligation to provide a thorough and efficient education that serves the needs of the Commonwealth. This confirmation highlights our flaws and outdated education funding system, and is a daunting wrong that we – we – must make right. It is an opportunity for this legislature to set all of Pennsylvania's students up for the opportunity to succeed.

This success can only come if we are doing all that we can to make sure that our students are healthy. That is difficult to do when our students, many of them, are going to schools that

literally make them sick. That is why it is important that this budget proposal contains \$100 million in new funding to make our school buildings safe from things like lead and asbestos. Just how sick can lead and asbestos make you? Well, listen to the words of young Dean. He is a first grader from Philadelphia who was rushed to the hospital after his teacher saw him eating lead paint chips. Listen: Dean said this, he said, "It was scary. They took all of my blood out. The needles hurt. The pills, I could hardly swallow them. They smelled bad. I did not like the shots." At the hospital, the level of lead in Dean's blood tested nine times higher than the levels that doctors say could cause permanent brain damage.

We have an opportunity to fix this wrong. We have an opportunity to fix this injustice. We have an opportunity to send our children and our educators to schools that will not make them sick. And listen, you know, Dr. Martin Luther King said simply this: The time is always right to do what is right. And our time is now.

Listen, we talked about our youngest Pennsylvanians, but let us talk about our older Pennsylvanians. This budget presents an opportunity for us to invest in our elders as well. There are people who have worked their entire lives to afford a home that they are currently living in and they deserve to stay there. You know, out in my district office, when I am out in my district and in my district office, I frequently run into people who talk about the property tax and rent rebate program. That includes Miss Beverly. You know, Miss Beverly has been coming to my district office for years for us to help fill out her rent rebate, and I am sure many of you on both sides of the aisle have your very own Miss Beverly who comes in every year with excitement to get her rent rebate filled out. She is grateful that we can assist her, and she is grateful that she can stay in our community.

But then I think about Mary Jane. You know, Mary Jane also lives in my district, and she has told me on many occasions that she is right above the guidelines for qualifying for rent rebate. She has talked to me about how this program could help her if she could just qualify. Well, thanks to the proposed budget from Governor Shapiro, he plans to have the property tax and rent rebate program that would provide Mary Jane with the assistance that she needs. This expansion – I want you to hear this – this expansion would give 175,000 additional Pennsylvanians the help that they need to stay in their homes, and increase assistance for the nearly 400,000 Pennsylvanians who already qualify. This is the kind of worthwhile investments that we need to make when we are investing in people.

Beyond investing in our students and our elders, we should be investing in our workforce, and that is exactly what this budget proposes to do. Pennsylvania's workers are not lacking in motivation, but oftentimes there are barriers that prevent them from achieving their goals when it comes to their careers. Critical support like the additional \$1 million for career and technical education programs, the \$3 million for apprenticeship programs, and the on-the-job training and learning opportunities are what Pennsylvanians need to ensure that they have every opportunity to reach their full potential and continue to contribute to our economy.

Furthermore, we can and must invest more in our historically disadvantaged businesses, such as the \$20 million that is proposed in this budget. These businesses, like the barbershops and the hair salons and so many that are on our Main Streets, small businesses that make our communities great, they were hit

hard by the pandemic. They still need our help, and by investing in these historically disadvantaged businesses, that oftentimes cannot get the capital that they need to sustain themselves, we are giving them an opportunity to be truly successful.

Listen, this proposal aims to level the playing field for all Pennsylvanians. We also have an opportunity to create a fair and more just Pennsylvania. You know, Pennsylvania is one of only two States that does not provide funding for indigent defense. The gentleman from Montgomery County reminds me of this often. Think about it. Two States that do not provide the dollars for folks who are accused of a crime but cannot afford their own defense. That is not fair, nor is it just. This budget aims to right that wrong with a \$10 million investment. Listen, everyone regardless of your financial means or social status, deserves competent legal defense. Mere access to an attorney means nothing if that attorney does not have the time to defend their client. This cuts down on wasteful spending, on our prison system, and more importantly, ensures that everyone has a fair day in court.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not address the violence and hatred that we see in Pennsylvania. No one should have to live with the fear of gun violence in their minds, yet far too many Pennsylvanians live with that fear. This budget aims to invest \$105 million in strategies that we know work to reduce gun violence and violence in general so that people can feel safe and enjoy every aspect of their community.

Let me be clear: Myself, and far too many of my colleagues in this building, have attended far too many funerals of young people whose lives have been cut short by gun violence. We have seen far too many teddy bears, we have walked past far too many candles, we have hugged far too many grieving mothers and fathers, and wiped away far too many eyes from all of the tears that they have cried from the loss of their loved ones. I have seen far too much promise cut short at the hands of gun violence. It must stop. We must address this issue.

Furthermore, no community, regardless of race or sex or religion or sexual orientation or gender identity, needs to fear that their place of worship or gathering will be targeted or discriminated against with regards to hate and violence. We can invest in their safety and let them know that they are welcome here in Pennsylvania. To put it simply, we must ensure that hate has no home here.

Now, let me remind my colleagues, this is just a budget proposal, and this is not the finished product by any means, and the next few months will be filled with negotiation and back-and-forth discussions culminating, ideally, in a final product we can proud of – hopefully, by the end of June. We will scrutinize the budget. We will talk about the budget, and where there are disagreements, we will work to find agreement; where there are other ideas, we will listen to them; where there are disputes, we will try to build consensus. But after 12 years of fighting tooth and nail in this legislature for what we know to be right, let us try fixing our education funding, let us try raising the minimum wage, let us try fixing toxic schools, let us try safeguarding our environment, and let us try investing in the Pennsylvania that we all love and care for. We have an opportunity and the resources to make the investments. We have an opportunity to right the wrongs that have plagued us. We can and we must do better.

Lastly, I am reminded of one of my favorite Scriptures growing up. In the book of Matthew, the 25th chapter, and the 40th verse – and I will paraphrase – where Jesus says, verily I say

unto you, as you do for one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do unto me.

Let us continue to work in this building to remember all of "the least of these," because that is who sent us here and that is who needs our help.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

TERRA HEILMAN AND DAVE SPIZZIRRI PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Erie County, Representative Harkins. For what purpose do you rise?

Mr. HARKINS. Recognition, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Unanimous consent?

Mr. HARKINS. Unanimous consent.

The SPEAKER. You may proceed.

Mr. HARKINS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise today to recognize my L.A. (legislative assistant), Terra Heilman, who has been with the caucus for 35 years. She has announced her retirement, and we will be holding a dinner this evening for her.

I would like to recognize all the things that she has done through those 35 years of service to the caucus, and for her dedication and years of service to all of us. People like that you cannot replace very easily.

And with that said, I would also like to recognize Dave Spizzirri, who has served our caucus well, on his many years of service to all of us in this House chamber. If we could all give Dave a round of applause. Is Dave with us?

It was 17 years ago when I arrived here, and it was Dave who told me that I needed a haircut, which we did in the back of the House. And as you can see, I am following in his footsteps losing my hair.

So all kidding aside, I would just like to thank those two employees who have given their heart and soul to this caucus and done so much for all of us.

Thanks again.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair acknowledges the presence of David Spizzirri on his last day after 35 years. Thank you. We applaud you one more time in this chamber.

Thank you, Spizz.

UNCONTESTED CALENDAR

RESOLUTION

Mr. BRADFORD called up **HR 22, PN 6**, entitled:

A RESOLUTION

Providing for the appointment of members to the Standing Committees of the House of Representatives.

RESOLVED, That it is recommended that the members of the House named herein be and are hereby appointed members of the Standing Committees of this House of Representatives. The Chairs

whose names are included in this report are appointed by the Speaker of the House. The Republican Chairs whose names are included in this report are appointed by the Republican Leader.

AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES

Kim, Patty, Chair

Abney, Aerion

Benham, Jessica

Borowski, Lisa A.

Brown, Amen

Cerrato, Melissa

Fleming, Justin C.

Giral, Jose

Khan, Tarik

Nelson, Napoleon J.

Parker, Darisha K.

Williams, Dan K.

Mentzer, Steven C., Republican Chair

Brown, Marla

Cooper, Jill

Jones, Mike

Labs, Shelby

Marcell, Kristin

Mehaffie, Thomas L., III

Nelson, Eric

Stehr, Joanne

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Pashinski, Eddie Day, Chair

Burgos, Danilo

Friel, Paul

Green, G. Roni

Hanbidge, Liz

Howard, Kristine C.

Kinkead, Emily

Parker, Darisha K.

Rabb, Christopher M.

Sappey, Christina D.

Steele, Mandy

Takac, Paul

Moul, Dan, Republican Chair

Borowicz, Stephanie

Cook, Donald

Gleim, Barbara

Gregory, James

Kerwin, Joseph

Lawrence, John

Mustello, David

Owlett, Clint

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Bullock, Donna, Chair

Bellmon, Anthony A.

Cerrato, Melissa

Curry, Gina H.

Fleming, Justin C.

Guenst, Nancy

Hanbidge, Liz

Howard, Kristine C.

Kazeem, Carol

Krajewski, Rick

McAndrew, Joe

Nelson, Napoleon J.

Jozwiak, Barry J., Republican Chair

Fink, Wendy

Flick, Jamie

Grimm Krupa, Charity

Hogan, Joseph

Mackenzie, Milou

Schlegel, John

Watro, Dane

Zimmerman, David H.

COMMERCE

Galloway, John T., Chair

Brown, Amen

Cepeda-Freytiz, Johanny

Kenyatta, Malcolm

Parker, Darisha K.

Pielli, Chris

Pisciottano, Nick

Rabb, Christopher M.

Salisbury, Abigail

Shusterman, Melissa L.

Warren, Perry S.

Waxman, Ben

Emrick, Joe, Republican Chair

Armanini, Mike

Bernstine, Aaron J.

Brown, Marla

D'Orsie, Joseph

Kephart, Dallas

Scheuren, Donna

Stambaugh, Perry

Twardzik, Tim

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Cephas, Morgan, Chair

Abney, Aerion

Borowski, Lisa A.

Hill-Evans, Carol

Madsen, Dave

McNeill, Jeanne

Pielli, Chris

Salisbury, Abigail

Smith-Wade-El, Ismail

Takac, Paul

Pickett, Tina, Republican Chair

Cutler, Bryan

Dunbar, George

Grove, Seth M.

O'Neal, Timothy J.

CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND UTILITIES

Matzie, Robert F., Chair

Borowski, Lisa A.

Burgos, Danilo

Cephas, Morgan

Ciresi, Joe

Gergely, Matthew

Malagari, Steven R.

Markosek, Brandon J.

Mullins, Kyle J.

Munroe, Brian

Pisciottano, Nick

Steele, Mandy

Marshall, Jim, Republican Chair

Hogan, Joseph

Kaufner, Aaron

Mihalek, Natalie

Miller, Brett R.

Ryncavage, Alex

Tomlinson, K. C.

Warner, Ryan

Williams, Craig

EDUCATION

Schweyer, Peter, Chair

Ciresi, Joe

Curry, Gina H.

Friel, Paul

Hill-Evans, Carol

Isaacson, MaryLouise

Kazeem, Carol

Madden, Maureen E.

Nelson, Napoleon J.

Probst, Tarah

Rozzi, Mark

Smith-Wade-El, Ismail

Topper, Jesse, Republican Chair

D'Orsie, Joseph

Gleim, Barbara

Mackenzie, Milou

Mercuri, Robert

Ortitay, Jason A.

Schlegel, John

Scialabba, Stephenie

Staats, Craig T.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Vitali, Greg, Chair

Fiedler, Elizabeth

Friel, Paul

Friel Otten, Danielle

Hohenstein, Joseph C.

Isaacson, MaryLouise

Kazeem, Carol

Mayes, La'Tasha D.

Pielli, Chris

Salisbury, Abigail

Steele, Mandy

Takac, Paul

Causer, Martin T., Republican Chair

Armanini, Mike

Borowicz, Stephanie

Cook, Donald

Hamm, Joseph

Ortitay, Jason A.

Schemel, Paul

Stambaugh, Perry

Warner, Ryan

FINANCE

Samuelson, Steve, Chair

Cepeda-Freytiz, Johanny

Delloso, David M.

Fiedler, Elizabeth

Gallagher, Pat

Innamorato, Sara

Kenyatta, Malcolm	Banta, Jacob
McNeill, Jeanne	Davanzo, Eric
Rabb, Christopher M.	Kerwin, Joseph
Scott, Greg	Kuzma, Andrew
Waxman, Ben	Labs, Shelby
Webster, Joe	Mehaffie, Thomas L., III
Greiner, Keith J., Republican Chair	Wentling, Parke H.
Adams, Joseph	GAMING OVERSIGHT
Bernstine, Aaron J.	Harkins, Patrick J., Chair
Fritz, Jonathan A.	Burgos, Danilo
Jones, Mike	Cepeda-Freytiz, Johanny
Mako, Zachary A.	Donahue, Kyle
Mercuri, Robert	Gallagher, Pat
Rader, Jack B.	Guzman, Manuel
Rossi, Leslie	Haddock, Jim
GAME AND FISHERIES	Madden, Maureen E.
Kulik, Anita Astorino, Chair	McAndrew, Joe
Ciresi, Joe	Merski, Robert E.
Delloso, David M.	Scott, Greg
Friel, Paul	Waxman, Ben
Gergely, Matthew	Diamond, Russ, Republican Chair
Haddock, Jim	Bernstine, Aaron J.
Hohenstein, Joseph C.	Fritz, Jonathan A.
Markosek, Brandon J.	Gregory, James
McNeill, Jeanne	Kephart, Dallas
Merski, Robert E.	Mustello, Marci
Pielli, Chris	Rossi, Leslie
Steele, Mandy	Ryncavage, Alex
Maloney, David, Republican Chair	Tomlinson, K. C.
Adams, Joseph	HEALTH

Frankel, Dan, Chair	Krajewski, Rick
Benham, Jessica	Madsen, Dave
Borowski, Lisa A.	Siegel, Joshua
Fiedler, Elizabeth	Smith-Wade-El, Ismail
Friel Otten, Danielle	Irvin, Rich, Republican Chair
Khan, Tarik	Barton, James
Kosierowski, Bridget M.	Cooper, Jill
Krajewski, Rick	Jones, Thomas
Mayes, La'Tasha D.	Kutz, Thomas
Sanchez, Benjamin V.	Major, Abby
Shusterman, Melissa L.	Mehaffie, Thomas L., III
Venkat, Arvind	Scialabba, Stephenie
Rapp, Kathy L., Republican Chair	Twardzik, Tim
Bonner, Tim	HUMAN SERVICES
Borowicz, Stephanie	Kinsey, Stephen, Chair
Brown, Marla	Benham, Jessica
Keefer, Dawn W.	Cerrato, Melissa
Rossi, Leslie	Friel Otten, Danielle
Schemel, Paul	Giral, Jose
Twardzik, Tim	Green, G. Roni
Zimmerman, David H.	Khan, Tarik
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Kinkead, Emily
Sturla, P. Michael, Chair	Madden, Maureen E.
Abney, Aerion	Madsen, Dave
Bellmon, Anthony A.	Smith-Wade-El, Ismail
Brown, Amen	Williams, Dan K.
Giral, Jose	Heffley, Doyle, Republican Chair
Green, G. Roni	Cabell, Michael
Innamorato, Sara	Flick, Jamie
Khan, Tarik	Gregory, James

Grimm Krupa, Charity	Delloso, David M.
Mackenzie, Milou	Donahue, Kyle
Schlegel, John	Green, G. Roni
Struzzi, James	Haddock, Jim
Williams, Craig	Innamorato, Sara
INSURANCE	McNeill, Jeanne
Boyle, Kevin J., Chair	O'Mara, Jennifer
Abney, Aerion	Pisciottano, Nick
Brennan, Tim	Rozzi, Mark
Cephas, Morgan	Young, Regina G.
Gergely, Matthew	Mackenzie, Ryan, Republican Chair
Kosierowski, Bridget M.	Cooper, Jill
Mayes, La'Tasha D.	D'Orsie, Joseph
Merski, Robert E.	Davanzo, Eric
Parker, Darisha K.	Flood, Ann
Scott, Greg	Gleim, Barbara
Venkat, Arvind	Jones, Mike
Warren, Perry S.	Rowe, David
Pickett, Tina, Republican Chair	Stambaugh, Perry
Fink, Wendy	LIQUOR CONTROL
Fritz, Jonathan A.	Deasy, Daniel J., Chair
Kutz, Thomas	Benham, Jessica
Leadbeter, Robert	Brown, Amen
Mihalek, Natalie	Delloso, David M.
Nelson, Eric	Gergely, Matthew
Rowe, David	Giral, Jose
Zimmerman, David H.	Guzman, Manuel
LABOR AND INDUSTRY	Isaacson, MaryLouise
Dawkins, Jason, Chair	Kenyatta, Malcolm
Cephas, Morgan	Malagari, Steven R.

McAndrew, Joe	Ryncavage, Alex
Salisbury, Abigail	Watro, Dane
Fee, Mindy, Republican Chair	Wentling, Parke H.
Flood, Ann	PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
Gaydos, Valerie	Burns, Frank, Chair
Keefer, Dawn W.	Burgos, Danilo
Major, Abby	Gallagher, Pat
Rigby, James	Guenst, Nancy
Smith, Brian	Guzman, Manuel
Staats, Crag T.	Kosierowski, Bridget M.
Stehr, Joanne	Malagari, Steven R.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Markosek, Brandon J.
Freeman, Robert, Chair	Merski, Robert E.
Donahue, Kyle	Mullins, Kyle J.
Fleming, Justin C.	Venkat, Arvind
Friel Otten, Danielle	Williams, Dan K.
Hanbidge, Liz	Metzgar, Carl Walker, Republican Chair
Hill-Evans, Carol	Ecker, Torren
Kazeem, Carol	Klunk, Kate Anne
Madsen, Dave	Kuzma, Andrew
Munroe, Brian	Lawrence, John
Probst, Tarah	Mako, Zachary A.
Sappey, Christina D.	Marcell, Kristin
Smith-Wade-El, Ismail	Scheuren, Donna
James, R. Lee, Republican Chair	Tomlinson, K. C.
Adams, Joseph	STATE GOVERNMENT
Jones, Thomas	Conklin, Scott, Chair
Kuzma, Andrew	Brennan, Tim
Miller, Brett R.	Guenst, Nancy
Rader, Jack B.	Howard, Kristine C.

Kenyatta, Malcolm

Madden, Maureen E.

Probst, Tarah

Sanchez, Benjamin V.

Shusterman, Melissa L.

Siegel, Joshua

Webster, Joe

Young, Regina G.

Roae, Brad, Republican Chair

Banta, Jacob

Barton, James

Fink, Wendy

Keefer, Dawn W.

Kephart, Dallas

Miller Brett R.

Schmitt, Louis

Staats, Craig T.

TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL

DEVELOPMENT

Daley, Mary Jo, Chair

Bellmon, Anthony A.

Brennan, Tim

Cepeda-Freytiz, Johanny

Cerrato, Melissa

Ciresi, Joe

Hill-Evans, Carol

Krajewski, Rick

O'Mara, Jennifer

Sappey, Christina D.

Takac, Paul

Young, Regina G.

Oberlander, Donna, Republican Chair

Armanini, Mike

Barton, James

Cook, Donald

Hogan, Joseph

Jones, Thomas

Rader, Jack B.

Smith, Brian

Wentling, Parke H.

TRANSPORTATION

Neilson, Ed, Chair

Bellmon, Anthony A.

Curry, Gina H.

Hohenstein, Joseph C.

Innamorato, Sara

McAndrew, Joe

McNeill, Jeanne

Mullins, Kyle J.

O'Mara, Jennifer

Pisciottano, Nick

Siegel, Joshua

Warren, Perry S.

Benninghoff, Kerry A., Republican Chair

Cabell, Michael

Davanzo, Eric

Labs, Shelby

Major, Abby

Ortitay, Jason A.

Schmitt, Louis

Smith, Brian

Struzzi, James

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Solomon, Jared G., Chair

Borowski, Lisa A.

Guenst, Nancy

Hill-Evans, Carol

Markosek, Brandon J.

Munroe, Brian

O'Mara, Jennifer

Sappey, Christina D.

Scott, Greg

Takac, Paul

Webster, Joe

Williams, Dan K.

Gillen, Mark, Republican Chair

Banta, Jacob

Grimm Krupa, Charity

Hamm, Joseph

Kerwin, Joseph

Rigby, James

Scialabba, Stephenie

Watro, Dane

Williams, Craig

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?
Resolution was adopted.

**ORGANIZATION OF
STANDING COMMITTEES**

The SPEAKER. The House will come to order. Please pay close attention as we proceed to organize the committees. I will read the different committees in groups of four or five, and if you are a member of that committee, please go to that designated area of the floor of the House. If you are on two of those committees in one grouping, please try to get from one to the other as quickly as possible so that you can be identified as being present and part of that committee organization. Committee chairs, as soon as you have met, please come back to a microphone so that you can be recognized and report that your committee has been organized.

GROUP I

The SPEAKER. Aging and Older Adult Services will meet in the well of the House; Aging and Older Adult Services will meet in the well of the House. Agriculture and Rural Affairs will be in the front right of the Speaker's rostrum. Children and Youth will be in the front left of the Speaker's rostrum. Commerce will meet in the rear right of the Speaker's rostrum. Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities will be in the rear left of the Speaker's rostrum.

Committees will proceed to meet for Group I. Group I committees will proceed to meet.

The House will be at ease.

The House will come to order.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE**

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative Galloway.

Mr. GALLOWAY. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to report that the Commerce Committee is organized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES**

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentledady from Dauphin County, Representative Kim.

Ms. KIM. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to report that the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentledady.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND UTILITIES**

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Beaver County, Representative Matzie.

Mr. MATZIE. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to report that the Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Philadelphia County, Representative Bullock.

Mrs. BULLOCK. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to report that the Children and Youth Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne County, Representative Pashinski.

Mr. PASHINSKI. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to announce that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee has also organized and is ready to conduct business.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Chair takes a moment to acknowledge guests that are seated in the gallery. They are guests of our colleague from Montgomery County from the 54th Legislative District, Representative Greg Scott. We are pleased to have this afternoon Mr. Fred Smalls and Miss Avis McMillan. Please stand up so we can acknowledge you and thank you for joining us.

ORGANIZATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES CONTINUED

GROUP II

The SPEAKER. Group II for committee reorganization. Education will be in the well of the House; Education will be in the well of the House. Health will be on the front right side of the Speaker's rostrum; Health will be on the front right side. Housing and Community Development will be on the left of the Speaker's rostrum; Housing and Community Development on the left. Environmental Resources and Energy will be in the rear right of the Speaker's rostrum; Environmental Resources and Energy in the rear right of the Speaker's rostrum. Finance will be on the rear left; Finance on the rear left. And Game and Fisheries, in the House mailroom.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh County, Representative Schweyer.

Mr. SCHWEYER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the House Education Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Representative Frankel.

Mr. FRANKEL. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Health Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware County, Representative Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Madam Speaker, the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has organized and is ready to do business.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Representative Sturla.

Mr. STURLA. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to announce the Housing and Community Development Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Northampton, Representative Samuelson.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased and honored to report that the Finance Committee has organized and we are ready to conduct business. Thank you.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND FISHERIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair is looking for the gentlelady from Allegheny. The Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Allegheny, Representative Kulik.

Mrs. KULIK. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to announce the Game and Fisheries Committee is organized and ready to do business.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

GROUP III

The SPEAKER. Group III. Gaming Oversight will be in the well of the House; Gaming Oversight in the well of the House. Human Services, front right of the Speaker's rostrum; Human Services, front right. Insurance, front left; Insurance, front left. Labor and Industry, rear right of the Speaker's rostrum; Labor and Industry, rear right. Liquor Control, rear left; Liquor Control, rear left.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Dawkins.

Mr. DAWKINS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to report that the Labor and Industry Committee has organized and is ready to get busy. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
LIQUOR CONTROL

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Representative Deasy.

Mr. DEASY. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Liquor Control Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
GAMING OVERSIGHT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Erie County, Representative Harkins.

Mr. HARKINS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to report that the Gaming Oversight Committee has reorganized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SERVICES

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Kinsey.

Mr. KINSEY. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Human Services Committee has organized and is ready to conduct the people's business.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Boyle.

Mr. BOYLE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Insurance Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

GROUP IV

The SPEAKER. Our final and fourth group. Local Government will be in the well of the House; Local Government in the well of the House. Professional Licensure, front right of the Speaker's rostrum; Professional Licensure, front right of the Speaker's rostrum. State Government will be in the front left of the Speaker's rostrum; State Government, front left. Tourism and

Economic and Recreational Development will be in the rear right; Tourism and Economic and Recreational Development will be in the rear right. Transportation in the rear left of the Speaker's rostrum; Transportation in the rear left. Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness will be in the House mailroom; Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness will be in the House mailroom.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Representative Mullins.

Mr. MULLINS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Majority Chair Frank Burns, I am pleased to report that the House Professional Licensure Committee is organized and ready to conduct business. Thank you.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre County, Representative Conklin.

Mr. CONKLIN. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I am proud to say that State Government has organized and we are ready to do the people's business.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Northampton, Representative Freeman.

Mr. FREEMAN. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I would like to report that the Local Government Committee has organized and that we are ready to conduct the people's business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Neilson.

Mr. NEILSON. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Transportation Committee has organized and we are ready to conduct business.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Solomon.

Mr. SOLOMON. Madam Speaker, I am thrilled to report that the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee is organized and ready to get to work.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The SPEAKER. Thank you. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Montgomery County, Representative Daley.

Ms. DALEY. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to report that the Tourism and Economic and Recreational Development Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

SENATE MESSAGE

RECESS RESOLUTION
FOR CONCURRENCE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate,
March 7, 2023

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, April 24, 2023, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, April 24, 2023, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority caucus chair for a caucus announcement.

Mr. SCHLOSSBERG. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

House Democrats will have a hybrid budget caucus upon the conclusion of session. Again, House Democrats will have a hybrid budget caucus upon the conclusion of session. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the minority caucus chairman for a caucus announcement.

Mr. DUNBAR. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Republicans will caucus immediately at the conclusion of session in the Republican caucus room; Republicans will caucus immediately at the end of session. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Members, there will be no further votes. Members, there will be no further votes, but the desk of the House will remain open for the business of the House.

We are at ease.

The House will come to order.

WRIT OF SPECIAL ELECTION

The SPEAKER. The Speaker submits for the record the Writ for Special Election of the 108th Legislative District which was filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth on March 7, 2023.

The following writ of special election was submitted:

TO AL SCHMIDT, ACTING SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH; AND TO KENNETH A. HOLDREN, DAN W. HARTMAN AND NORMA BIRD, CONSTITUTING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF MONTOUR COUNTY; PAIGE ROSINI, HUGH A. JONES AND KYMBERLEY L. BEST CONSTITUTING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

GREETINGS: WHEREAS, A VACANCY EXISTS IN THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE ONE-HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTIES OF MONTOUR AND NORTHUMBERLAND, CAUSED BY THE RESIGNATION OF LYNDA SCHLEGEL CULVER, THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM SAID DISTRICT ON THE 28th DAY OF FEBRUARY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOANNA E. MCCLINTON, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AND BY THE ACTS OF ASSEMBLY IN SUCH CASE MADE AND PROVIDED, DO HEREBY COMMAND:

THAT YOU CAUSE AN ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTIES OF MONTOUR AND NORTHUMBERLAND ON THE 16th DAY OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE TO CHOOSE A PERSON TO REPRESENT THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING ON THE 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FOUR, AND THAT YOU GIVE DUE AND PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ELECTION THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT IN THE FORM AND MANNER DIRECTED BY LAW.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE.

JOANNA E. MCCLINTON
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(SEAL)
ATTEST:
BROOKE WHEELER
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. For the information of the members, tomorrow's session day will be a nonvoting session. day.

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. The Chair is in receipt of a motion by the gentelady, Representative Borowski, that the House now adjourn until Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 9 a.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to, and at 3:51 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.