

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2004

SESSION OF 2004 188TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 27

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, May 5, 2004

The Senate met at 2 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll) in the Chair.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend Dr. BRADLEY BROWN, of Zion United Methodist Church, York, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal and Almighty God, we thank You for yet another day to live before You as free men and women in this land of liberty that is the United States of America. We thank You for this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the principles that established our foundation and led us in the past. We thank You for visions and dreams that enable us to partner with You in building a brighter future for our citizens.

For the Senators who today gather in this Chamber, open their minds and hearts to Your presence and power, to Your eternal truth and wisdom. In their discussions and debates, in their hearings and in conversation with their constituents, give each Senator a greater understanding of the issues and needs that challenge us individually and collectively, and guide them in knowing and doing what is best for the common weal of us all.

Lord, bless this land, our Commonwealth, our Governor, the President of the Senate, its Members and their staffs. To Your mercy we pray that You would keep before us all and hear our prayers for the men and women of Pennsylvania who, with others throughout the United States, wear the uniform of our Armed Forces and stand in harm's way to fight for freedom. Lord, protect them, give them success in their mission that our world might have peace, and then by Your grace, bring each one safely home.

This is our prayer, and with humility I offer it to You in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Brown, who is the guest today of Senator Waugh.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT. A quorum of the Senate being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of the preceding Session of May 4, 2004.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the preceding Session, when, on motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, further reading was dispensed with and the Journal was approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR**

**RECALL COMMUNICATION  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which was read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

**MEMBER OF THE INDIANA COUNTY  
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE**

May 5, 2004

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 26, 2004, for the appointment of Stephanie Moore, 40 Red Barberry Drive, Eppers 17319, York County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, as a member of the Indiana County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2006, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Iris Holtz, Indiana, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**RECALL COMMUNICATIONS  
LAID ON THE TABLE**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and laid on the table:

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY

May 5, 2004

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 20, 2004, for the appointment of Alan Hertzberg, Esquire, 1516 Whitewood Drive, Pittsburgh 15220, Allegheny County, Forty-Second Senatorial District, as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2006, vice The Honorable Max Baer, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
SOMERSET COUNTY

May 5, 2004

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 15, 2004, for the appointment of David Flower, Esquire, 126 Chauncey's Woods Road, Somerset 15501, Somerset County, Thirty-Second Senatorial District, as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2006, vice The Honorable Kim R. Gibson, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I ask for legislative leaves for Senator Dent, Senator Thompson, and Senator Tomlinson.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brightbill requests legislative leaves for Senator Dent, Senator Thompson, and Senator Tomlinson. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, I request legislative leaves for Senator LaValle, Senator Schwartz, Senator Stout, and Senator Tartaglione.

The PRESIDENT. Senator O'Pake requests legislative leaves for Senator LaValle, Senator Schwartz, Senator Stout, and Senator Tartaglione. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**CALENDAR**

**THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 304, SB 871, SB 985, SB 1039, SB 1056, HB 1438 and HB 1809** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE

**HB 2190 (Pr. No. 3286)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, further providing for sale of real property owned by township.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

**YEA-50**

Armstrong	Hughes	Orie	Thompson
Boscola	Jubelirer	Piccola	Tomlinson
Brightbill	Kasunic	Pileggi	Wagner
Conti	Kitchen	Pippy	Waugh
Corman	Kukovich	Punt	Wenger
Costa	LaValle	Rafferty	White, Donald
Dent	Lemmond	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Earl	Logan	Robbins	Williams, Anthony H.
Erickson	Madigan	Scarnati	Williams, Constance
Ferlo	Mellow	Schwartz	Wonderling
Fumo	Mowery	Stack	Wozniak
Gordner	Musto	Stout	
Greenleaf	O'Pake	Tartaglione	

**NAY-0**

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT C.  
JUBELIRER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair, Senator Jubelirer.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Madam President, I am indeed privileged to have guests in the gallery this morning, and it is an honor to introduce the teachers, parents, and fourth graders of Irving Elementary School who are here visiting the most beautiful Capitol in the United States, and I ask that the Senate give them its usual warm welcome on this beautiful spring day.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Jubelirer please stand so we can give you a nice round of applause.  
(Applause.)

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY**

The SECRETARY. Consent has been given for the Committee on Transportation to meet during today's Session to consider the nomination of J. William Lincoln to the Turnpike Commission.

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED  
THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**

**BILL OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 2330** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**HB 2428 (Pr. No. 3421)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code, further providing for power of township commissioners relating to fire houses.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

**YEA-50**

Armstrong	Hughes	Orie	Thompson
Boscola	Jubelirer	Piccola	Tomlinson
Brightbill	Kasunic	Pileggi	Wagner
Conti	Kitchen	Pippy	Waugh
Corman	Kukovich	Punt	Wenger
Costa	LaValle	Rafferty	White, Donald
Dent	Lemmond	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Earll	Logan	Robbins	Williams, Anthony H.
Erickson	Madigan	Scarnati	Williams, Constance
Ferlo	Mellow	Schwartz	Wonderling
Fumo	Mowery	Stack	Wozniak
Gordner	Musto	Stout	
Greenleaf	O'Pake	Tartaglione	

**NAY-0**

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

**SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

**BILL OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 276** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

**HB 550 (Pr. No. 3771)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for standing and parking prohibitions.

Considered the second time and agreed to,  
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

**BILLS REREFERRED**

**SB 1024 (Pr. No. 1592)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for State Report Card.

Upon motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**SB 1107 (Pr. No. 1579)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for continuing professional development and for program of continuing professional education.

Upon motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**SB 1108 (Pr. No. 1593)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for technical assistance and information provided by department.

Upon motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR  
TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator ROBBINS called from the table communications from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, recalling the following nominations, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

**JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

May 5, 2004

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 20, 2004, for the appointment of Alan Hertzberg, Esquire, 1516 Whitewood Drive, Pittsburgh 15220, Allegheny County, Forty-Second Senatorial District, as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2006, vice The Honorable Max Baer, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
PERRY/JUNIATA COUNTIES

May 3, 2004

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 20, 2004, for the appointment of Kathy A. Morrow, Esquire, 409 Mountain Road, Millerstown 17062, Perry County, Thirty-Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Perry/Juniata Counties, to serve until the first Monday of January 2006, vice The Honorable Keith B. Quigley, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
SOMERSET COUNTY

May 5, 2004

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 15, 2004, for the appointment of David Flower, Esquire, 126 Chauncey's Woods Road, Somerset 15501, Somerset County, Thirty-Second Senatorial District, as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2006, vice The Honorable Kim R. Gibson, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

#### **NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR**

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I move that the nominations just read by the Clerk be returned to His Excellency, the Governor.

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The nominations will be returned to the Governor.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Edmund C. Milukas, citizens of Manheim Township and to the Wickersham Elementary School of Lancaster by Senator Armstrong.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Robert J. Dillman, Bridget Renee Nash, Allison M. Nash, Michael M. Albarell and to Jeffrey A. Parks by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Deborah Bullick and to the Morrisville Senior Service Center by Senator Conti.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to John R. Much by Senators Conti and Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Glenn R. Love, Mr. and Mrs. Nelvin E. Stoner, Jeremiah Jeffrey Minich, Vincent F. Fiore and to Ryan E. Griffin by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Daniel J. McQuillan and to Baldwin Emergency Medical Services by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jessica A. Schneider, Megan Ammirato and to Andrea Yozwiak by Senator Dent.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Beall and Linny Fowler, Christian J. Bryan, Li-Ping Chew, Piotr Fidkowski, Elena Glassman, Stephen J. Lock, Robert Kotran, Karen Perez, Theresa McMahon and to John Hnатов by Senator Dent and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Shinora Grayson by Senator Ferlo.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Eddie R. Solomon, Jr., by Senator Fumo.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Andrew Carl Poler by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Gerald Moore and to Willow Grove Day Camp by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to William M. Smearman, Stephen E. Frank, John Banyas, Victor K. Nauman and to Bedford Reinforced Plastics by Senator Jubelirer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Clarence Thomas, Jr., Mary P. Padilla and to Reginald Drew by Senator Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Reverend Herbert A. Peterson by Senator Kukovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Board of Commissioners of Beaver County for recognizing Police Memorial Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day by Senator LaValle.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mary Williams, Josephine Hollis, Taylor Glen, Ashley Hartsfield, Donald V. Harris, Theodore Spencer, Thelma Mary Fields and to the John J. Kane Regional Center System by Senator Logan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Robert G. Gregg by Senator Mowery.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Almon J. Long by Senator Musto.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kevin A. Damato and to St. Joseph Medical Center of Reading by Senator O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Christopher A. Hunter, Andrew Thomas Heyl, Matthew Alexander Hartwell, Jill Matesic and to Shirley Hignet by Senator Orie.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Josh Zink, Shakyia Murphy, Jonathan Leo, Carlos Martinez, Kevin R. Thompson, Jr., Mark Anthony, Jennifer Mansfield, Chasin Koch, April Glosser, Tekiya Anderson, Jeff Hunt and to Clayton W. Wilson, Jr., by Senator Piccola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Maura Nowalk, Joseph E. Silvio and to Nicholas Anthony Matty by Senator Pippy.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Nicole Lynn Togno, Thomas Wehr, David Malkin, Eugene Boughner, James Pfingstler, Charles Reh, John Murtin, Juliana Picola and to Jack Wabby by Senator Rhoades.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Donald R. Faulconbridge, Francis H. Grolemond, Jr., Robert I. Lewis, William V. Marquis, Jr., David Julock and to District 14-F of Lions Club International by Senator Robbins.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the members of St. Marys Central Catholic High School Class of 1934 by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joseph T. Coughlin and to Marie Pauline Wisniewski by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Roy and Pat Chapman, John Servis and to Stewart Elliott upon Smarty Jones' victory at the 130th Kentucky Derby by Senators Tomlinson and Conti.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Bernard P. Mannix by Senators Tomlinson and Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Angelo A. and Elsie M. Cuda, Dr. Sidney Schwimmer and to the Sto-Rox Senior High School Boys' Basketball Team of McKees Rocks by Senator Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ryan Bentzel by Senator Waugh.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to David Lee An, Derek Scott Mohler, Richard Jonathan Heo and to the Cocalico High School Bowling Team of Denver by Senator Wenger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kathryn D. Brown, Kristin M. Burgess and to James C. Miller by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Charles A. Barger, Robert A. Martin, Paul K. Montag and to Douglas Carlquist by Senator M.J. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joseph B. Mulhern by Senator C. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Gwen Musselman Freed by Senator Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ralph Trofino, Thomas R. Barber, Turner's Senior All-Star Cheerleading Squad, Greater Johnstown Middle School Cheerleading

Squad, Forest Hills High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad, Conemaugh Valley Elementary School Pee Wee Cheerleading Squad, Bishop McCort High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad and to the Richland Junior High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad by Senator Wozniak.

## CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Frank W. Long, Sr., and to the family of the late Leon G. Hoover by Senator Brightbill.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Dorothy Smith Wharton, to the family of the late Curtis G. Huy and to the family of the late Sullivan V. Ventomiller by Senator Orie.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Christopher K. Bingaman by Senator Rhoades.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Jonathan Roy Kephart by Senator M.J. White.

## PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Stack.

Senator STACK. Madam President, we have heard much public discussion lately about the abuses of prescription drugs.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAJORITY LEADER

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President,

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I apologize to the gentleman for interrupting, but I am wondering if we could have the meeting of the Committee on Transportation at the same time as Petitions and Remonstrances?

Senator STACK. Madam President, anything for Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Well, Madam President, if it is anything, I have a list here.

Senator STACK. Madam President, within reason, of course. I would be glad to defer to the Majority Leader.

The PRESIDENT. Would those on the Committee on Transportation please report to the Rules room.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Thank you, Madam President, I thank the Senator.

## PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES - (cont'd)

The PRESIDENT. Senator Stack, you may commence.

Senator STACK. Madam President, we have heard much public discussion lately about the abuses of prescription drugs. Attorney General Pappert has been particularly vocal in his efforts to warn Pennsylvanians about this growing problem. Our society already must cope with the proliferation of illegal drug trafficking, but now we must fight a war of another kind, and that is on the improper distribution of legally prescribed drugs. When pre-

scribed and used properly, drugs such as OxyContin are invaluable treatment aids, particularly for cancer pain. Regrettably, many of these prescriptions are improperly dispensed, often to feed addictions. Young people have been dying, hearts have been broken, and something needs to be done. We need tighter controls on how and when these medications are being dispensed.

I have introduced a bill that provides for controls. My Senate Bill No. 362 would authorize electronic monitoring when controlled substances are dispensed in Pennsylvania. The State Department of Health would administer the monitoring system and limit access to its data. Information to be provided would include dates the drug was prescribed and dispensed, the quantity dispensed, and the names of those prescribing and dispensing the drug.

The Attorney General's Office currently monitors the sale of certain controlled substances. My bill would widen the net of drugs to be monitored, while creating a system that would enable medical practitioners to be part of the monitoring process. The system also will assist in the identification and subsequent treatment of those who partake in the disturbing practice of doctor shopping. With this drug monitoring bill, privacy will be protected by limiting access to the database to a limited number of people. An additional protection is severe penalties for unauthorized disclosure. People who disclose the data to unauthorized parties and those who obtain the information through fraudulent means will be charged with committing a third-degree felony. I think this is a good deterrent against violating privacy rights.

My legislation is modeled after the Kasper Program in Kentucky, which has been credited with reducing investigating times by 90 percent and by being a front-line defense against drug diversion. Eighteen other States currently have prescription drug monitoring programs in place. The time has come for Pennsylvania to implement a program that will help law enforcement agencies and medical providers combat prescription drug abuse and save lives.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Kitchen.

Senator KITCHEN. Madam President, in the coming weeks, we will vote on next year's State budget. We will renew our commitment to our Commonwealth's schools, but as we fight to provide all Pennsylvanians with a solid educational foundation, I fear that we are neglecting a key piece of the puzzle, our libraries. It is wonderful that we are finally making the investment in education programs that work, like full-day kindergarten, smaller class sizes, and tutoring for students in need of extra help. But where can a student go when the school day is done, when they are searching for information that simply cannot be found within the classroom walls or inside the realm of the World Wide Web? Where can an adult go when their school days are over, or even worse, when they never had the chance for a formal education at all? They can turn to their local library. Libraries are sacred storehouses of knowledge. They provide us with a universe of information and opportunity, and they turn no one away. Everyone, regardless of age, race, or economic status, is welcome to share the wealth of the library.

If we want to improve our Commonwealth's education structure, given the importance of our library system, increased fund-

ing for Pennsylvania's 28 library districts should go hand-in-hand with the boost in funds for Pennsylvania's 501 school districts. Learning just does not stop when the school bell rings at the end of the day, nor does it stop after graduation. Learning should never stop. When our libraries have the resources they need, we can make sure that learning goes hand-in-hand for Pennsylvanians at all stages of life's journey.

Under the proposed budget for next year, we could increase library funding by \$4.8 million, or 10 percent. This would bring the State's total library allocation to \$52 million. But, remember that we started out last year by cutting library funding by half, and we ended by restoring only \$10 million in aid, just about one-third of what we took away. So, what seems like an increase in funds will, in reality, not even restore the moneys that our libraries had at their disposal in previous years. To compensate for this drop in funds, libraries across the State have laid off staff, cut benefits, and reduced hours of operation. Some have increased usage fees and fines. They have imposed cuts on inter-library loans, making it difficult for those of us who seek specialized knowledge, namely the teachers of our home schoolers, to gain access to their needed books, and on top of all of this, some libraries have stopped purchasing new books and technology resources altogether.

According to a recent Reading Eagle-Times newspaper article, the Reading Public Library was forced to empty its new bookshelves. The library staff draped the barren bookcases in black to mourn the loss of knowledge and opportunity. The library's board could have voted to lay off 30 or more part-time staff or shorten their work week. Instead, they chose the lesser evil, cutting the library's \$236,000 new book budget and its \$50,000 audio-visual materials budget. Library patrons will have to wait a long time before they see anymore new arrivals. Can our libraries be restored? Yes, but the bulk of responsibility for library funding does and should come from the State. The valiant efforts will not mean a thing if our libraries have to cut services and close their doors. So, it is up to us to stop the slow demise of our precious libraries. When it comes time for the budget vote, we should make sure that our libraries receive all that is promised and more, if possible.

I leave you with a quote from the poet, Maya Angelou: "When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."

Pennsylvanians of all ages deserve the chance to experience the life-giving power of literature. They deserve libraries equipped with the newest books, the latest technology, and the greatest pieces of literature and research. They deserve to see these libraries open every day of the week and be attended to by a well-paid and abundant staff. We have the chance to deliver to our constituents the power and wealth of libraries. Please let us not ignore this opportunity.

Thank you, Madam President.

## ADJOURNMENT

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn until Monday, May 10, 2004, at 2 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate adjourned at 12 noon, Eastern Daylight Saving Time.