

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014

SESSION OF 2014 198TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 7

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, January 29, 2014

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr.) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Senator MICHAEL W. BRUBAKER:

Heavenly Father, in this moment of prayer there is silence in the Senate Chamber so that our hearts may be still and peaceful and we might know that You are God. Why? Why do I and 49 other Members have the honor and distinction to serve our Commonwealth in this Senate? I ask myself this frequently. How can I, how can we, do our job in a manner that is pleasing to You? Service to the Commonwealth, service to the people of Pennsylvania comes with a burden, a burden to do the right thing. Many people pray for Members of the Senate daily, and in many of their prayers the word "wisdom" is mentioned. The Bible references wisdom as a function of humility, a focus on others, not on ourselves.

Silence. For we all seek a time for refuge, prayer, and meditation; however, let us remove the silence when we see an injustice. Please help us stand up and do what is right.

Love. Lord, You tell us that love is the greatest of all commandments. When we have love in our heart fully, there is no room for hate, for anger, for fear. Lord, let us all have more love in our hearts, let us all have a greater desire to do the will of the people to do what is right, in Your name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Roderick P. Sullivan, Jr., as a member of the Pennsylvania Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley) in the Chair.

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator ALLOWAY, from the Committee on Law and Justice, reported the following bill:

HB 374 (Pr. No. 2942) (Amended)

An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for jurisdiction, education and educational costs of county park police officers.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Greenleaf and Senator Scarnati.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington, Senator Solobay.

Senator SOLOBAY. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Brewster.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pileggi requests legislative leaves for Senator Greenleaf and Senator Scarnati.

Senator Solobay requests a legislative leave for Senator Brewster.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator PILEGGI asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator SMUCKER, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of December 3, 2013, December 4, 2013, and December 9, 2013, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of December 3, 2013, December 4, 2013, and December 9, 2013.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals be approved.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PILEGGI and were as follows, viz:

YEA-48

Alloway	Erickson	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Argall	Farnese	Mensch	Vance
Baker	Ferlo	Pileggi	Vogel
Blake	Folmer	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Boscola	Fontana	Robbins	Ward
Brewster	Gordner	Scarnati	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Schwank	White

Brubaker	Hughes	Smith	Wiley
Corman	Hutchinson	Solobay	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Stack	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yaw
Eichelberger	Leach	Teplitz	Yudichak

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

GUEST OF SENATOR PATRICK M. BROWNE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to take an opportunity today to introduce an outstanding young man who is working in my district operations. He is a Lehigh University student who is majoring in political science. His name is Reed Remington, and he is also lettering in football at Lehigh as a defensive end. Please let us give him a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Browne please rise so that the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR MICHAEL BRUBAKER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Brubaker.

Senator BRUBAKER. Mr. President, I would like to introduce today a very fine gentleman from the 36th Senatorial District who has had a very impressive career, Chief Master Sergeant Jose Ortiz, Jr. In the civilian sector and here at the local level, Chief Ortiz is employed as a police officer in the Mount Joy Borough Police Department in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He served in the department for 21 years working with the patrol division as a Spanish translator, a member of the forensics team, and a member of the Strike Force Team for the South Central Terrorism Task Force. In addition to his role, he has served 15 years as a part-time police officer for the Columbia Borough Police Department. On a larger scale, Chief Master Sergeant is superintendent of Chief Postal Operations Joint Military Postal Activity located in Jersey City, New Jersey. These operations fall under military postal service agencies with headquarters located in Washington, D.C. Prior to these roles he served in the Army Reserve, worked at a combat support hospital, attended the U.S. Air Force Security Force Police Academy, and later with the 512th Security Force Squadron in Delaware. He served 31 years, Mr. President, within our military. Please extend the warmest greeting to him and his wife, Jacqueline, who are in the gallery today.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Brubaker please rise so that the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS BILL ON FIRST CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

Senator BRUBAKER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of the bill reported from committee for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bill was as follows:

HB 374.

And said bill having been considered for the first time,

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

CALENDAR

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SB 1024 (Pr. No. 1732) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in inchoate crimes, further providing for possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon in court facility; in arson, criminal mischief and other property destruction, further providing for arson and related offenses; in sentencing, further providing for sentences for second and subsequent offenses; and providing for sentencing for arson offenses.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House, as further amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 1024?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House, as further amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 1024.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PILEGGI and were as follows, viz:

YEA-48

Alloway	Erickson	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Argall	Farnese	Mensch	Vance
Baker	Ferlo	Pileggi	Vogel
Blake	Folmer	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Boscola	Fontana	Robbins	Ward
Brewster	Gordner	Scarnati	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Schwank	White

Brubaker	Hughes	Smith	Wiley
Corman	Hutchinson	Solobay	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Stack	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yaw
Eichelberger	Leach	Teplitz	Yudichak

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 inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 57 (Pr. No. 1660) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in wire tapping and electronic surveillance, further providing for exceptions to prohibition of interception and disclosure of communications.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 57?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 57.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Rafferty.

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I want to commend Senator Alloway for his bill which now enhances the safety and security of those who travel on our school buses, to allow this occurrence at the option of the school districts. I think it is a benefit for us going forward looking at bullying, looking at people who get on buses and cause trouble, and looking at the school bus drivers themselves, not only the video but the audio portion as well. I want to take the opportunity to thank Senator Alloway for introducing this bill. I was happy to see that it was done and to cast a vote for it. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PILEGGI and were as follows, viz:

YEA-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Pileggi	Vogel
Baker	Folmer	Rafferty	Vulakovich

Blake	Fontana	Robbins	Ward
Boscola	Gordner	Scarnati	Washington
Brewster	Greenleaf	Schwank	White
Browne	Hughes	Smith	Wiley
Brubaker	Hutchinson	Solobay	Williams
Corman	Kasunic	Stack	Wozniak
Costa	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yaw
Dinniman	Leach	Teplitz	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Tomlinson	

NAY-1

Ferlo

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDER

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 89 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILLS REREFERRED

SB 901 (Pr. No. 1734) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in indebtedness and borrowing, further providing for definitions, for classification and authority to issue bonds and notes, for cost of project and for exclusion of other self-liquidating debt to determine net nonelectoral debt or net lease rental debt; providing for preliminary approval by the department of the issuance of certain debt; further providing for small borrowing for capital purposes, for debt statement, for submission to department, for fees for filing, for certificate of approval of transcript, for effect of failure of timely action by department and for records of department; providing for duties of participants in Local Government Unit Debt Act transactions; and making a related repeal.

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

SB 902 (Pr. No. 1294) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 53 (Municipalities Generally) and 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for money of authority, for competition in award of contracts and for investigations by commission.

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

SB 903 (Pr. No. 1735) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in municipal authorities, providing for interest rate risk and interest cost management; and, in indebtedness and borrowing, further providing for definitions; and expanding the scope of provisions relating to interest rate risk and interest cost management to include first class counties and cities and authorities.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1055 and **SB 1085** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 1189 (Pr. No. 1619) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1967 (P.L.869, No.385), known as the Public Works Contractors' Bond Law of 1967, further providing for duty of prime contractor to provide financial security in certain contracts involving public works and public improvements.

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 1195 (Pr. No. 1651) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, in liability and compensation, further providing for injuries outside this Commonwealth; in the Uninsured Employers Guaranty Fund, further providing for definitions, for fund, for claims, for claim petition, for administration and for assessments and transfers; and providing for uninsured employer obligations and for administrative penalties and stop-work orders.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SB 1195 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 1195, Printer's No. 1651, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1341 (Pr. No. 2597) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating Byberry Avenue from Warminster Road to York Road, Borough of Hatboro, Montgomery County, as the SP4 Robert Preston Ruttle, Jr., Memorial Highway.

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-48

Alloway	Erickson	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Argall	Farnese	Mensch	Vance
Baker	Ferlo	Pileggi	Vogel
Blake	Folmer	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Boscola	Fontana	Robbins	Ward
Brewster	Gordner	Scarnati	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Schwank	White
Brubaker	Hughes	Smith	Wiley
Corman	Hutchinson	Solobay	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Stack	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yaw
Eichelberger	Leach	Teplitz	Yudichak

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.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1424 (Pr. No. 2766) -- 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, in terms and courses of study, providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

HB 1424 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1424, Printer's No. 2766, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1559 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1707 (Pr. No. 2390) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge on that portion of S.R. 3100 over Interstate 83 in Springfield Township, York County, as the Rodney P. Miller Memorial Bridge.

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-48

Alloway	Erickson	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Argall	Farnese	Mensch	Vance
Baker	Ferlo	Pileggi	Vogel
Blake	Folmer	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Boscola	Fontana	Robbins	Ward
Brewster	Gordner	Scarnati	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Schwank	White
Brubaker	Hughes	Smith	Wiley
Corman	Hutchinson	Solobay	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Stack	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yaw
Eichelberger	Leach	Teplitz	Yudichak

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 21, SB 149, HB 164, SB 384, HB 403, HB 408 and SB 411 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 807 (Pr. No. 1594) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, further providing for definitions, for the licensing agency and its functions, for powers and functions of board, for qualifications for license, for procedures for licensing, for reciprocity and for reinstatement of license; providing for nomenclature; and further providing for penalties, for license renewal and records and fees and for unlawful practice.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 873, SB 908, SB 1000, SB 1016, SB 1017 and SB 1023 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 1118 (Pr. No. 1460) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 18, 1998 (P.L.146, No.22), known as the Check Casher Licensing Act, further providing for defini-

tions, for authority of the department, for conditions for licensing and for fees and charges; and providing for recovery of losses due to fraudulent misrepresentation.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SB 1118 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 1118, Printer's No. 1460, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1158 (Pr. No. 1561) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 9, 1984 (P.L.3, No.2), known as the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Act, further providing for title and short title of act and for definitions; renaming the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board and further providing for its duties; further providing for the training program and for continuing education; providing for sheriff training requirement; further providing for deputy sheriff training requirement; providing for revocation of certification; renaming the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Account; and further providing for reimbursement to counties.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1187 (Pr. No. 1726) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, providing for Pennsylvania hunting heritage plates and for special plates for recipients of Combat Infantry Badge; further providing for special plates for individuals in the service of the United States Merchant Marine; and, in fees, further providing for payments to special funds.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1191 and SB 1199 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1205 (Pr. No. 1727) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for change of designation to university.

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1617 (Pr. No. 2228) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 25, 1945 (P.L.1050, No.394), known as the Local Tax Collection Law, further providing for collection by legal representatives of deceased tax collectors.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held in the Rules room immediately.

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator CORMAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bills:

SB 771 (Pr. No. 1584) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, providing for the State Geospatial Coordinating Board.

HB 374 (Pr. No. 2942) (Rereported)

An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for jurisdiction, education and educational costs of county park police officers.

HB 777 (Pr. No. 889) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly, further defining "income"; and further providing for determination of eligibility.

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 John Novicki IV and to Dale Dubbs by Senator Alloway.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Schuylkill Haven Area High School Girls' Soccer Team and to Schuylkill Haven Area High School Boys' Soccer Team by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Katherine R. Hudak by Senator Baker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Edward Michael Whitebread by Senators Baker and Yudichak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Trautman, Mr. and Mrs. Jack DeBellis, Dr. Sidney Parmet, Catherine Kmetz, Michael Tackack, Dalice M. Rumsey, Althea Blanche Assed, Mary G. Kumernitsky, Janice M. Soden and to George Monroe Rodenbach by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Stevens Fire Company 17-3 and to Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Columbia by Senator Brubaker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ronald J. Bell and to Ralph J. Lesh, Jr., by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mabel Davis Williams, Gerald Davis, Nicholas Casenta, Victory Brewing Company and to Community Volunteers in Medicine by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Tyler A. Parshall and to Joseph G. Keller by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Gregory Casey and to Daniel Walsh by Senator Fontana.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Clark, Franklyn Quiteh and to the Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania Football Team by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Benninger, Mr. and Mrs. Merle L. Gahring, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William C. Corbett, Tom Steiner, Michael Curtis Bower, Seidle Chevrolet, Colony Homes, Wolf's Auto Outlet and to Dancer's Studio by Senator Hutchinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Nicholas W. Kozankywyecz by Senator Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kevin Dean Janson, Michael Lanzzone and to Aviel Daniel Shalev by Senator Leach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Edwin Daniels II and to David Muller by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Martin Gregor Anderson and to Chester-Jensen Co., Inc., by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Inzana, Dustin L. Jamison and to citizens of Chapman Township by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Theresa Broglia by Senator Solobay.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief Robert A. Martin, Mary Dorothy Moody, H. Steven Smedley and to the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies by Senator Teplitz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief Jim Leonardo and to Mike Mattoi by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Wilson-McGinley, Inc., by Senator Vulakovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mark E. Pasquerilla by Senator Wozniak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Captain Joseph Perlis, Chief Michael Bohan, William Sharksnas and to Bruce Reilly by Senator Yudichak.

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 Joyce Elaine Bitz Emerick by Senator Solobay.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Jannie L. Connelly by Senator Washington.

POSTHUMOUS CITATIONS

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

A posthumous citation honoring the late Rodney P. Miller was extended to the family by Senator Alloway.

A posthumous citation honoring the late Harold O. Messerschmidt was extended to the family by Senator Argall.

A posthumous citation honoring the late Greg Wolf was extended to the family by Senator Hutchinson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014

11:30 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 698, 997, 1036, 1159 and 1239)	Room 8E-B East Wing
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

Off the Floor	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bills No. 1107, 1149 and 1188)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014

10:00 A.M.	URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (public hearing on Act 90 of 2010)	Room 8E-B East Wing
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Governor's Office/Governor's Budget Office/Executive Offices)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Judiciary)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Independent Fiscal Office - Economic Outlook & Revenue Overview)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Attorney General)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Treasury Department)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Auditor General)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014

9:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of General Services)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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11:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Insurance)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Military and Veteran Affairs)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Public Utility Commission)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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11:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Aging)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - State Related Universities)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Revenue)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - SERS/PSERS)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Environmental Protection)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

9:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Gaming Control Board)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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11:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA Liquor Control Board)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Health)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Corrections/Office of Probation and Parole)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PASSHE)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PEMA)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Public Welfare)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Community & Economic Development)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PHEAA)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
<u>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014</u>		
9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Transportation)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Labor & Industry)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Agriculture)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
<u>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014</u>		
9:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - State Police/Homeland Security)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
11:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Banking & Securities)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Education)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
<u>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014</u>		
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of State)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Ferlo.

Senator FERLO. Mr. President, yesterday morning, we held a very important hearing of the Committee on Law and Justice, of which I am proud to be the co-chair. I publicly want to thank Senator McIlhinney as the chairman of the Committee on Law and Justice for agreeing to move forward with a public hearing to just air out some of the facts and concerns that many Pennsylvania constituents have raised on a somewhat controversial issue regarding medicinal use of cannabis as it relates to treating various levels of illnesses. It was a very important and very emotional hearing yesterday. I started out actually holding back tears when we heard the testimony of three mothers, and others throughout the hearing, but the three mothers, it brings tears to my eyes because these women were speaking very eloquently and forthright about the personal struggles they go through each and every day raising very small children who either have acute levels of autism or severe levels of various forms of seizures. Some young children have as many as 30, 40, or 50 seizures a day. I could not imagine what they go through.

So again, they were very eloquent, very stoic in their comments, very emotional, very passionate about the urgency for this Senate to step up to the plate and have a serious public dialogue and debate to really move forward on allowing the medicinal use of some form of cannabis. Again, this is a separate and distinct issue from the more controversial issue of legalization or decriminalization of marijuana, or even marijuana. I know some of the media tend to focus in on this issue and show folks utilizing the plant in smoking it like cigarettes. This is not what the hearing was about. This is not the nature of the focus that has been brought due to the leadership of both Senator Folmer, who is the prime sponsor of this bill, as well as my colleague, Senator Leach, who very eloquently has lobbied, advocated, spoken about and educated folks around the State and around the country about this issue.

I think it is time for the Senate to move forward. I think it is clear that an overwhelming majority of our Caucus, I do not speak for all of my colleagues, obviously, but I sense having had many discussions with them that the vast majority of our colleagues in the Democratic Senate are ready to be supportive and move forward on this bill. I sense from discussions with a number of colleagues on the aisle opposite that they would like to move forward as well. So, obviously, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this landmark legislation because the science, the social impact, and the facts really involved with this issue of legalizing medicinal use of the cannabis plant have come to the forefront of American culture. At this juncture, with the information we have now, at least to me and to the majority of my constituents, it is abundantly clear that legalizing medical cannabis, or denying basic medical treatment to some of our most vulnerable citizens and prolonging their suffering, is just not appropriate and should not be tolerated any further.

If Senate Bill No. 1182 were to become law, Pennsylvania would be, I think, the 20th State, in addition to Washington, D.C., to have enacted medicinal use of cannabis. I think that we collectively, in utilizing our voice, would be standing up to the Federal government's Prohibition-style ban on medical cannabis, even to the extent that it could be utilized not as a Schedule I drug, but to be utilized and moved into formal trials by drug companies and others. Again, it was an important issue that we all were focused on in our hearing. As State officials, I do not believe we can allow the Federal government's authority to regulate commerce, which they obviously constitutionally have the right to do, but I do not think it should encroach on our responsibility to protect the health and safety of our residents. At this point, congressional recalcitrance on this issue of medicinal use of the cannabis plant is in the face of overwhelming scientific research and public support, and I think their actions have grown to be unacceptable.

The use of medical cannabis has been proven to significantly improve the quality of life for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, children suffering from epilepsy, seniors suffering from the chronic pain of arthritis, and, in general, individuals from all walks of life who suffer from any number of debilitating medical conditions. Senate Bill No. 1182, as envisioned by Senator Folmer, Senator Leach, and others who are co-sponsors, for example, under this bill, diabetes would be considered a debilitating medical condition for which a doctor could prescribe a cannabis-based remedy. Diabetes is a condition where the body either stops producing or is unresponsive to insulin, an essential hormone that regulates metabolism. In the United States, diabetes is the seventh-leading cause of death and the first leading cause of both adult blindness and kidney failure. I can speak at length about the costs associated with the illness as well. The CDC estimates that a little less than 1 in 3 Americans have diabetes or pre-diabetes, and if that current trend continues, 1 in 3 American adults could have diabetes by 2050. Studies have shown that cannabis use potentially disrupts this trend because cannabis users are less likely to develop diabetes. Moreover, scientists have recently discovered that medical cannabis can actually treat diabetes.

Last year, the American Journal of Medicine reported the results of an observational trial conducted by researchers at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. The researchers assessed the relationship between

cannabis use and insulin resistance in nearly 5,000 diabetics and found that diabetics who reported using cannabis in the past month had lower levels of insulin resistance compared to diabetics who had reported cannabis use at least once, but not in the last 30 days. In response to these findings, the Journal's editor-in-chief implored upon the medical and scientific community to conduct more basic clinical research into the short- and long-term effects of cannabis in a variety of clinical settings, such as cancer, diabetes, and frailty of the elderly. The Pennsylvania Medical Society at the hearing narrowly and myopically did support the issue of clarifying the Federal law on Schedule I use of marijuana as related to clinical trials and more scientific research. Cannabis treatment of diabetes resonates personally for me. I take insulin three times a day as a result of diabetes, and obviously, I have many friends, coworkers, and I cannot name the hundreds of constituents I represent who are affected by diabetes.

More medical research means a stronger Pennsylvania. Many of my colleagues in the southeast, Senator Dinniman and others, talk about the tremendous pharmaceutical industry that is here in Pennsylvania and certainly in my own city of Pittsburgh. More medical research means a stronger Pennsylvania and a better overall quality of life for our residents. Medical research brings the brightest minds to our Commonwealth, creates jobs, and generates economic activity within our borders. Secondly, for 10 years, as I have mentioned, I have had diabetes. I think it is important that we recognize the personal struggles that individuals go through. I do not know how anybody could sit through that hearing yesterday, and I encourage them to look it up in the record if it was recorded on PCN, and just try to get through the testimony of the three mothers, as well as the veterans who spoke at the end of the hearing. I went from emotionally tearful in the beginning of the hearing to just downright mad at the end when a few of our veterans spoke eloquently about their own struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder, their own personal stories, having fought in Vietnam as well as Iraq and Afghanistan and what they came home to. It made me mad because we make so many speeches about veterans, and we have turned our backs on something as basic as getting them the right treatment. One veteran talked about 8 or 9 psychotropic drugs and other kinds of horrendously expensive medicines he had to use when something as basic as medicinal use of cannabis is available that he could seek some relief. Again, passing Senate Bill No. 1182 means that the kind of basic medical treatment will be available for Commonwealth residents - these mothers, veterans, and so many others.

The opponents of medical cannabis will attempt to distract us from the science and our own common sense by using the same three arguments that they have been using for 80 years. They say that cannabis causes crime, legalization will increase usage, and that cannabis is a so-called gateway drug. There is no data or scientific medical information to support any of that hogwash. I want to be clear, cannabis is not a gateway drug. Except, the only thing that is a gateway, to me, is for better healthcare for the suffering and a future for poor minority youth caught in the outdated criminal justice system. I can go on and on about the other aspects of legalization, but that would thwart and diffuse the concentrated effort that we have right here, narrowly on the issue of medicinal use of cannabis.

I just want to close. I think others may want to rise to the podium, I did not know they wanted to speak, if they do, I apologize for speaking first before some of the sponsors of this initiative and I did not want to in any way steal from their thunder or hard work. I will close by saying, the time is now for this Senate discussion. As the Minority chair of the Committee on Law and Justice, I think we have the votes in our committee to pass it to the Committee on Appropriations and let it rise to the full Senate floor. I beg the leadership of the Republican Majority - Senator Pileggi, Senator Scarnati, Senator Browne - to allow us a vote, a debate, a dialogue, a discussion, but actually a vote on the floor of the Senate, and I think this bill would pass resoundingly.

If there can be further fine-tuning of this bill from others who have certain levels of expertise in the Senate, I would wish and pray that they would speak to Senator Folmer and Senator Leach. Let us get to whatever the rug-cutting is regarding this bill. If there is some level of specificity on the content of the bill and its language, whether it is the issue of regulation or how we define who prescribes, I am all for that, but please, we have a great bill that was recognized yesterday at the hearing as being one of the best written bills of any of the 20 States that have already enacted. The time is now. We have the ability to do this. Please, please, God, let us relieve the suffering for these children and the struggle that these parents and these mothers go through each and every day. The time is now. Please, Mr. President, I implore the Senate to act accordingly and expeditiously. Thank you.

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

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I come to you with a very heavy heart at this moment, as was spoken by my esteemed colleague from across the aisle. Previously, we had a hearing on medical cannabis yesterday and one of the testifiers, a mother whose daughter's name is Hannah, Hannah went into a seizure and had to leave and her mother was not able to testify and someone else had to read her testimony. But as it turns out, I am asking for prayers for little Hannah right now because Hannah is in intensive care as we speak. Mr. President, I am not saying that Charlotte's Web, this oil derivative that we are looking for that seems to be very successful and has had great results with children who have epilepsy, would have helped Hannah, but all her mother, Heather, was looking for was an opportunity for the chance of using it.

Mr. President, as I am looking at this, and please excuse me, this subject matter, I am looking at it as I do not see the risk. No one has ever died from cannabis. Some 20,000 people died last year from prescription drugs which are FDA approved, but no one, even in the full abuse of it, has ever died, as Graham Hetrick said yesterday in his testimony, from pot, in all of the years that he was coroner of Dauphin County. Not one person.

We had the side effects that the mothers could show you from the FDA-approved drugs, which are supposed to be done for hold harmless, such as in Dana Ulrich's case, the mother of Lorelei, may stop your heart from beating. So, Dana goes to bed every night with her hand over her daughter's chest to make sure that she is still breathing. Other medications' side effects may cause blindness, some they have to sign a disclosure that says may cause death. I do not understand the risk because we know that Charlotte's Web will not cause death. It may not help everybody, but it will not cause death. And what it could do is help people, period. We have various medical journals from around the world

that for whatever reason are not being read which show evidence of helping with post-traumatic stress syndrome; diabetes, as my esteemed colleague said earlier; dementia; Alzheimer's; various forms of cancers, that actually work.

The thing of it is, Mr. President, we are just scratching the surface on this. We are just starting to understand it all and the potential in medical research and the potential in medical breakthroughs are so huge that the reason why we did Senate Bill No. 1182 with my esteemed colleague, Senator Leach, was because I want to see Pennsylvania being a leader. It should be Pittsburgh, UPMC, Penn State, Thomas Jefferson, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, we should be the leaders in this research that can help people. And people ask me, well, Mike, how did you get involved in this debate? You come from a very conservative district. I got involved because I am very pro-life, and this is about quality of life, this is about sanctity of life, and this is about giving people an opportunity to have that quality of life for whatever disease they are fighting. And all I am trying to do, and Senator Leach is trying to do, is try to put one more weapon, one more arrow in the quiver of every sick person out there to help them fight their disease. That is all this is about.

So, I am just asking for an understanding from the Governor, I am just asking for an understanding from my fellow colleagues to keep an open mind. Read the research. Do not be distracted by the old myths because the old myths I can dispel from the research. The research is on my side. There have been over 20,000 studies, but because we do not have that magic acronym FDA behind it, it is being discarded and dismissed. This is wrong. This is morally wrong, and I am hoping that we can get this bill moving forward so that Pennsylvania will be the leader in this. Thank you very much, Mr. President. That is all I have to say.

THE PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Leach.

Senator LEACH. Mr. President, I rise to make a few additional comments on Senate Bill No. 1182, picking up on what Senator Ferlo, my esteemed cosponsor of that bill, and Senator Folmer, had to say. For those who have not had a chance to watch the hearing yesterday and are interested in this issue, I urge you to watch the hearing. I urge you to listen to the doctors and the molecular biologists talk about how, on so many issues, cannabis has proven helpful. But I want to focus on one in particular, which is the one that got me involved in this issue in the first place, which is the people, the children who have Dravet Syndrome, which is a form of epilepsy which results in hundreds of seizures a day in some cases, results in inability to develop cognitively or physically, and results in severe disability. It results in every time a seizure occurs, another piece of the child dies. Imagine what that must be like as a parent. And as my colleagues have said, we have been treating this for years with highly toxic, highly addictive drugs, with terrible side effects that are approved by the FDA but they do not work very well and the harm is often much worse than the good that it does. I will tell you there was one woman yesterday who testified that one of the drugs they gave her child made the child's skin turn blue and made him have irrational, uncontrollable rages constantly where he was physically attacking her. Others have had blindness and just a whole host of horrible side effects. But we give these people drugs, no problem, we just keep writing the prescriptions, we keep rotating in new drugs. Forty or 50 drugs are used to treat this Dravet Syndrome. They keep trying things, again, sometimes

they work for a little while and they stop, except they finally discovered something that works, Charlotte's Web. It is an oil that you put under your tongue twice a day. The first little girl they helped is Charlotte, and she is now, 2 years later, 99.7 percent seizure-free. Just so you understand what the situation was before, she was in a wheelchair, she could not speak, and now she is a normal little girl. The wheelchair is in a closet and she can speak and she is developing like a normal child.

So, we have that situation where they gave her this medicine and it has had a miraculous effect. So they put a bunch of other kids, 300 kids, and 85 percent of those kids have had 90 percent or better seizure reductions. Now, if this drug was a derivative, and all of our drugs come from plants and from bacteria we grow in the lab, if it was a derivative of any other plant, if it was a derivative of the orchid, or the yucca plant, it would be in every CVS in the country, it would be in every Rite Aid. It would be a no-brainer. But because it is marijuana, because it is cannabis, it has caused people to act irrationally. People lose their minds, and I do not mean by smoking it, I mean just by hearing the word. Now, under Pennsylvania law, we have a sick child, we have medicine that can help this child, but we will not let the child have that medicine.

I want to be clear. There is a lot of research on this, double-blind peer review studies, but they cannot be accepted by the FDA. They are FDA-worthy, FDA-quality studies, but they cannot be accepted because cannabis is considered a Schedule I drug for reasons that have nothing to do with cannabis but everything to do with economic interests. It is considered like crack and ecstasy. There is no legitimate purpose that they cannot study it, but they have studied in other countries - Israel, Canada, China, across western Europe - and have repeatedly found dramatic impacts. In fact, they are now engaged in clinical trials in western Europe for a different strain, which has shown promise in taking diabetics off of the need to have insulin shots. Those clinical trials are ongoing right now.

So, we have this medicine, we cannot give it to these children. It is an immoral policy, it is a heartbreaking policy, and I urge anyone out there who is interested in actually seeing how this works, go to YouTube, go to Google, type in "Sanjay Gupta" and "Charlotte's Web" and watch the report, you will see Charlotte before and after. Sanjay Gupta went into that story to cover that story as a skeptic, someone who was opposed to medical cannabis, he came out a strong supporter. He wrote an editorial published around the country apologizing for his opposition, which he said was just based on blind stereotypes. Keep in mind, the strain of cannabis that we would give to these children does not have THC in it sufficient to get you high. You cannot get intoxicated from it. No one is going to be abusing it. It is not a gateway to anything. No one is going to want it other than the victims of this terrible disease. No one smokes anything. It is just a medicine like any other medicine. But we cannot give it because of these irrational reasons and these irrational fears, and we have to stop that.

So, I ask anyone listening to this today to think the basic question we all have to ask, if this was your child, what would you want the Senate to do? If your child was suffering from this, if you have to watch your child seize hour after hour, and die a little bit every day, and not know if they are going to wake up in the morning, what would you want the Senate to do? Would you want them to make it available? Or would you want them to say

oh, my God, marijuana, that must be people listening to Jimmy Hendrix and being against the Vietnam War and burning their bras. I do not want any part of that. This has nothing to do with hippies. This has nothing to do with psychedelic buses. This has to do with medicine and should be treated like any other medicine, which is that it should be given to sick people, it should be tested out in the open in this country and it should be the subject of a prescription by a doctor. Twenty-one other States get this, and by the end of this year, there will be about 5 more. Will Pennsylvania be the last State in the country that allows its sick children to get the medicine they need? Will we be the last State in the country that requires families from Pennsylvania who have lived here all of their lives to become medical refugees? We have to be better than that.

I know we are not the most progressive State in the world, but this is not a liberal/conservative issue. I mean, I am liberal, my cosponsor is conservative in a kind of extreme whackjob kind of way--no offense--but he gets it, and so do the bipartisan cosponsors of this bill. So, please, folks listening out there, just study this issue yourself. Look it up. We have a Web site and every day we feature a different child.

I just want to say one more thing, just so you understand what is at stake. Yesterday, we had one of the parents who was going to testify at the hearing, her little girl named Hannah, right before the hearing started in the Senate, in the room where the hearing was at, Hannah had a grand mal seizure that they could not control. She had to be rushed to the hospital and LifeLined to Pittsburgh, where she is fighting for her life right now. Since we introduced this, since we had our first press conference on this bill, seven children have died; whereas almost every child who has this and gets Charlotte's Web is seizure-free. That is how stark the choice is that we have.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Ferlo, for the second time.

Senator FERLO. Mr. President, just one comment, one brief sentence. I want to remind my colleagues, following the two earlier speakers, that of the 250,000 known native plant species in the world today, they contribute to 40 percent of the essence of every legal pharmaceutical drug and prescription that is written. The origin of most pharmaceutical drugs, 40 percent, come from the derivative of all or part of some known God-given plant on the earth today, and I just want to put that out as a factual matter. Thank you.

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in the resolution from the Senate, entitled:

Joint Session.

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bill:

SB 57.

RECESS

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

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, February 3, 2014, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 12:05 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.