

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

SESSION OF 2019 203RD OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 13

SENATE

TUESDAY, March 26, 2019

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor John K. Fetterman) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend EVERETT DEBNAM, Senior Pastor of Invictus Ministries, Inc., Pottstown, offered the following prayer:

Elohim, Yahweh, Allah, our Father, we come to you at this moment of thanksgiving for this glorious day. Thank You for Your presence. We thank You for Your love. Now, as we are Your creation, we seek Your guidance. We might have the know-how, but we do not have the power. We might have knowledge, but we do not have wisdom. So now we ask for Your wisdom that it might penetrate the hearts of these Your people. Bless this Commonwealth, bless those who labor, bless those who pass through it, and bless the soil that it might produce a bounty for this great State. Now we ask that we be leaders of this great nation, leaders of these great people. We humble ourselves and go through our kenosis that we might be emptied to be filled by Your presence. Guide us, we shall be guided. Love us, we shall be loved. We will be ever mindful to give Your name the praise. We pray this. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Bishop Debnam, who is the guest today of Senator Mensch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

**CORRECTIONS TO NOMINATIONS
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

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 referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

**MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

March 25, 2019

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

Please note that the letter dated March 22, 2019, for the nomination of Elise Claire Schell (Public Member), 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2022, and until her successor is appointed and qualified [data missing], should be corrected to read:

Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2022, and until her successor is appointed and qualified [data missing].

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

March 25, 2019

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

Please note that the letter dated March 22, 2019, for the nomination of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period [data missing], should be corrected to read:

Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr. (Public Member), 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period [data missing].

**CORRECTIONS TO CORRECTIONS TO
NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

**MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

March 26, 2019

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

Please note that the letter dated March 22, 2019, and then corrected on March 25, 2019, for the nomination of Elise Claire Schell (Public Member), 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2022, and until her successor is appointed and qualified [data missing], should be corrected to read:

Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2022, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Harold Shields, Pittsburgh, resigned.

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

March 26, 2019

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

Please note that the letter dated March 22, 2019, and then corrected on March 25, 2019, for the nomination of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period [*data missing*], should be corrected to read:

Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr. (Public Member), 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Marla Wasson, Lewisberry, whose term expired.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following Senate Bills numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

March 26, 2019

Senators STREET, LEACH, HUGHES, SCHWANK, COSTA, HAYWOOD and TARTAGLIONE presented to the Chair **SB 474**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in judicial boards and commissions, further providing for powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and for adoption of guidelines for parole, repealing provisions relating to adoption of risk assessment instrument and further providing for publication of guidelines for sentencing, resentencing and parole, risk assessment instrument and recommitment ranges following revocation.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, March 26, 2019.

Senators BOSCOLA, K. WARD, COSTA, FONTANA, FARNESE, BROWNE, ARGALL, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, TARTAGLIONE, L. WILLIAMS, BARTOLOTTA, FOLMER, KILLION, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, STEFANO, VOGEL and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 477**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in particular rights and immunities, further providing for emergency response provider and bystander good Samaritan civil immunity.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, March 26, 2019.

Senators VOGEL, J. WARD, STREET, GORDNER, SCHWANK, FOLMER, YAW, KILLION, LANGERHOLC, K. WARD, BROOKS, REGAN, BAKER, STEFANO, BLAKE and AUMENT presented to the Chair **SB 478**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for beginning farmer tax credit.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, March 26, 2019.

Senators BAKER, FONTANA, MARTIN, SCHWANK, PHILLIPS-HILL, BREWSTER, KILLION, FOLMER, SANTARSIERO, K. WARD, MENSCH, TARTAGLIONE and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 479**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in depositions and witnesses, further providing for admissibility of certain statements.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, March 26, 2019.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator MARTIN, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following bills:

SB 110 (Pr. No. 82)

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in home rule and optional plan government, further providing for submission of question for election of government study commission and for limitation on enactment of ordinance or filing of petition.

SB 316 (Pr. No. 295)

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, in township supervisors, further providing for duties of supervisors.

SB 317 (Pr. No. 296)

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, in taxation and finance, further providing for annual budget.

HB 264 (Pr. No. 361)

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

HB 275 (Pr. No. 246)

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246, No.47), known as the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, in Early Intervention Program, further providing for definitions, for program objectives and for authorization; in municipal financial distress, further providing for limitation of status; and making an editorial change.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Brooks and Senator Folmer.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Brooks and Senator Folmer. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

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

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of January 28, 2019, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of January 28, 2019.

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

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEA-45

Argall	Dinniman	Laughlin	Street
Aument	DiSanto	Martin	Tartaglione
Baker	Farnese	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Folmer	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Gordner	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Haywood	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Collett	Kearney	Scavello	
Corman	Killion	Schwank	
Costa	Langerhole	Stefano	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

**GUEST OF SENATOR JAY COSTA
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, today is a pretty important day here in Harrisburg. Each year we have the pleasure of working with the University of Pittsburgh. It is Pitt Day here in Harrisburg, and we are pleased to be joined by so many University of Pittsburgh students, and certainly Chancellor Gallagher and his team are making the rounds meeting with folks.

Today I have the pleasure of being shadowed by Jennifer Dowdy, from the University of Pittsburgh, as I mentioned. Jennifer is part of the Legislator for a Day program, which the university sets up as a way for students to have the opportunity to witness what really happens here in Harrisburg and to be part of the conversation that elected officials have here in Harrisburg. We all know that no 2 days are the same here in Harrisburg, but she has joined me today for a number of meetings and a press conference, as well as now being seated in the gallery to observe the order of what we are going to do here today. Jennifer is from Muncy, Pennsylvania, but now resides happily in the city of

Pittsburgh. She is a junior at Pitt who is studying political science, French, and trans-Atlantic studies. I know she is doing very well in all those courses because she is carrying better than a 3.7 GPA and is consistently part of the dean's list. She has a strong interest in domestic and international policies and politics and plans to attend law school after she graduates. Unfortunately, she had to tell the chancellor a few moments ago that Pitt is second on her list, but we will not talk about that, right? Will we, Jennifer? She is also active in many clubs on the campus as well. She is the secretary of Leading Women of Tomorrow, a member of the prelaw fraternity Phi Alpha Delta, the political science student association, as well as other activities.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming one of the outstanding University of Pittsburgh students who is spending time here today, Jennifer Dowdy. Jennifer, would you please rise.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Costa please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN R. GORDNER
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, it is my privilege to have with me today the Southern Columbia Tigers. Southern Columbia is actually my wife's alma mater. She played field hockey and softball for them back in the day. The team we have here today is the PIAA Class A Girls' Soccer Champions, and it is the first women's sports team from Southern Columbia that has won a State championship, so a very proud day for them. I remember watching the game at home with my wife on a Friday. It was a morning game. They had to clear 6 inches of snow off the field there in order to play the game. They were the first team out. During the game the opposing team took a 1-0 lead, they caught up and made it 1-1, the opposing team then went ahead 2-1, they caught up and tied it 2-2 to send it into overtime. Then in overtime, senior Sami Palacz scored the biggest goal in program history, giving them their State championship.

It has been a great day for them to be here in the Capitol. I am very proud of this group of ladies. I look for great things for them in the future. I congratulate the coaches and the team. I ask that we give them our usual warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the State champs please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT B. MENSCH
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to introduce our guest Chaplain, Bishop Everett Debnam. Bishop Debnam has served for 32 years as the senior pastor of Invictus Ministries, Inc., in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. He also serves as the Second Presiding Prelate of the Kingdom Connection Fellowship International, which is the Holy See located in Columbus, Ohio. Bishop Debnam received his religious studies and

training from the Maryland School of Religion, an extension of the Virginia Seminary and College in Lynchburg, Virginia; Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia; and the Eastern Baptist Seminary in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. He also received credits from the University of Maryland, Towson State College, and Catonsville Community College in Baltimore, Maryland. He is blessed to be the husband of Robin G. Debnam and the father of six wonderful children. Presently, Bishop Debnam serves as the chaplain of the Pottstown Police Department, doing that since 2008, and also as the first vice president of the Pottstown branch of the NAACP.

Mr. President, I also introduce one of Bishop Debnam's guests with him today, Elder Charles Wise, Sr., who is seated in the gallery. Mr. President, please join me in wishing a warm Senate welcome to both Bishop Debnam and to Elder Charles Wise.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Mensch please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, I have a second guest today. I introduce Jessica Schubert, an intern in my office in Montgomery County. It is a pleasure to introduce Jessica. She is going to be graduating this spring from Alvernia University with a bachelor's degree in social work. She then plans to attend Temple University in the fall to gain her master's degree in clinical social work with a concentration in mental health. Jessica later hopes to pursue a degree in art therapy due to her passion for art. At Alvernia, she has been a cheerleader for the past 4 years and truly enjoys being involved with the Student Government Association. She is currently president of the Social Work Association, which is a club in the college that represents the social work programs on and off campus.

Mr. President, please join me in welcoming Jessica Schubert to the Senate today.

The PRESIDENT. Would Ms. Schubert please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR CAMERA BARTOLOTTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I have a very special guest joining us from the 46th Senatorial District, Simmi Sharma, who is seated in the gallery. Simmi is job shadowing me today. She is currently a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in political science and philosophy. Simmi has been on the dean's list since she started school in the fall of 2017. She is a member of the university's parliamentary debate organization and the female empowerment movement, which raises awareness about women's issues.

Recently, Simmi founded a nonprofit initiative called Indu that combats domestic violence in South Asian communities and creates safe spaces for the discussion of social justice issues. Simmi previously worked with two nonprofit initiatives: Indiaspora, which acts as a catalyst to transform the success of Indian Americans into meaningful impact in India and on the global stage. She has also been affiliated with Vishwa Hindu

Parishad of America's Support-a-Child program, which helps orphaned and homeless children in India get proper housing, healthcare, and education from a central board-certified school. In Simmi's free time she enjoys reading and watching *Game of Thrones*.

As you can see from her interest in and involvement with these great initiatives, Simmi is already demonstrating, at a young age, her commitment to public service. Likewise, her strong academic background has shown a great capacity for learning and an even greater potential for growth. Mr. President, please join me in extending a very warm Senate welcome to Simmi Sharma.

The PRESIDENT. Would Ms. Sharma please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR ELISABETH J. BAKER ON BEHALF OF SENATOR MIKE FOLMER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, it is truly my honor to introduce a very special young lady. Veronica Miller is here shadowing me and serving as a guest Page on the Senate floor. Veronica, or "V," as she is known to her family and friends, is the daughter of our own Chris Miller of the Senate Chamber, and his wife, Jennifer. She resides in Senator Folmer's district. As is true with many of our guest Pages, V is distinguished in her academics and her activities. She graduated from Middletown Area High School with honors. She was a member of the Key Club International and of Link Crew, helping freshmen successfully adjust to high school. She earned an internship in the special needs classroom. V played softball and tennis and was the captain of both teams in her senior year.

Participating, excelling, and giving are clearly in her genes, but an unexpected and very serious setback really shows her character and love of life. V was planning to attend West Chester University for nursing when she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. She decided to take a year off to complete her chemotherapy treatments and concentrate on her recovery. Medical care and faith have done their job, for we are happy to see she is doing well. She has joined the LIVESTRONG program at the West Shore YMCA, a program that helps cancer survivors regain their strength and maintain their healthy lifestyle. Consistent with her love of sports and her desire to continue to be involved, she volunteers as a coach for the Middletown Area High School Softball Team. She is planning to attend Harrisburg Area Community College in the fall to pursue that cherished degree in nursing. She also loves hiking at one of my favorite spots in northeastern Pennsylvania, Ricketts Glen State Park and the 23 natural falls.

So please join me in welcoming Veronica "V" Miller to the Senate of Pennsylvania as we all wish her the best in sustaining good health and attaining her career in nursing. She is an inspiration and a delightful young woman. Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would Ms. Miller please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR KIM L. WARD
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator K. Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I am so happy today to recognize some students who have traveled here from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. They are sitting in our gallery along with President Sharon Smith and some of the other board members. The campus dormitories actually back up to my property, so I feel very neighborly with all of these folks. They are here today to advocate on behalf of the University of Pittsburgh regarding education issues. They are studying a wide range of topics. They are not only learning and majoring in their topics to prepare them to go out and work, but are also learning to advocate on behalf of issues. We all know that really makes our world go around when we feel strongly about something and we get out and work for it and advocate for it. So I am very proud of that and grateful that they are here to visit, and I ask for a warm welcome from my Senate colleagues for the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg. Hail Pitt.

Sorry, Jake Corman.

The PRESIDENT. I believe one of them is running for vice president at Pitt Greensburg, too. So if they would all rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Apologies, Johnstown.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brooks has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

**GUEST OF SENATOR SCOTT F. MARTIN
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce Lydia Sigman, who is one of my constituents and is job shadowing in my office today. Lydia is the daughter of Mike and Jenny Sigman of Lancaster County and is a junior at Conestoga Valley High School. She is interested in majoring in government in college and is shadowing to look into jobs related to public service. She is involved in her community through volunteering at her church through Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services and through CV's National Honor Society. She enjoys history and politics and hopes to use those interests in a career in the future.

Mr. President, I ask that the Members join me in welcoming Lydia to the Pennsylvania Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Martin please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

**GUEST OF SENATOR PATRICK J. STEFANO
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, today we are joined by my guest, Christian Resch. He attends the University of Pittsburgh, where he is a sophomore and political science and economics major. He is also a cadet with the Army ROTC program. He is here with the Legislator for a Day program. The purpose of that program is to shadow legislators, which he has done with me today, to witness the life in the day of the legislature. After college, he plans to become a military intelligence Second Lieutenant Officer in the U.S. Army. After he has completed 4 years in the Army, he plans on going to law school. He is currently an Institute of Politics legislative intern for Pittsburgh City Councilman Corey O'Connor. His career goals include working in the public sector to better Pennsylvania. His ultimate career is to be elected as a State Representative, though I think I have persuaded him to look at the Senate now. He is a native of Zelienople and a constituent of Senator Vogel.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues for a warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Stefano please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

**GUEST OF SENATOR WAYNE D. FONTANA
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I rise to welcome Alex Rose to the Senate today. Alex, who is here as part of Pitt Day at the Capitol, is currently working as an intern in my district office for the spring semester. Alex is a native of Erie County, he is a political science and history major at Pitt, and he carries a 3.9 grade point average and will graduate in December of this year. In addition to his studies, Mr. President, and his work in my office, Alex is the president of the University of Pittsburgh College Democrats. In the past, he has held internships in the offices of both United States Senator Bob Casey and Congressman Mike Doyle, as well as volunteered on numerous political campaigns at the local, State, and Federal levels. My staff and I have found Alex to be an intelligent, informed, and hardworking young man who no doubt has a great future ahead of him. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Alex to the Senate today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Fontana, Alex, please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Folmer has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR MARIO M. SCAVELLO
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Monroe, Senator Scavello.

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to welcome Brooke Bond, who is serving as my guest Page here in the Capitol today. Brooke is an 11-year-old student who attends fifth grade at Nazareth Area Intermediate School. I had the pleasure

of meeting Brooke on many occasions. She and her dad attend many of the Eagle Scout awards in my district. Brooke enjoys several sports. She has played softball and participates in Hoop Shoot basketball every year with the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, and she also enjoys watching the Philadelphia Eagles. Brooke is currently a Junior-level Girl Scout for Troop 8855, and she has promised me that she is not going to stop until she gets her Gold Award, the highest level of Girl Scouting. She is a member of the BPOE Antler Club, a junior Elk program for kids. Brooke also enjoys skateboarding, riding her bike, and riding on her new hoverboard. She is an avid camper and angler and she enjoys cooking. Please join me in giving Brooke Bond and her dad, who is seated in the gallery, a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Scavello please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.
(Applause.)

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held immediately in the Majority Caucus Room.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber immediately for a caucus as well.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 18 (Pr. No. 1001) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the release of Project 70 restrictions on certain lands owned by the Borough of Topton, Berks County, in exchange for the imposition of Project 70 restrictions on other lands to be acquired by the Borough of Topton, Berks County; authorizing the transfer of title for certain Project 70 lands owned by Lehigh County to Whitehall Township, Lehigh County; authorizing the release of Project 70 restrictions on certain lands owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in exchange for the imposition of Project 70 restrictions on other lands to be acquired by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Governor, to grant and convey to Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority, or its successors or assigns, certain lands, buildings and improvements situate in Stroud Township, Monroe County; and authorizing the Department of General Services and East

Stroudsburg University of the State System of Higher Education, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to East Stroudsburg Borough, a certain permanent public sanitary sewer easement and certain permanent public water supply system easements situate in East Stroudsburg Borough, Monroe County.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

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-45

Argall	Dinniman	Laughlin	Street
Aument	DiSanto	Martin	Tartaglione
Baker	Farnese	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Folmer	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Gordner	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Haywood	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Collett	Kearney	Scavello	
Corman	Killion	Schwank	
Costa	Langerhole	Stefano	

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 with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

SB 86 (Pr. No. 485) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in offenses against the family, further providing for newborn protection; in child protective services, further providing for definitions and for taking child into protective custody; and, in newborn protection, further providing for definitions and for incubators for newborns, providing for health care providers at urgent care centers accepting newborns and further providing for reporting acceptance of newborns, for immunity and for duties of department.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, I submit my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator BROOKS:)

Mr. President, Safe Haven laws, or Baby Moses laws, have been passed in numerous States since the 1990s after a string of heartbreaking infanticide cases in the Midwest. This bill and similar laws are designed to decriminalize the leaving of an unharmed infant with a responsible caregiver, protecting infants from harm by providing a warm, secure haven for them when a parent is no longer able to care for a child.

According to USA TODAY, from 1999 to October 2013, 2,138 babies have been relinquished nationwide under the Baby Safe Haven laws. We have all heard the tragic stories in the news of terrified mothers depositing their newborns in public toilets and trashcans, or dropping them out of high-rise windows or moving cars. Please join me in adding urgent care centers as another safe haven for our smallest and most innocent lives.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-45

Argall	Dinniman	Laughlin	Street
Aument	DiSanto	Martin	Tartaglione
Baker	Farnese	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Folmer	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Gordner	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Haywood	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Collett	Kearney	Scavello	
Corman	Killion	Schwank	
Costa	Langerholc	Stefano	

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 present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 115 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 127 (Pr. No. 419) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in 911 emergency communication services, further providing for definitions, for telecommunications management, for counties, for fund and for telephone records, providing for Legislative Budget and Finance Committee review and further providing for termination of chapter.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

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-45

Argall	Dinniman	Laughlin	Street
Aument	DiSanto	Martin	Tartaglione
Baker	Farnese	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Folmer	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Gordner	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Haywood	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Collett	Kearney	Scavello	
Corman	Killion	Schwank	
Costa	Langerholc	Stefano	

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 present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 298 and SB 372 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 62, SB 89 and SB 139 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 147 (Pr. No. 195) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Game Commission, further providing for accountability; and, in hunting and furtaking, further providing for hunting on Sunday prohibited, providing for hunting on Sunday and further providing for trespass on private property while hunting.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 439 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, HUGHES, BLAKE, SCHWANK, BROWNE, MENSCH, AUMENT, BAKER, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FOLMER,

HUTCHINSON, KILLION, PHILLIPS-HILL, STREET, J. WARD, TARTAGLIONE and HAYWOOD, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 59**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of March 2019 as "Eye Donor Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I submit my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator BOSCOLA:)

Mr. President, my resolution recognizes the month of March 2019 as "Eye Donor Month" in Pennsylvania. This particular effort is focused on an area of organ donation that does not typically receive enough attention on its own. Here in Pennsylvania, we need more concerned citizens willing to designate themselves and participate in this type of donation. Just as with blood donations, there is no medical substitute that can be used other than the actual tissue. And it is universal, because blood type does not affect eye donor eligibility, so everyone, as an eye donor, can help. This decision to help a blind or vision-impaired person to see again is incredible. This is one of the greatest gifts that you can give, and this resolution honors all of the generous people who made the decision for their legacy to give that priceless gift of sight.

I also want this resolution to be a beacon of hope as well, for all those patients out there waiting for their opportunity to have a transplant. Tissue transplants are necessary when an unfortunate event of a tragedy strikes such as injury, disease, or infection. Sometimes, rare emergency instances require tissues to be available on demand and ready for surgeons. Transplant procedures have restored vision in people, and even children, ranging from just weeks old to 100 years old. Transplants have a success rate of 75 percent, thanks to technology advancing, and it is certainly life-changing. I also want to mention, Mr. President, that eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and Delaware comprise the most giving region in the country when it comes to eye donation. So, it is great to see that Pennsylvania is part of the most giving groups across this nation.

In the district that I represent, the wonderful professionals of Northeast Pennsylvania Lions Eye Bank, now known as SightLife Northeast, continue to educate the public, raise awareness, and champion the cause. With over six decades of service, the eye bank has provided tens of thousands of cornea transplants. SightLife is the fifth-largest eye bank throughout the United States, with a territory of 37 counties. I will leave you with this thought: transplant processes are entirely dependent on donations, and the demand is simply never satisfied.

So, therefore, Mr. President, I thank the Senate for joining me in offering this resolution recognizing March 2019 as Eye Donor Month here in the Commonwealth. Thank you.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators MUTH and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 60**, entitled:

A Resolution encouraging gender equity within the United States Soccer Federation.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Muth.

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about equal pay for the women athletes of the U.S. Soccer Team. On March 8, the United States women's national team filed a Federal class action lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation alleging institutionalized gender discrimination that is not only limited to equal pay, but extends to their poor playing conditions, training conditions, quality of coaching, medical care, and transportation to and from away games. All 28 members of the team filed this lawsuit 3 months ahead of their biggest match this year, and they are fighting for what they earned in heart and hustle, fighting for what they deserve, and for equity and freedom. We all know that women are grossly underpaid compared to men, and this is a great example of how we have an opportunity here to show, at a national level, that pay equity is enforced and that they have a fair share earning what they deserve. Thank you.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators REGAN, BAKER, L. WILLIAMS, ARGALL, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROOKS, BROWNE, COSTA, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FOLMER, FONTANA, GORDNER, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, MARTIN, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, SANTARSIERO, SCAVELLO, VOGEL, J. WARD, K. WARD, YAW, YUDICHAK and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 61**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of March 2019 as "American Red Cross Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, today Senator Baker and I offer this resolution designating March 2019 as "American Red Cross Month" in Pennsylvania. This resolution recognizes the important role this organization plays in communities not just in Pennsylvania, but across our nation. Founded more than 137 years ago, the American Red Cross has been at the forefront of helping Americans prevent, prepare for, and respond to large and small disasters. In 2018, the American Red Cross responded to 2,116 disasters that affected more than 4,000 families statewide. Nationally, it dealt with the wildfires in California, hurricanes in Florida, and a volcano in Hawaii. The Red Cross is there for us when we experience the worst circumstances.

As we mark and commemorate American Red Cross Month in Pennsylvania, it is important that we recognize all the people who give their time and resources to aid their friends and neighbors. In 2018, there were over 6,000 Red Cross volunteers in Pennsylvania. Their efforts are truly appreciated, and it is with

them in mind that we offer this resolution. Tomorrow, the Pennsylvania Red Cross chapters will be in the Capitol promoting their work. I invite my colleagues to join the event at 9:15 a.m. in the Main Rotunda to say thank you to the Red Cross members.

Thank you, Mr. President. I ask for an affirmative vote.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, it is my honor to work with my colleague, Senator Regan, on the American Red Cross resolution, and he described the role and the impact of this wonderful organization over a number of years. But they go beyond blood drives, fires, and disaster relief. They are volunteer driven, and we need to take a moment out to thank all of those volunteers. I do so in standing before you as someone whose family was helped by the Red Cross more than 100 years ago. My grandfather was a Spanish-American War soldier and camped at Chickamauga, and his unit from Philadelphia developed malaria. A Red Cross transport train brought all of the sick soldiers home. In my office here at the Capitol, I display the actual flag from 1898, along with my grandfather's picture and service medal, and it is a constant reminder that this organization, for generations, has touched the lives of countless men and women across Pennsylvania and our entire country.

I am honored to join with Senator Regan in recognizing this organization's past, present, and what they promise to give us in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators COSTA, BREWSTER, STREET, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, FARNESE, KILLION, FOLMER, SANTARSIERO, SCHWANK, HUGHES, SCAVELLO, AUMENT, MENSCH, TARTAGLIONE and J. WARD, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 62**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of March 2019 as "Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, this resolution designates March 2019 as "Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. Mr. President, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and also the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Blood Disorders, have joined together in support of the annual Blood Disorders Awareness Month here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month was established, in part, with the National Hemophilia Foundation and its 52 chapter organizations to raise awareness of bleeding disorders and the importance of conducting research, educational outreach, and providing advocacy initiatives. More than 3 million individuals in the United States are diagnosed with a bleeding disorder.

Mr. President, this resolution recognizes the role these individuals play in terms of awareness, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month here in Pennsylvania in March 2019.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 110, SB 316, SB 317, HB 264 and HB 275.

And said bills having been considered for the first time,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

9:00 A.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bills No. 123, 149, 337, 396, 399, 425, 431, 469, 473, 500, 501 and 502)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
9:30 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 109, 338, 397 and 441)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:00 A.M.	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 83 and 471)	Room 8E-A East Wing
10:00 A.M.	URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (to consider Senate Bills No. 30, 174 and 309)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bills No. 25, 112 and 217)	Room 461 Main Capitol

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019

12:30 P.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (public hearing to consider the re-confirmation of Russell Redding as the Secretary of Agriculture)	Room 461 Main Capitol
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today to refute some of the inaccurate information and misguided rhetoric that opponents of raising the minimum wage have long espoused

regarding its impact on the job market. I want to set the record straight: the preponderance of historical evidence shows that raising the minimum wage has caused little or no negative effects on job retention or growth in States and municipalities where raises have been enacted. I highlight this issue today because I have introduced Senate Bill No. 12 to raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$12 this year, followed by annual raises of \$.50 cents until it reaches \$15 by 2025. My bill also eliminates the subminimum wage and links the minimum wage to annual cost-of-living adjustments. I have crafted this legislation in partnership with Governor Wolf.

Pennsylvania has not raised its minimum wage in 13 years. Mr. President, that is far too long. Many naysayers, particularly those interested in keeping wages low, predict that minimum wage will cause employers to cut jobs or reduce workers' hours. That is simply not the case. We know this because minimum wage is among the most-often-studied topics in economics. Since the turn of the 21st century, researchers have conducted literally hundreds of studies involving minimum wage and employment, and there have also been studies of those studies, known as meta-analysis, where statisticians combine and compare large sets of available data to create a broader context and mitigate potential biases. In 2016, two researchers, one from Dartmouth College and the other from Michigan State University, crunched the numbers from 37 comparable studies over the previous 15 years and found that the average estimated employment effect of minimum wage increases have been very small, generally between one-tenth of 1 percent, and one-twentieth of 1 percent relative to economic growth. Further, researchers from the University of California, the University of Massachusetts, and the Economic Policy Institute found that in 2017, raising the minimum wage had a greater unemployment impact on States surrounding those where the raises were enacted. This is particularly troubling for Pennsylvania, because all six of our neighboring States have raised their minimum wages above Pennsylvania's current rate of \$7.25 an hour. Three of those States, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware, have scheduled additional minimum wage raises this coming year, while New York, New Jersey, and Ohio have enacted automatic cost-of-living adjustments.

I can understand why employers of low-wage earners may place excessive value on anecdotal evidence and subjective outcomes of limited-scope research. When asked to consider a higher minimum wage, many employers naturally focus on how it would impact their labor costs, how it will affect their bottom line, but consumer demand is another critical factor influencing the bottom line. Low-wage earners are consumers, too. Wherever they live or work, they also spend. Raising Pennsylvania's minimum wage will place more money in their pockets and more money in the tills of businesses throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to talk about a press conference that was held earlier in the Capitol. Myself and colleagues from both the House and Senate Democrats got together to do a press conference to discuss the issue of workplace harassment and to discuss a package of bills that have been introduced both in the House and the Senate.

Mr. President, as we know, harassment occurs in the workplace in all career fields, impacts far too many, and does damage

that remains for generations. To combat workplace harassment is to stand up for the simple concept of fairness. Fairness to guarantee that no Pennsylvanian, regardless of gender, race, sex, or sexual orientation, is suffering in their place of employment due to harassment. It is fairness to guarantee that each and every Pennsylvanian who may be pressured in their workplace by being subjected to the harassment knows that they have someplace to turn.

Like my effort to pass anti-discrimination legislation and to protect the LGBTQ community, insuring that all individuals, Mr. President, are protected and treated fairly in the workplace is a priority not just of myself, but a priority of the Senate and House Democratic Caucuses. The legislation I plan to introduce will expand additional protections under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to address the issue of all-too-common workplace harassment. First, the legislation would extend the Human Relations Act covering employers with four or more employees to now covering all employers with at least one employee. Second, it would extend the statute of limitations for filing a complaint, giving victims more time to come forward. Third, a provision would be added to include the right to a jury trial, a provision which has been identified, Mr. President, by victims' groups and advocates as one of the most important measures necessary to achieve the desired reforms in the system. Fourth, there would be requirements to provide for punitive damages in cases of malice or reckless indifference. Finally, the legislation would provide for the presumption of attorney fees. Mr. President, that last component, I believe, is necessary to help victims who may not be able to afford an attorney or their damages awards are not enough to cover their attorney fees.

Now, it is fair and it is right to make sure that employees in this State are not victims of intimidation, defamation, or coercion when they are coming to their job to work hard and to provide a sustainable livelihood for themselves and their families. I believe the legislative efforts that my colleagues and I are working on will implement the kinds of protections against harassment that we need in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation. We need to address, Mr. President, this serious situation, and we can take a major step this legislative term by not only debating this package of bills, but bringing them up for a vote. It certainly, Mr. President, is time, and enough is enough, and I hope that this legislative term we are able to make some serious headway on these issues and bring Pennsylvania into step with so many other States across the country, including those that border Pennsylvania. Bring them in line with the same protections that their workers enjoy each and every day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator L. Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, in light of this week being Higher Education Affordability Week, I speak today about the very heavy financial burden carried by so many in our Commonwealth, student loan debt. Pennsylvania ranks number one in the country for the amount of student loan debt carried, and over 1.8 million Pennsylvanians carry an average of \$36,000 in debt. Pennsylvania ranks 49 out of 50 in higher education support per capita, and Pennsylvania ranks 50 in higher education because of student debt, tuition, and fees. This student debt is not your average debt. It can be incredibly high-interest debt, meaning Pennsylvanians are paying month after month only to see

their principal balance remain the same or, in some cases, increase. We often see over-hyped stories that millennials are killing everything from chain restaurants to the real estate market, but the reality is that millennials are not irresponsible children, they are adults who are saddled with a record amount of student debt who have to make careful decisions about where they spend their dollars. There are people who want to purchase homes, to start families, to volunteer for their local fire company, and who ultimately want to invest in Pennsylvania's economy, but expensive high-interest loans prevent them, like they prevented me, from taking those steps. My experience is somewhat different from a lot of people who are holding office today. I have about \$125,000 in student debt, and I now owe more than what I originally borrowed because of high-interest rates and compounding interest. I was criticized during my campaign for being a renter, but my student loan payment is my mortgage payment.

I am far from alone in this financial burden. That is why I and Senator Muth, Senator Hughes, and the rest of our Democratic colleagues introduced the PA Student HELP Act last week. States around the country are recognizing that student loan debt is preventing their economies from reaching their full potential, and we do not want Pennsylvania to be left behind. The PA Student HELP Act helps Pennsylvania students in three ways: it provides State assistance for reducing student loan debt through refinancing and lowering interest rates, provides protections for borrowers seeking private loans, and uses a data-driven approach to help understand the scope of the problem. As a prospective student, the information available to you about the cost of college typically consists of tuition and room and board, but there are many more expenses that students need to know that contributes to the true cost of a college education, including textbooks, meal plans, housing, transportation, and interest rates for the loans they are taking out. The PA Student HELP Act would require institutions of higher learning to be transparent about the full cost of attending their school. For example, when I was applying to law school, they estimated the cost of transportation, but that did not even account for what it cost to park on campus, let alone gas and other expenses.

This act would compile information on private student loan lenders to help prospective students find both the lowest rates and those with the best repayment options on student loans. Those taking on debt to further their education should know all the facts before taking on that debt. Once again, when I was looking into my first year of law school, I had to do all of that research myself. I looked at a ton of different Web sites, I called student loan companies, and the burden was on me to try to figure out which companies were reputable and which were not. This law will prevent that from happening to other students.

The crisis of student debt is affecting Americans from all walks of life. Pennsylvania should lead by example by enacting the PA Student HELP Act to save our students money and boost our economy. Today, Dr. Kenneth Mash, president of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties, testified at the policy hearing that he teaches his students that doing nothing is a policy decision. Well, we cannot afford for our policy decision to be nothing. Thank you.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to thank the Leadership of this body for my introduction and my swearing-in day as

a Member. When I joined this body, there were provisions that were taken by Members of the Leadership on both sides of the aisle, and the President pro tempore's office, to make sure we had a smooth transition. Considerations around cultural differences and religious differences were taken into consideration, and it was, in fact, a wonderful experience for my family, friends, and supporters. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives did not extend that same courtesy to its first Muslim female representative, Representative Movita Johnson-Harrell. This is a day that should have been a day when all Pennsylvanians celebrate the fact that we became more inclusive in our representation, a day when we should have celebrated the fact that the first deliberative body founded on religious freedom in the world was right here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and its successor is the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

I thank the Leadership in the Senate for doing the right thing when I came in and making sure that I had the appropriate transition in celebrating and extending every courtesy that could be extended to a Member, despite the fact that I was a Minority, and despite the fact that the Majority Caucus had a number of its own Members to accommodate at that time. I point out and ask that what the House of Representatives did in the opening prayer was wrong, and it is not a Republican thing or a Democratic thing, because the Leadership in this body showed that both Republicans and Democrats can disagree on the issues but still respect one another. I ask the House of Representatives to take an example of our Leadership, particularly the Leadership in the Republican Caucus in the House, to take a page out of the Senate Republican Caucus Leadership in showing dignity and respect to each and every Member.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 2:58 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.