

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

SESSION OF 2021 205th OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 10

SENATE

TUESDAY, February 23, 2021

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Hon. MEGAN MARTIN, Secretary of the Senate:

Let us pray.

Today I offer this prayer to our Lord, the lawgiver. Psalm 119 tells us that happy are those who walk by the teaching of the Lord. Happy are those who observe His decrees and who seek the Lord with all their heart. They do no wrong, and they walk in God's ways. They keep His precepts with care.

Heavenly Father, as we walk with You today, we ask that You bless us with Your strength, Your grace, and Your wisdom; and may we, in turn, bless You today in all that we say and do. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

February 23, 2021

Senators BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, HUGHES, MUTH, BROWNE, MENSCH, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, COMITTA, KEARNEY, SANTARSIERO, STREET, J. WARD, YUDICHAK, SCHWANK, STEFANO, COLLETT, KANE, SCAVELLO and HAYWOOD presented to the Chair **SR 30**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing March 8, 2021, as "International Women's Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, February 23, 2021.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator BARTOLOTTA, from the Committee on Labor and Industry, reported the following bills:

SB 69 (Pr. No. 52)

An Act establishing Recovery-to-work as a pilot program within the Department of Labor and Industry; and providing for local recovery-to-work pilot programs, for incentives to encourage business participation and for powers and duties of the Department of Labor and Industry.

SB 147 (Pr. No. 252) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, in health and safety, further providing for certification of safety committee.

SB 168 (Pr. No. 253) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act, in industry partnerships, further providing for definitions, for industry clusters, for interdepartmental cooperation and for industry and labor market research and providing for dissemination of industry and labor market research to educational institutions.

SB 191 (Pr. No. 159)

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

HB 157 (Pr. No. 122)

An Act repealing the act of July 1, 1978 (P.L.584, No.109), entitled "An act establishing an agency to create the linkage necessary for the planning of an economic development system for Pennsylvania, and making an appropriation."

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Corman.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Schwank.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests a legislative leave for Senator Corman.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Schwank.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator KIM WARD asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator BAKER and Senator GORDNER, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

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

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

HB 326 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

HB 326 (Pr. No. 388) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 2 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator K. WARD, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 326 (Pr. No. 388) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in the Governor as Commander-in-Chief, further providing for active duty for emergency.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on second consideration?

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

YEA-46

Argall	DiSanto	Mensch	Stefano
Aument	Dush	Muth	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Tartaglione
Blake	Haywood	Pittman	Tomlinson
Boscola	Hughes	Regan	Vogel
Brooks	Hutchinson	Robinson	Ward, Judy
Browne	Kane	Sabatina	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Langerhole	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Laughlin	Scavello	Yaw
Corman	Martin	Schwank	Yudichak
Costa	Mastriano		

NAY-0

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

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

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

RECESS

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room and via Zoom.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, Senate Democrats will meet in our caucus room 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 Presiding Officer (Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr.) in the Chair.

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held here on the Senate floor and via Zoom.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held on the Senate floor and via Zoom, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Aument.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Haywood.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Aument.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Haywood.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 8, SB 78 and SB 113 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 11 (Pr. No. 7) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating that portion of Pennsylvania Route 92 from Apple Tree Road to Rustic Lane in Exeter Township, Luzerne County, as the Robert F. Kile, Sr., Memorial Highway.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

HB 12 (Pr. No. 8) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 46475, carrying State Route 1021 over the Susquehanna River in Wyoming Borough, Luzerne County, as the George J. Dennis, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

HB 16 (Pr. No. 10) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 40269, on that portion of US 219 Southbound over State Route 2047, Summit Township, Somerset County, as the SP4 Michael William Twigg Memorial Bridge.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 70 and **SB 120** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 155 (Pr. No. 227) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission, further providing for establishment and membership.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 36 (Pr. No. 17) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for transfer of dog licenses or tags and other licensing requirements and for service dogs and dogs used by municipal or State Police departments.

SB 64 (Pr. No. 40) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements, for Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund and for Land Trust Reimbursement Program.

SB 96 (Pr. No. 229) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for contributions to Veterans' Trust Fund.

SB 106 (Pr. No. 71) (Rereported)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for Lieutenant Governor.

SB 116 (Pr. No. 87) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 37 (Historical and Museums) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in powers and duties of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, further providing for specific powers and duties, for personal property and for documents and providing for Commonwealth archival records, for local government archival records and for access to older public records; and, in historic properties, further providing for title to historic property and for powers over certain historic property.

SB 158 (Pr. No. 140) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in employees, providing for medals honoring law enforcement officers, for medals honoring fire personnel and for medals honoring emergency medical services personnel.

HB 326 (Pr. No. 388) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in the Governor as Commander-in-Chief, further providing for active duty for emergency.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Schwank has returned, and her legislative leave is cancelled.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 36 (Pr. No. 17) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in licenses, tags and kennels, further providing for transfer of dog licenses or tags and other licensing requirements and for service dogs and dogs used by municipal or State Police departments.

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-46

Argall	DiSanto	Mensch	Stefano
Aument	Dush	Muth	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Tartaglione
Blake	Haywood	Pittman	Tomlinson
Boscola	Hughes	Regan	Vogel
Brooks	Hutchinson	Robinson	Ward, Judy
Browne	Kane	Sabatina	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Langerholc	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Laughlin	Scavello	Yaw
Corman	Martin	Schwank	Yudichak
Costa	Mastriano		

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.

SB 64 (Pr. No. 40) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements, for Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund and for Land Trust Reimbursement Program.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support Senate Bill No. 64. Senate Bill No. 64 would encourage the infusion of private-sector dollars into farmland preservation by setting aside \$2.5 million, or no more than 10 percent of the total annual allocation of the current designated funds, to be used by nonprofit entities. These entities would be required to provide matching funds equal to the amount of reimbursement. This bill will allow for the continued preservation of farmland across the Commonwealth, which, in turn, supports one of our greatest industries here in Pennsylvania. Just as important, it accomplishes the shared goal without taking more from our hardworking taxpayers. I thank Senator Vogel and the Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs for the unanimous and swift passage of this legislation, and stakeholders, like the Lancaster Farmland Trust, for their assistance with this bill as well. I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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-42

Argall	Costa	Muth	Street
Aument	Dush	Phillips-Hill	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Fontana	Regan	Tomlinson
Blake	Haywood	Robinson	Vogel
Boscola	Hughes	Sabatina	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Kane	Santarsiero	Ward, Kim
Browne	Kearney	Saval	Williams, Anthony H.
Cappelletti	Langerholc	Scavello	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Laughlin	Schwank	Yaw
Comitta	Martin	Stefano	Yudichak
Corman	Mensch		

NAY-4

DiSanto	Hutchinson	Mastriano	Pittman
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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.

SB 158 (Pr. No. 140) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in employees, providing for medals honoring law enforcement officers, for medals honoring fire personnel and for medals honoring emergency medical services personnel.

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 gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, I will be submitting 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 gentleman from York, Senator REGAN:)

Mr. President, I rise today to speak on Senate Bill No. 158. This legislation establishes three separate statewide medals of commendation programs for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel. The individual programs would be overseen by MPOETC, the State Fire Commissioner, and the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Health, respectively. Each would have three categories of medals that could be awarded: a Star of Valor for heroism, a Heart for a line of duty injury, and a Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice for a line of duty death.

Senator Vogel came to me last Session, when I was the chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, with the idea to create medals of commendation for our men and women in blue. As a former U.S. Marshal, I am committed to working hard for my fellow law enforcement officers. The original intent of this legislation was to honor the many good and heroic deeds performed by

law enforcement officers at a time when they were facing public backlash and calls for defunding the police. When asked to consider including other first responders - firefighters and EMS personnel - we agreed, especially considering we were in the midst of a pandemic, and these individuals, along with police officers, were still expected to answer the call, regardless.

I know there are countless others who could be included, and I respect the job they do on a daily basis. At this time, I ask for support for Senate Bill No. 158 to remain focused on those individuals who face danger on a daily basis - those who run toward the danger and not away from it because that is what they are called to do, and they do so with honor and pride. This is the least we can do to recognize their selfless dedication to their communities and this Commonwealth, particularly those who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

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-46

Argall	DiSanto	Mensch	Stefano
Aument	Dush	Muth	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Tartaglione
Blake	Haywood	Pittman	Tomlinson
Boscola	Hughes	Regan	Vogel
Brooks	Hutchinson	Robinson	Ward, Judy
Browne	Kane	Sabatina	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Langerholc	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Laughlin	Scavello	Yaw
Corman	Martin	Schwank	Yudichak
Costa	Mastriano		

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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

Senator YUDICHAK. 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 69, SB 147, SB 168, SB 191 and HB 157.

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, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

9:00 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (S) and STATE Senate
GOVERNMENT (H) (joint public hearing Chamber
on receipt of 2020 census data) (LIVE
STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

10:00 A.M. EDUCATION and HEALTH AND Senate
HUMAN SERVICES (joint public hearing Chamber
on education during the COVID-19 (LIVE
pandemic) STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

10:00 A.M. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND Senate
ENERGY (informational meeting on the Chamber
deployment and utilization of carbon (LIVE
dioxide management technologies) STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, throughout the year, many people across the world paused to bring attention to various forms of cancer and honor those fighting it and those we have lost to it. We do so because the pain this disease has caused so many families is beyond measure and there is so much we can do to potentially help alleviate that pain for those in the future. Just last week, on February 15, the world honored International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day, and I rise today to further acknowledge this important day in my Senate Resolution No. 11, which calls for our Commonwealth to acknowledge it as well.

Mr. President, while the world has increased the 5-year survival rate to over 80 percent, I once again stand here to remind this body that this number does not tell the full story. While that particular statistic has improved, it does not explain that, since the 1970s, the total rate of children diagnosed with cancer has increased. It also does not reflect those who made it past their 5-year mark before passing away. Nor does it reflect the pain and struggles these children face for the rest of their lives due to the long-term damage many of our decades-old treatments, harsh treatments designed for adults, have caused on their young bodies. In addition, it does not reflect the dire need for more treatment availability, as our society has had to ration critical drugs like Vincristine.

Mr. President, even though February 15 has come and gone, I ask that we use Senate Resolution No. 11 as an opportunity to pause, to think about the struggle these kids face, and to remember those who have left this world too early. With that pause, I challenge all of us to think about what it is that we can do to help. These kids are our family members, neighbors, classmates, and teammates who, through no fault of their own, are facing battles most of us could never dream of facing. We have made some strides over the last couple of Sessions to help generate critical dollars to support research, but we must do more. We can draw inspiration from the students at Penn State University. Just this past weekend, with the help of organizations and high schools across our region, they celebrated their year-round ef-

forts to raise millions to aid these kids and their families in this battle, despite being in the midst of a global pandemic. They raised over \$10.6 million and proved that even a pandemic could not stop THON and their fight to help these kids. It is truly inspiring and a challenge for all of us to stand and fight with them.

Mr. President, just last Session this Chamber unanimously passed my Senate Bill No. 74, a historic bill that would be a first in this nation to greatly support pediatric cancer research like never before. Unfortunately, the effort stalled during the COVID-19 crisis and did not get across the finish line. We must not let up. We must look for more ways to support pediatric cancer research, to improve access to medications and better treatments, and to get Senate Bill No. 74 across the goal line. We have to do it for these children fighting for their lives and their families who are fighting alongside them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, just briefly, since the Senator from Lancaster County was talking about pediatric cancer research, yesterday I was not able to be here but I submitted remarks on the floor about Penn State's THON, which took place over the weekend. Despite all of the restrictions they have had to go through--as you can imagine, canning was a big part of that, going door to door, and doing all these sort of things to try to raise money on the streets, which you really could not do--they still raised over \$10 million for the folks at Hershey and their pediatric cancer research. That is just amazing to me. It is a real testament. It is the largest philanthropic student activity in the world, as far as I know--I know it is in the country, but I believe in the world. To raise the kind of money they have raised, well over \$100 million in the past years combined, it is just an amazing story. I wanted to build upon what the Senator from Lancaster County was saying, and as a Penn State alumnus, show my admiration. I never had the courage, myself, to dance all weekend, but they even did it remotely this year, which is quite an accomplishment. There are good things still going on out there in the world. They deserve a lot of credit. As I said to a lot of the students--I spoke to them virtually over the weekend--it is not often when you go to bed at night that you can put your head on a pillow and say, I helped someone else today. They all did with their fine work over the weekend in raising that type of money for such a great cause.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I want to rise and speak to another court decision that was handed down yesterday when the United States Supreme Court ruled, or chose not to hear, some of the last cases challenging the election in Pennsylvania driven by, in fact, some Members of this body and other elected officials, Republican elected officials, across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I repeat: the United States Supreme Court yesterday ruled against, chose not to hear, cases challenging the results of Pennsylvania's election, and those cases were brought by some Members of this body and some other Republican leaders from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Trump and his insurrectionist colleagues, his insurrectionist Republicans, lost again, and all of this occurred in the context of the "stop the steal" lie that has captured our lives for the last several months.

The record of this body needs to reflect what occurred yesterday and what has occurred over the last several months. Trump and the insurrectionist Republican Party have lost almost every one of their court challenges in Pennsylvania and nationally. I believe they are 1 for 64, 1 win out of 64 attempts across the country. This has been in the context, as I said, of furthering this whole notion, this false notion, this lie, that Trump and the insurrectionist Republicans have tried to perpetuate across this country, across this State, that the election that occurred on November 3 was stolen. It was not. It was real. People voted in record numbers, and people voted for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

The problems that we have, Mr. President, are numerous, but they are illuminated in a couple of things that have occurred recently. As we know, what happened on January 6, the "stop the steal" lie generated the insurrection, the attempted insurrection, that occurred on January 6. As we watch the investigations continue to unfold, we are finding out how broad and deep the organizers of the insurrection were operating under not just in Washington, D.C., but across the nation. We are reminded that eight State capitols across the country had actions driven by the insurrectionists on January 6, and the continued investigation proves more and more how broad and deep this effort at insurrection has been and likely will continue. It is also interesting to note that as I speak at this moment, Mr. President, right now, the United States Senate is conducting hearings on what happened, the insurrection, in Washington, D.C. They are conducting hearings, as we speak, to try to, hopefully, get to the truth. Yesterday, Merrick Garland, the person who will hopefully be our new Attorney General, indicated the first order of business: pursue the insurrection. That is necessary, Mr. President, because of the very nature of what occurred, or what was attempted, at an insurrection. An overthrow of the United States government was attempted and lives were lost on January 6. All of it was based on a lie started out by Donald Trump before November 3 and driven through all the way up until January 6 and, in fact, after January 6.

Donald Trump is scheduled to speak at CPAC in the next couple of days, and we can imagine--it will not take a great imagination--that he will continue to stir the lie, or stir the soup which contains the lie, that the election was stolen. Every 1 out of 64 is an indication that he lost and the insurrectionist Republicans lost. But what really must happen, Mr. President, is a full investigation that is deep and wide and pursues every insurrectionist across the nation. We must be reminded of the visuals of what we saw on January 6. We must be reminded of the QAnon participants. We must be reminded of the white supremacists who were involved. We must be reminded of the neo-Nazis who were involved and the t-shirts that they wore, 6MNE. In other words, on their t-shirts was the acronym 6MNE: 6 million not enough.

Now, there will be attempts by many, and we witnessed one yesterday, Mr. President, and I will come back to that in a moment, to throw this under the rug, to just say, well, we need to get beyond that. We do not need to explore and find out and bring to justice those individuals involved in the insurrection, in the activities that led up to the insurrection, that occurred on insurrection day. Unfortunately, infamously, that will be what January 6 will now be known as, insurrection day. We must do full investigations at every level to track down everywhere that an insurrectionist resides. We know that some reside in our own body. We

know that. We are required to pursue these individuals, not by our own moral calling but, in fact, by the United States Constitution which says, in Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, that no individual involved in an insurrection, either aiding, abetting, comforting, or supporting any participation in an insurrection, should be allowed to serve in public office. We are required by our Constitution to pursue this matter at every level. But we are also required to remind folks of what exactly occurred and that we will not allow the efforts of January 6, insurrection day, to be forgotten. We have too much history in this nation when attempts to overthrow, nullify, and disregard true democratic processes were forgotten, or people were given a pass, or let us just let them go. Too many times in this nation people have tried to whitewash, cover up, or move beyond serious attempts to overthrow our government. We cannot let that occur, because if we allow that to occur, if we allow folks to whitewash that story, then do you know what will happen? It will occur once again.

The attempt to whitewash the story was evidenced yesterday on the floor of the Senate of Pennsylvania when one of our colleagues stood up to talk about Abraham Lincoln. Now, Abraham Lincoln was no perfect servant. Abraham Lincoln was one of our finest in terms of trying to pursue perfection and the pursuit of justice in this nation that the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence calls for, in pursuit of a more perfect Union and coming together. He was, in many respects, one of the best of our profession, the profession of public servant at the highest order. He worked hard to try to figure out ways to bring together, but he was not perfect. He was a true public servant and, in many respects, carried the values and attributes of what it is we would all like to achieve. But to bring him and his name on the floor of the Senate of Pennsylvania in an attempt to cover up the participation by Members of our body and residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to whitewash their involvement in the insurrection of January 6, cannot be tolerated, cannot be passed over.

So, once again, the United States Supreme Court has indicated by its action, very clearly, that the election of November 3 and the counting of the votes thereafter was constitutional and lawful and that, in fact, there was no steal. I will remind folks, for the record, three of the members of the United States Supreme Court were appointed by Donald Trump. Those court decisions, those victorious court decisions in Pennsylvania and all across the country, many of them were provided through Trump-appointed Federal judges. The election of November 3 was real, it was not stolen, and we can never lose sight of that. We owe it to our country, to our Constitution, to our State, and we darn sure owe it to those individuals who lost their lives in Washington, D.C., because of a lie.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, after hearing the previous speaker, I decided I had to get up. The Election Code was very specific in its application and direction. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania took it upon itself, these Justices again usurped the authority of the legislature, and determined to write law extending the days for collecting the mail-in ballots by 3 days. There is no question that they did it. There is also no question that they did not have the authority. The people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, since

1791, have never changed the Constitution to allow the Justices the authority to write legislation, and, yet again, they have done it. That is an unconstitutional usurpation of the authorization to the legislature solely. Additionally, the Secretary of the Commonwealth did the exact same thing when she issued directives allowing for the harvesting of ballots. The Election Law was not followed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in November. There is no question that the Election Law was not followed.

With regard to the criminal acts that occurred in the U.S. Capitol on January 6, there will be criminal prosecutions for the criminal acts. But insurrection? Take a look at what is going on in Portland still today that is left over and we have been tolerating in this country for a year now. Take a look at what is going on in Seattle and is being tolerated by the same people who are calling January 6 an insurrection. We have an issue right now with people acting outside of their constitutional lanes, and it is about time that everybody in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and every other State and the United States government, including the U.S. Supreme Court, start standing up, because when two branches of government in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are acting in collusion to usurp the role of the legislature, the people have every right to be as frustrated and angry as they are today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I would like to say a couple of things in response to my colleague across the aisle's comments. Mainly, the Supreme Court of the United States did not decide not to hear this. They did not say it was because it did not have merit or because it was moot. At this point, it was moot. It did not say anything about merit, but Justice Thomas did in his dissent. He talked about our Pennsylvania Supreme Court overreaching and changing the results of an election. So, I think we need to make it clear who actually makes the laws. Is it the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania--because we can always cut their salaries to \$92,000--or is it the legislature? I just wanted to point out that it was not because there was no merit or that it was moot for that decision. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I certainly hope, by those last remarks, that the Majority Leader is not threatening the Supreme Court and their salary. I certainly hope that was not the intent the Majority Leader was establishing on the floor of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I certainly hope that was not the case.

Now, the courts at the State level and the courts at the Federal level are the final arbiters on all of these matters. Once again, let me be clear for the record, one victory all across the country and well over 60 losses, all of those challenges in the whole context of this effort were based on the "stop the steal" lie, and there was an attempted insurrection. Let us be mindful here, there was a gallows established outside of the steps of the United States Capitol, a gallows with a noose. Now, that may not be intimidating or frightening for some people, but for other people, that has a very serious mission and attempt in it. A hangman's noose is serious, and it was established. One of our State capitols on January 6 had a guillotine set up, but we can go on further, if we would like to have this conversation. We can go further. The fact

is that there was an attempted insurrection on January 6 all based on a lie. The courts at State levels and Federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court, upheld Joe Biden and Kamala Harris' victory. That is what they did. And one should be very careful about mentioning Justice Thomas, because, in fact, Mrs. Thomas and her organization helped fund some of the people to go to Washington, D.C., to participate in the insurrection, and she was not hesitant in terms of publicly letting people know that. So, there is some concern about the efficacy of Justice Thomas' writing on the matter. It is not an issue of bias, I am just stating the facts.

Let us be mindful of the picture we saw that was revealed to us in the Senate trial of the impeachment, the second impeachment of Donald Trump, the videos that were revealed to us where we could see the Vice President and his family members surrounded by the Secret Service scurrying down the back steps. With them was the gentleman whom we generally believe was carrying the nuclear codes. Understand this, 70 feet away were the insurrectionists. They were that close to, as you remember, wanting to hang Mike Pence. To hang Mike Pence, they would have had to overrun his security team. Given the numbers, they probably would have been successful at overrunning his security team. Getting at Mr. Pence to hang him, the Vice President, they would have encountered the gentleman with the nuclear codes. I am not lost on this history, nor am I lost on this fight for democracy. We pay attention for a reason. We fight so hard to make this become a more perfect Union because it means so much and because so many of us have fought and died to build it, even though we have been denied full participation in this society. That is why we cannot let this go. That is why we cannot walk away from this. That is why we cannot just pass this up. That is why everyone involved in the insurrection must be brought to justice no matter how little they are and no matter how big they are, no matter what title they do not have and no matter what title they do have. They must be brought to justice. Our history informs us of this. Our history lays out the road of what we must do and what happens if we do not do it.

But, it is not just our history. Our history reminds us, if we do not take on white supremacists, they will reemerge again in a more ugly fashion. If we do not take on neo-Nazis, they will emerge, again, in a more troubling fashion. If we do not take on the QAnons of the world, the Proud Boys of the world, who are now the fundamental part of the Republican Party, that is what the Republican Party is now. They harbor, they embrace, they protect the white supremacists, the neo-Nazis, the Proud Boys, the QAnon followers, and all of the rest. They have safe haven in the Republican Party. Those individuals are the core of the insurrection. We are reminded by our own history in this nation that we must challenge this and bring everyone to justice.

But we have another history. All we have to do is travel 3,000 miles to our east, and I have told this story before to my colleagues and I have said it at other forums. In 1924, Adolf Hitler attempted an insurrection in Germany. He was brought down. The insurrection was put down. He attempted it in 1923, his trial occurred in 1924, and he was given 5 years in jail. But the let-us-get-over-it crowd, the let-us-move-on crowd, the let-us-get-beyond-it crowd, the we-have-to-heal-the-nation crowd, well, they prevailed at that moment and his 5-year term was reduced to 9 months. But in that 9-month period, he wrote *Mein Kampf*. Nine years later, in 1933, he became the ruler of

Germany. The rest of the ugly, heinous story is available to us. We know it. Millions were dead all across the world. Six million Jews were annihilated in concentration camps because, then, the folks there chose not to pursue justice at every level. They gave Adolf Hitler and his crew a pass. History teaches us, informs us, and should be a guide. If we do not want insurrection to occur again, everyone must recognize the truth, which means, number one, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were elected fair and square in this State and across the nation by an overwhelming majority. The election was not stolen and the truth of that election is embodied in numerous Supreme Court and State court decisions all across the nation, including our own Pennsylvania. We must hold fast to protect that which we fight for, that which we took our oath of office for, and never let the truth be overwhelmed by the volume of the liars.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, I would like to start out by addressing the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. "WE, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this Constitution." Ladies and gentlemen of the Commonwealth, you own this government. That statement alone identifies that. Article I is your Bill of Rights. Article I, Section 25, says nothing in that article, Article I, can be impeded on by any other branch of the government. That it is inviolate. Article II is "The Legislature" of the Commonwealth. You are the owners of this team, we in the legislature are your elected committee on rules, just like major league sports. Article II is the law. "The Executive" and "The Judiciary" are in Articles III and IV. They are literally and figuratively under the law.

Since 1791, the only people who have changed the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are you, the people. You are the only ones who are authorized to make that change. You, through your Constitution, have set up rules by which each of the branches are bound. The Constitution is the ultimate law. We in the legislature set the other laws under which the executive and judicial must operate. The executive has the ability and responsibility to follow the law, to execute the law as written. If players on a football field decide to change the rules, if the coaches decide to change the rules midstream, chaos ensues. When our Secretary of the Commonwealth changed the rules, chaos ensued in every county, and in the hearts and minds of the people. When the umpires, referees, our judicial branch, start changing the rules on the field of play, just like it would on a football field, in a hockey rink, or on a baseball field, chaos ensues. That is what we experienced. That is what we experienced in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Now I will turn my comments to the previous speaker and those who are trying to challenge that this election was lawful. You show me anywhere where the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have given the judicial or the executive branches the authority to rewrite legislation or act as if something they do from their lofty positions has the force under the Constitution of the law. I defy any of you to do it. You cannot do it because it does not exist. For over 200 years it has not existed in this Commonwealth, and yet now, today, people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we have two branches acting in collusion against

you and the people who wrote the laws. If any of you can show me anyplace in that Constitution, anyplace in the U.S. history where we have given that authority to do what our Supreme Court did or to do what our Secretary of State did, I will get up here and publicly apologize. But until that day, you cannot say we had a lawful election in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Tartaglione has submitted remarks for the record. 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 Philadelphia, Senator TARTAGLIONE:)

Mr. President, today marks 5,344 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 14 years, and it is far too long.

Mr. President, the United States and the Commonwealth are at a crucial juncture this week on the minimum wage issue as Congress is expected to make some key decisions on a proposal to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025. As I speak, language to that effect remains part of the broader \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, portions of which have been reported affirmatively out of nine different U.S. House Committees. Questions of parliamentary procedure have been raised about the inclusion of minimum wage language in the package due to a potential conflict with U.S. Senate rules governing the budget reconciliation process. But experts in this area have rightly noted that at least two other policy initiatives with less of a budgetary impact were adopted under a prior administration using reconciliation. Those policies included the authorization of oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the repeal of the personal mandate in the Affordable Care Act.

Beyond the procedural questions, the current minimum wage proposal faces significant opposition in a strongly and closely divided U.S. Senate, despite national polls that show overwhelming support for the policy among registered voters. Therefore, with so much uncertainty about when a Federal minimum wage increase will come--and if it does come, what form it will take--it is incumbent on us to act now in the interests of Pennsylvania's workers.

Mr. President, every statewide poll I have seen in recent years has made it abundantly clear that the vast majority of Pennsylvanians want a higher minimum wage. Pennsylvanians want us to raise the minimum wage, and they need us to raise the minimum wage more than ever.

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty in the Commonwealth was terribly high--one in eight men, women, and children living below the Federal poverty rate. In Philadelphia, the figure was almost one in four residents. Thankfully, the expansion of unemployment benefits by Congress and by our own Commonwealth has buoyed many working people through this time of crisis, just as we have provided and continue fighting to provide more financial support for their employers. Not only have these expanded benefits put more money in the pockets of working people, they have stimulated our economy.

Mr. President, as Pennsylvania and our nation begin the difficult recovery from a devastating pandemic, workers and employers each need the kind of economic boost that raising our minimum wage would provide. Dozens of other States have raised the minimum wage, and they continue to do it. Some of our closest neighbors, including New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, are already on the path to \$15 an hour. Pennsylvania should join them. Yesterday, I formally introduced Senate Bill No. 12, which would raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$12 this year and \$15 by 2027. I respectfully urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, we have had a significant amount of time on this floor discussing the minimum wage,

which is certainly a worthy topic of discussion. But I rise today to talk about maximum wages, which I think have lost a little bit of attention. In specific, Mr. President, I would like to talk about a segment in our Commonwealth, in our society, in our labor force, that has been rendered voiceless by the Governor. I rise today, Mr. President, to bring a voice for them to this Chamber. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of the boilermakers union, the electrical workers union, the operating engineers, the laborers, the carpenters, the pipefitters, the iron workers, the mine workers, and the list goes on and on. What do those institutions have in common? Those entities represent thousands of hard-working Pennsylvanians who work every day to make sure our lights stay on, we keep warm in the winter, and we keep cool in the summer.

When you saw the events of last week, Mr. President, and the tragedy that occurred in Texas, there are many fingers to point. Some point to windmills, some point to natural gas, some point to Texas' isolated power grid. But what I point to, Mr. President, is the fact that we depend--despite the cancel culture attempting to wipe carbon from the planet--on carbon-emitting sources for electricity. Mr. President, if it was not for our carbon-emitting sources last week, this entire nation would have been just like Texas. Because, you see, Mr. President, not only did our Commonwealth export power to our partners in what is known as the PJM grid, the 13-State grid in the Mid-Atlantic, they exported power across the country. We were an exporter of electricity and, yes, the vast majority of it, Mr. President, was carbon-emitted.

Now, I find it interesting that we seem to be focused on Presidential politics and Presidential events. So, let us talk a little bit about what Joe Biden did on his first day in office. What did he do? He cancelled the Keystone Pipeline on day one. A slap in the face to the hardworking women and men in our energy sector who give us the power we need. The blue collar trade union workers who keep our lights on, he slapped them in the face. I suppose that is understandable, given one of his top allies, Governor Wolf, has been slapping them in the face for the last 18 months. While he continues to hide in his bunker and do his work virtually, the hardworking women and men who keep our power plants running, they do not get to sit behind a computer screen. They have to go to work every day. Not only to pay their bills and feed their families, but to keep us all comfortable. What does the Governor do? The Governor puts an anvil over their head; an anvil known as RGGI, or the carbon tax.

What would the carbon tax do? It would shut down our power plants, our carbon-emitting power plants. Yes, carbon is a challenge and it is something that needs to be addressed, but take a look at the grid. Be honest with yourself. In that cold weather, what was powering the grid? It was not solar. It was not windmills. It was nuclear, coal, and natural gas, and that is it. That is what was powering it. So before we want to get on a high horse and continue to allow the Governor to unilaterally push a carbon tax that, Mr. President, I believe is illegal--and, actually, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission just last week called into question the legality of this carbon tax--let us think about the consequences.

You know, Mr. President, I heard the Governor in his Budget Address talk about the need to properly fund public education, and I agree. But, boy, when he makes that statement, it is selective, because he sure does not give a damn about my public schools. Because when he closes my power plants, do you know

what it is going to do? It is going to pull \$5 million a year out of my public school system, \$5 million every year. My students, who I represent, have every right to an equal education. Just because they come from an area that happens to emit carbon for our electricity, they do not deserve to have that kind of discrimination placed upon them. Now, I know I will hear, well, you know, the carbon tax, that is going to generate lots of revenue and we are going to fix all those problems. Well, you know what the irony is, Mr. President? The only way the carbon tax generates revenue is if we emit carbon. Fascinating.

So, we are either going to enter into this RGGI compact unilaterally, we are going to allow a carbon tax to be placed on Pennsylvanians--and it will be on their electric bills--and it is either going to do one of two things: it is going to generate money by continuing to emit carbon, or it is going to shut our carbon-emitting facilities and it is going to move them to Ohio and West Virginia. Oh, by the way, look at China. Look at India. Look at what they are doing every day. They are putting coal-fired power plants online, into their grid, and they are emitting carbon. Yes, carbon. It comes across the ocean. It goes into the planet, and they are burning our coal to emit that carbon.

So, Mr. President, the resiliency of our electricity grid is not just about economics. It is about national security. It is about investments in our community. I am tired of feeling like I need to apologize for the people who I represent because they go to work every day and they keep the rest of us comfortable. So, as we begin the debate over the Governor's budget and the value of public education and the need for a minimum wage, let us not forget about the maximum wage workers in our communities. I am proud to stand, in this case, with the statewide building trades; with, as I said, the boilermakers, the electrical workers, the mine workers. Because, unlike what Joe Biden did to them and what Tom Wolf is doing to them, I am not going to slap them in the face. I am going to stand with them, and I am going to continue to be a voice for those who have been rendered voiceless throughout this process.

I asked the Governor to reconsider, to come to my communities. I have asked him for 18 months. I cannot even get a response. Crickets. When I present viable options--and I appreciate the work that my colleague, Senator Street from Philadelphia, is putting into efforts for carbon capture sequestration, coal-based technologies, that can work with time. Give us time, give us the ability to develop the electricity, to develop the technology in the way to do it. Do not unilaterally, with the heavy hand of government, come into my communities and devastate them all for a talking point.

So, Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to think about this in the months ahead. I, again, implore the Governor to remember that he represents my people, too, and he had better not forget them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I am going to submit my remarks for the record on Senate Bill No. 158 that was voted on earlier.

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 Montgomery, Senator MUTH:)

Mr. President, I rise to say that yes, our first responders across the Commonwealth are more than worthy of medals of courage and dedication, but I want to advocate for stronger action that this Chamber needs to take to support firefighters, EMS providers, and law enforcement beyond just symbolic measures.

We should be passing legislation to expand post-traumatic stress injury benefits for our first responders, which would ensure our police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics would be entitled to benefits under the Pennsylvania Workers Compensation Law for psychological injuries arising from their employment.

Our first responders, who previous to the pandemic witnessed some of the most horrific events, and during the pandemic have worked day in and day out for our Commonwealth, taking on heavy psychological burdens and increased risk for their own lives in order to save others. They are more than deserving of our support and deserve access to the necessary resources required to deal with the cumulative trauma.

We need to be ensuring that firefighters have presumption coverage for cancer due to the dangerous exposure they receive on the job. The exposure risk to toxic and carcinogenic substances and materials is a threat to all of our fire departments, who show up to fight fires that may include harmful substances and materials.

We need to deal with our diminishing firefighter population and begin discussions with the firefighter and EMS community on what SR6 recommendations remain that need to be prioritized this Session.

We are disrespecting our first responder communities by fast tracking legislation that is simply symbolic, instead of impactful legislation that truly helps them.

Each and every day, our first responders make critical decisions that prioritize the best interests of our communities over their own well-being. It is long past time that we, as public servants elected to protect and advocate for our constituencies, finally prioritize their best interests with legislation that will have a real and meaningful impact in the lives of our first responders.

I strongly urge our Chamber to consider legislation asked for by these communities rather than requiring them to pay for their own medals and continue to deny them essential health coverage because of inaction by those with the power to make people's lives better.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, our Commonwealth is blessed with a wealth of diversity and cultures that have blessed this country. When William Penn founded this great Commonwealth in the late 1600s, it is engraved on our walls here, "...make it the seed of a nation," and Pennsylvania is indeed the seed of the nation and really gave birth to the United States of America. That is testimony by the murals we see here. Of course, 1776, the light of liberty was lit right in Philadelphia, and it changed everything. The freedom-loving people around the world who enjoy such liberties, they could thank the Founders on that glorious and trying time in 1776, but it was never an easy road. In 1863, of course, there was a new birth of freedom in Gettysburg, in my district, and at great cost and sacrifice the hope and promise that was given to us from the Declaration and the Constitution was closing towards fulfillment. Then, of course, in 2001--Pennsylvania always remained in the center of this country--with that dastardly attack that changed everything, our lives were turned upside down. Flight 93, on the way to Washington, D.C., the men and women on that plane refused to submit to those terrorists and did all they could and even gave

the last full measure of devotion, as Abraham Lincoln would have it, led by men such as Todd Beamer from Cranbury, New Jersey, an adopted son of Pennsylvania today, and his words were "Let's roll." We are blessed with such freedoms and liberty that we have taken for granted for far too long. Even today, men and women wearing the uniform of the United States of America in our various Armed Services are serving overseas and even at risk today in places like Afghanistan, Syria, and many other places.

I rise today to recognize the great legacy of the Armenian people, and there are tens of thousands of beautiful Armenian people who live in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and found a refuge here from those trying times and persecution. The kindred spirit between the Armenian and the Pennsylvanian is not widely recognized, but it is real and extensive and I hope my remarks bear this out. Pennsylvania, of course, was founded by a great Quaker, William Penn, who himself was persecuted for his faith and ended up in jail just for choosing to be a Quaker. He came here to Penn's Woods and found this great Commonwealth as a haven for all people who wanted to live their lives as they saw fit and not as a king or ruler or governor saw fit, or a prince, in the construct of the times. That is why Pennsylvania has such a rich heritage of Amish and Mennonites and so many others, brethren, and on and on, who could never find--Quakers, dissenters, Covenanters--refuge in Scotland, England, or Germany, but found it here in Pennsylvania.

It was Penn's ideals, based on his Judeo-Christian beliefs, that formed the foundation of this State, which really is the Keystone State of the United States of America. We have that title and you can see the key role that the United States has played throughout the centuries philosophically, geographically, and ideologically, both in our Constitution and over the past two centuries of struggles. These values were so central to the American experience and can be seen in a small light, in a glimmer in the Armenian kingdom founded almost 1,600 years earlier. Armenia, interestingly enough, was the first nation to embrace Christianity as its official religion. The Armenian kingdom, of course, dates back to biblical times, and the people have lived in Eurasia for thousands of years, and, as an ancient people, have endured various kingdoms, empires, rulers, and governments.

The Armenian people, like the religious refugees who came to Pennsylvania, are no strangers to persecution. Their passions for their national identity and freedom of expression came at a high price in the form of both persecution and even a terrible genocide over a century ago. The Armenian kingdom was absorbed into the Ottoman Empire during the 15th century and, sadly, under Ottoman rule the Armenian people and other religious minorities were subjugated to unjust treatment and loss of their freedoms. Yet, despite this, the Armenian people forged ahead into a highly educated and very successful people in their occupations. This success, with their desire to preserve their national identity, language, religion, and cultural expression, of course, led to tensions between them and their Ottoman rulers. Sadly, as the Ottoman Empire began to crumble towards the end of the 1800s, the despotic kingdom, as a distraction, directed its wrath against these incredible people, the Armenians, and came upon a resolution to solve what they called the Armenian question.

Tragically, between 1894 and 1896, this solution became state-sanctioned massacres. This was in response to large-scale

protests by Armenians trying to secure more freedoms. In the early 20th century, the new young Turks took over government power within the Ottoman construct and the Armenians believed they would have a new birth of freedom, but that was not realized because, in the midst of the First World War, on April 24, 1915, the Armenian Genocide began at the hands of their government officials. Armenians were forced from their homes, sent on death marches, even forced to march naked through the desert without food and water until they dropped from exhaustion in the scorching sun. Those who stopped to rest were killed on the spot. This was just over a hundred years ago. This persecution, of course, affected the Assyrians, Chaldeans, and so many other minorities within the construct of the Ottoman Empire. Though reports varied, many sources agree that there were about 2 million Armenians residing in the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the First World War. In 1922, when the genocide was finally over, there were just over 388,000 Armenians remaining.

Pennsylvania, in the midst of this, rose to the occasion and they would make, I believe, William Penn proud. True to the heritage of religious tolerance and compassion found herself, once again, as the keystone in the American response during and after the Armenian Genocide. Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot joined President Coolidge to issue a proclamation observing December 6, 1924, as Golden Rule Sunday. Pennsylvania citizens substituted their traditional hearty Sunday meal with a modest orphan meal and donated the proceeds and savings to the Near East Relief effort, a charity organized in direct response to the Armenian Genocide.

By March 1921, Pennsylvania raised over \$630,000 in cash, that is millions of dollars in today's money. Additionally, clothing donations exceeded \$1 million. The city of Hershey, with a population of just 1,000 then, contributed 53,000 pounds of Hershey cocoa. The Hershey Chocolate Company also donated 9,000 pounds of cocoa for the children in the Near East Relief orphanages. Through the generosity of the United States government, along with and led by Pennsylvania and many other States, over 1 million refugees and 132,000 Armenian orphans and Assyrian Christian minorities were rescued from this terrible situation, finding home in our great Commonwealth today, and their descendants are rejoicing that legacy of our Commonwealth.

Yet, despite centuries of suffering, even today the Armenian people find themselves in yet another struggle for survival. Azerbaijan, supported by her Turkish allies, is waging a bloody war against the Armenian people in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. The conflict has been off and on since 1990, where a large Armenian minority population is in the midst of the Azerbaijan construct, and literally thousands are being killed in this geostrategic struggle between regional powers of Turkey, Iran, and Russia, with Armenia and Azerbaijan in the crosshairs. The struggle continues even today, sadly.

Despite their struggles, though, the Armenian people have made tremendous contributions to our world. One example is Michel Ter-Pogossian, an Armenian American nuclear physicist, who is one of the fathers of the PET scan. His parents escaped from the Armenian genocide, emigrated to Germany, and, when he was born, they finally moved to the United States, where he brought his great legacy and enjoyed freedom. With that freedom, he was able to develop this life-changing, lifesaving PET scan technology.

Additionally, another Armenian is Luther George Simjian, who was born in the Ottoman Empire and came to the United States in 1920 in the midst of the genocide. He patented over 200 inventions, including the ATM, the self-focusing camera, and the color X-ray machine, really making a difference. Perhaps the greatest Armenian contribution to the world came from Alex Manoogian, who immigrated to the United States as an Armenian refugee and invented the waffle ice cream cone. These are just a few examples of the Armenian people who have made a difference in the world despite the legacy and history of persecution, but finding refuge in Pennsylvania. And for those who were not here, Pennsylvania reached out to them with a relief fund during the genocide and really made a difference.

So, Mr. President, I thank you for your time and this opportunity to honor the legacy of the Armenian people. It is my hope that we never lose the memory of what we are all about in Pennsylvania. We are the Keystone State both here and abroad.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Senator Santarsiero.

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, I return to the topic of the 2020 election, which the gentleman from Jefferson County had previously raised. I turn to that topic again, Mr. President, because it is important in every situation and circumstance that we refute the big lie. The big lie that somehow the election of 2020 was, to use the gentleman's term, fraudulent; the big lie that somehow the insurrection against the United States government on January 6 was somehow equivalent to looting in cities. Mr. President, nothing could be further from the truth in either case. In either case, Mr. President, the truth of the matter is, the elections that were held here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and, for that matter, throughout the United States in November 2020, were lawful, they were free of fraud, and they produced results that, yes, elected Joe Biden as President of the United States, but also many Republicans to lower offices, including, I should note, the gentleman from Jefferson County. One wonders how it is that he can argue that the very election that resulted in his being sworn in as a Senator in this Chamber was fraudulent with respect to Joe Biden's election, but somehow presumably not with respect to his own. But I will leave that for others to try to explain.

The truth is, Mr. President, we have a government here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that is modeled very similarly to the government we have at the Federal level. That government, like ours, has three branches. There is the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary. I feel like, at times, I need to revert to my role as a former teacher at Bensalem High School, where I taught a civics class, among other things, and my students understood that there were three branches of government. Lo and behold, they understood that they were coequal branches of government and each of them, in their own way, were part of our democracy. Because whether it is an elected Governor or President, elected Members of a legislature, or, in the case of Pennsylvania, elected judges, they each represent the people who make up our great Commonwealth and country. We have long had, in this country, a concept first espoused by Alexander Hamilton in *The Federalist Papers* called judicial review, where our courts have the authority to review the law and review disputes that arise under the application of the law. Mr. President, that is exactly what the gentleman from Philadelphia was recounting ear-

lier when he was going through all the cases across the United States and here in Pennsylvania where the courts determined that the specious challenges to the election were exactly that - with no basis in fact, and were, in fact, invalid and decided as such.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania acted within its jurisdiction in deciding the cases that came in front of it with respect to the election. The Secretary of State in Pennsylvania acted within her jurisdiction in deciding the disputes and issues that had come before her office and how to best be sure that every vote in this Commonwealth was counted. You know what, Mr. President? It is very interesting, I have yet to hear one argument that these votes that were cast by Pennsylvanians were somehow fraudulently cast. I have yet to hear one explanation of how these votes were not, in fact, cast by Pennsylvanians who have a right to vote. No, instead, we have an attack on our coequal branch, the judiciary. We have an attack on our coequal branch, the executive, all because one aspect of the result of the election is not acceptable to those who launched those attacks, and that is the result that was the election of Joe Biden as President of the United States. Make no mistake, as the courts have determined, this was a free and fair election. It resulted in the gentleman from Jefferson County winning his seat, and, yes, it resulted in Joe Biden winning the Presidency and becoming the 46th President.

Mr. President, I turn now to the insurrection. As the gentleman who spoke a little while ago about the horrible tragedy that had befallen the Armenian people noted, we have beautiful murals here in this Chamber. Two of the most significant ones are right behind you, Mr. President: one of George Washington presiding over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, and the other of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg delivering his famous address in the fall of 1863. I point those two out because they are, of course, critical moments in our country's history, the drafting of the United States Constitution, at which point it was unclear whether this new republican form of government was going to long survive. It is easy for us today to look back on it with historical hindsight, and it seems obvious to us that that is what was going to happen, but it was not obvious back then. In 1863, even in the fall of 1863 when Lincoln went back to that hallowed ground in Gettysburg to deliver that famous address about the rebirth of our country, it was not clear that the Union was going to survive. I point that out, Mr. President, because we must never forget that the survival of our Republic, the survival of our constitutional democracy, is not something we can take for granted. No generation can. We need to look no further than the events of January 6 to understand the truth of that statement.

On that day, insurrectionists attacked the United States Capitol with the intent to murder the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at a minimum. It was only through the bravery of the Capitol Police and staff members in the Capitol that it did not come to pass. Sadly, lives were lost that day. But never before in the history of the United States was our Capitol attacked. Not during the Civil War, and not during any of the conflicts since. In fact, you have to go all the way back to the British during the War of 1812 for the last time our government was so threatened under force of arms. And yet, the gentleman from Jefferson County stood in this Chamber today and tried to draw some equivalency between that historically unprecedented attack just a month and a half ago and riotous behavior in some of our cities. Now, that looting and

violence in the cities we have seen over the last year was wrong, and there is no excusing any of it. Violence is never the answer. But there is no equivalency between what happened in those instances and what happened on January 6 when people had one goal, one goal alone, and that was to rebel against the constitutional democracy of the United States, to stop Congress from undertaking its constitutional responsibility in acknowledging the free and fair election of Joe Biden as President. This was an insurrection against our government, against our country. How could we possibly stand here and try to brush it off as some ordinary event? To try to draw some kind of equivalency between that and the looting of stores in a riotous situation? There is no equivalency. We can never allow ourselves to forget the enormity of the tragedy that took place on January 6, because if we forget that, Mr. President, then we risk it happening again. The next time we might not be so lucky.

Yes, every generation has a responsibility to insure that the democracy in which we live and which is handed to us by the generation that came before is handed off to the next generation so that our children and our grandchildren, too, will have the ability to grow up in a democracy and freedom with all the civil rights that attend that. We cannot take anything for granted. Every time the events of January 6 are minimized, every time we hear voices trying to claim that, oh, they were not all that significant, every time that happens, we need to speak out. We need to expose the lie for what it is. It is our responsibility to do so, to make sure that it never happens again. As the gentleman from Philadelphia noted earlier, we need look no further than the history of this world in the last 100 years to know what happens when the lie is allowed to fester, when demagogues are allowed to spread falsehoods. Democracies disintegrate, tyrannies rise, and millions of people are killed. This country is that light on the hill. It is the beacon of hope for the rest of the world, and we cannot let it stumble, both for ourselves and our posterity, but also for the rest of the world. We have to keep that light burning. We have to continue the work that began in 1776, continued in 1787, in 1863, with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and with every successive year in which we make strides on insuring the blessings of liberty to all people. But it starts with making sure that the forces of ignorance that attempted to overthrow our government on January 6 are not allowed to succeed. The truth is the key, and we must make sure that the truth wins out and that we stand for it each and every day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I, too, want to rise and first acknowledge the remarks that were made by my colleague, the gentleman from Bucks County, and echo the things he said. He covered the two main subjects that I wanted to talk about. Just to put a finer point on the election conversation with respect to the allegation of collusion, we need to be clear what took place with respect to the case that made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. By the way, the U.S. Supreme Court sat on that case for 5 months. If there was a sense of urgency with respect to addressing this decision, they certainly waited quite a long time to finally render that decision, 5 months after their stay was initiated. But let us be clear how we got there. It is important for folks to recognize that there was no collusion, that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court did not write law. In fact, what the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court did was interpret our Constitution, the provision in our Constitution that talks about free and fair elections. Under that provision, they were faced with making a case from the Pennsylvania Democratic Party who alleged that, given what had taken place in our country and specifically in Pennsylvania, voters were going to be disenfranchised. Individual voters who were placing their ballots in the mail prior to the election, postmarked properly and received properly by the election department through that process, would be disenfranchised because the Trump administration and the United States Postal Service attempted to interfere, in my view, with the election across this Commonwealth. Specifically, strategically worked to be able to minimize the opportunity for ballots to get to the respective election offices across the country. That is why that case ended up before the State Supreme Court. Our State Supreme Court, interpreting the free and fair election law as it relates to disenfranchising voters, rendered a decision that said, we will not allow voters to be disenfranchised through no fault of their own, and certainly not by the United States Postal Service's intentional and purposeful acts and steps to be able to reduce the ability for those ballots to get there, to depress the votes that are taking place in States like Pennsylvania. So, let us be clear how that started. Again, to suggest that there is collusion between two of the three branches of government is outrageous, inappropriate, and wrong.

With respect to the conversation about our friends in labor, Mr. President, it has been this Caucus, and it has been the Democratic Party for decades, who have stood with the men and women of our labor community. All you need to do is look at the body of work of our Committee on Labor and Industry chairperson, Senator Tartaglione. For decades now, she has fought for working men and women. Our newest Member, John Kane, the work he has put forth--the gentleman from southeast Pennsylvania, the work that he has put in--representing organized men and women. Nobody has fought harder in that space, along those lines.

With respect to this conversation about the closure and loss of work and jobs in Pennsylvania because the Governor is working to pursue--as part of a consortium of States, by the way, we will not be alone--a consortium of States that have failed to demonstrate that that is accurate, that they would lose these jobs to the degree that was recommended or suggested by the previous speaker from Indiana County. Mr. President, we will continue to stand and applaud, as the gentleman from Indiana spoke about, the men and women who are represented in our unions, who work so very hard to protect us, who allow us to put the lights on every day, who keep us warm, and cool us in the summer months. When we flip that switch, the light goes on, we know it is our electrical workers who worked hard to be able to do that. When we look at the construction of buildings every day, we see cranes taking place, we know that they are the iron workers who are putting those buildings up, who are building the buildings that we work in and our constituency works in. We respect and honor the work they do on a day-in-and-day-out basis. But I have to tell you, Mr. President, to suggest that we are going to undermine that by virtue of participating in the RGGI program is simply inappropriate. What we are attempting to do is to create a Commonwealth, a country, that is free from the obnoxious odors and provide us with clean air and water and help us to address the issue of climate change in this Commonwealth. That is what we are trying to do, and do it in a way that is thoughtful. As other

States have said, it is a thoughtful process, and have enacted it. Then, enjoy the resources along those lines as well. That we can then turn around and take those resources and invest them back to the very same people we are talking about who, potentially, could be transitioning into other types of jobs.

When you talk about the Governor's commitment to the working men and women in Pennsylvania, we know firsthand the steps he has taken, over the course of time, to protect them in a variety of different ways. All we need to do is look at what he announced yesterday. Yesterday, he talked about creating a \$3 billion workforce training program that is going to invest in the lives of people and help them get into the workforce. Hardworking men and women--not the people sitting in offices, for the most part--the people who are out in the community working. Some of the very people we talked about earlier. The Governor's \$3 billion program will make that investment, and where does it come from? It comes from the Marcellus Shale community to be able to make that investment, to finally have an appropriate tax that would allow us to be able to receive resources and be able to support and supplement the work that is being done in those communities. That is not a lack of commitment to the men and women in those trades. That is a commitment to say, we understand and we have to find the right balance. We are going to work to be able to develop that balance to insure that we continue to grow jobs in this Commonwealth. Maybe in a little different way going forward, but we also protect the right for people to have clean air and water and not have to deal with the disgusting climate change activity that is taking place in this Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, before I make my motion, I do want to acknowledge the comments of my colleague from Allegheny County. I am glad to hear that he is committed to a thoughtful process as it relates to RGGI and the carbon tax. All the other States, with the exception of one, entered RGGI through a legislative process. That is what the bipartisan legislation that we moved last Session did. That is what the bipartisan legislation we have introduced again in this Session does, and I look forward to that continued discussion in a thoughtful manner.

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The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 4:57 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.