

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

SESSION OF 2021 205th OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 14

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, March 17, 2021

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr.) in the Chair.

PRAYER

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

On this feast day of St. Patrick, I thought I would offer an old Irish blessing.

Let us pray.

"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields; and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand." Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

March 17, 2021

Senators SCHWANK, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, KEARNEY, BREWSTER, SAVAL, COSTA, MUTH and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SB 440**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for in-State tuition for undocumented individuals.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, March 17, 2021.

Senators ARGALL, MASTRIANO, PITTMAN, YUDICHAK, MENSCH, STEFANO and BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 441**, entitled:

An Act providing for qualifications of chairperson of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 17, 2021.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

**APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMAN
AND MEMBERS TO STANDING
COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

March 17, 2021

TO: Megan Martin
Secretary of the Senate

FROM: Senator JAKE CORMAN
President Pro Tempore

Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Senate Rules, as President Pro Tempore, I hereby appoint the following members to serve on the following committees:

Senator James Brewster as a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Senator Maria Collett as a member of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Senator Carolyn Comitta as a member of the Committee on Education.

Senator Wayne Fontana as Democratic Chairman of the Committee on Finance.

Senator Arthur Haywood as a member of the Committee on State Government.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator ARGALL, from the Committee on State Government, reported the following bills:

SB 274 (Pr. No. 256)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Governor, to grant and convey, at a price to be determined through a competitive bid process, certain lands, buildings and improvements situate in Coraopolis Borough, Allegheny County.

HB 284 (Pr. No. 282)

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.

Senator LANGERHOLC, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bills:

SB 89 (Pr. No. 179)

An Act amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Multimodal Fund, repealing provisions relating to Balanced Multimodal Transportation Policy Commission.

SB 114 (Pr. No. 114)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions, repealing provisions relating to snow and ice dislodged or falling from moving vehicle and providing for snow and ice.

SB 282 (Pr. No. 266)

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8661, carrying State Route 3039 over Hinckston Run in Jackson Township, Cambria County, as the Sgt. Harry Lewis Amigh Memorial Bridge.

SB 382 (Pr. No. 309)

An Act amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in public-private transportation partnerships, further providing for definitions, for duties of board and for operation of board; and voiding prior initiatives of the Public-Private Transportation Partnership Board.

SB 410 (Pr. No. 399)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for display of registration plate.

HB 186 (Pr. No. 154)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for permit for movement during course of manufacture; and, in powers of department and local authorities, further providing for power of Governor during emergency.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Mastriano and Senator Scavello, and a legislative leave for Senator Regan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Tartaglione.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Kim Ward requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Mastriano and Senator Scavello, and a legislative leave for Senator Regan.

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Tartaglione.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

SB 137 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 137 (Pr. No. 110) -- 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

SB 137 (Pr. No. 110) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in budget and finance, establishing the Drug Recognition Expert Training Fund.

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-47

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

NAY-1

Saval

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Regan has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

SB 411 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 411 (Pr. No. 400) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 3 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator K. WARD, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 411 (Pr. No. 400) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in judicial boards and commissions, further providing for definitions and for publication of guidelines for sentencing, resentencing and parole, risk assessment instrument and recommitment ranges following revocation; in depositions and witnesses, further providing for confidential communications involving law enforcement officers and for confidential communications to peer support members; in juvenile matters, further providing for inspection of court files and records; in particular rights and immunities, further providing for immunity of State parole officers and for immunity of program administrators and supervisors; in post-trial matters, further providing for postconviction DNA testing; in sentencing, further providing for mandatory period of probation for certain sexual offenders, for disposition of persons found guilty but mentally ill, for information required upon commitment and subsequent disposition, for judicial power to release inmates, for transfer of inmates in need of medical treatment, for applicability, for registry, for initial registration, for duty to inform, for enforcement, for assessments, for verification by sexual offenders and Pennsylvania State Police, for administration, for global positioning system technology, for immunity for good faith conduct, for Pennsylvania State Police, for duties of probation and parole officials, for board, for annual performance audit, for applicability, for registration, for registration procedures and applicability, for assessments, for administration, for global positioning system technology, for immunity for good faith conduct, for duties of Pennsylvania State Police, for duties of Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, for board and for annual performance audit; in other criminal provisions, further providing for supervisory relationship to offenders; in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in general administration, providing for powers of peace officers; in community corrections centers and community corrections facilities, further providing for definitions, for department, for offenders who may be housed, for authority of Commonwealth employees, for authority of chairman and for escape and providing for certain offenders residing in group-based homes and for reporting; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for definitions, for operation of parole system generally, for Pennsylvania Parole Board, for board chairperson, for board action, for meetings and for offices, repealing provisions relating to district directors, to district office employees, to disciplinary action and to certain offenders residing in group-based homes, further providing for general powers of board and for specific powers of board involving parolees, repealing provisions relating to probation services, further providing for sentencing court to transmit records to board, for general criteria for parole by court, for right of access to inmates, for parole power, for violation of terms of parole, for parole procedure, for victim statements, testimony and participation in hearing, for general rules and special regulations and for early parole of inmates subject to Federal removal order and repealing provisions relating to definitions, to status as peace officers and to supervisory relationship to offenders; providing for supervision of offenders and for agents; in county probation officers' firearm education and training, further providing for definitions; in Interstate Compacts, further providing for Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Adult Offenders application fee, for deputization and for supervision of persons paroled by other states; providing for Board of Pardons; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Corrections; providing for the transfer of functions, powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and for appropriations for the Office of Victim Advocate; making related repeals; and making editorial changes.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Scavello has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman 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 floor and via Zoom, to be immediately followed by a short Republican caucus to be held in the Rules room.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, no need for Senate Democrats to meet at the conclusion of the meeting of the Committee on Appropriations. We already discussed some of the relevant remaining bills to be covered. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held on the floor and via Zoom, to be followed by a short Republican caucus to be held in the Rules room, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Jacob D. Corman III) in the Chair.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 8, SB 78, SB 106 and SB 113 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr.) in the Chair.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Baker.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Schwank.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 120 (Pr. No. 91) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for conditions of permits and security for damages.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 191 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 14 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED**

SB 154 (Pr. No. 133) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246, No.47), known as the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, providing for recovery grants for distressed municipalities and establishing the Distressed Municipalities Recovery Fund.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 168, SB 241 and SB 403 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 69 (Pr. No. 52) (Rereported)

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 137 (Pr. No. 110) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in budget and finance, establishing the Drug Recognition Expert Training Fund.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1**

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 69 (Pr. No. 52) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 69 will establish a recovery-to-work pilot program in the Commonwealth. Last Session, this program passed the Senate Chamber overwhelmingly. This program will assist in combating the heroin and opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth by connecting individuals in recovery with meaningful employment through local workforce development boards. This pilot program will be led by the Department of Labor and Industry, with the assistance of the Department of Health, the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and De-

linquency. These departments will develop a plan for the local workforce development boards to work with the treatment and recovery community, as well as local employers and training providers, to offer job training and employment opportunities to those in recovery. Local workforce development boards will be leading the implementation of the pilot program. Therefore, the strategies will be focused to meet the needs of employers and the treatment and recovery community.

While our current focus may be on the coronavirus pandemic, we must not forget about continuing the fight against the opioid epidemic and the scourge it has laid upon our community. This legislation will strengthen our united fight against the heroin and opioid epidemic, and I request an affirmative vote today from the Members.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, Senator Tartaglione is not here with us today but has remarks and asked that I read them into the record because I think they reflect what many of us on this side of the aisle believe with respect to their position on Senate Bill No. 69. So indulge me, please. These are remarks from Senator Tartaglione. *(Reading:)*

As an alcoholic 18 years in recovery, I am keenly aware of the unique challenges individuals in recovery face. As such, I am extremely supportive of policies and programs to support people in recovery, especially programs that promote employment, mental health, and education. With that said, I am weary of efforts to do little more than apply a Band-Aid to a long-term, complex problem.

Senate Bill No. 69 establishes the recovery-to-work program and provides employers with a \$1,250 tax credit should they employ someone in recovery for 12 consecutive weeks. Participants in this program would likely be in outpatient addiction treatment, where the average length of treatment is 10 weeks. That means for nearly half of those in outpatient treatment the rug could be pulled out from under them, as employers would no longer be incentivized to keep them on the payroll. Remember, relapse is part of recovery. Hiccups happen. To truly set up these individuals for success, we cannot create such a short employment cliff. We must hold employers receiving these tax credits to a higher standard.

We must also be judicious in the way we use taxpayer dollars. Many local workforce development boards in our Commonwealth already run on-the-job training, a Federally funded program reimbursing employers up to 50 percent of the costs to provide on-the-job training to individuals. As a reminder, this legislation would provide employers with a \$1,250 tax credit should they employ someone in recovery for 12 consecutive weeks. Nothing in Senate Bill No. 69 prohibits an employer from accepting 50 percent of the training costs through the on-the-job training program and receiving a \$1,250 tax credit through the recovery-to-work program. Employers already have ample and more robust financial incentives to train and hire individuals in recovery.

Throwing more money at this issue in this way is unlikely to lead to better outcomes for those in recovery. Considering this, as well as all the artificial short employment cliffs this program creates, I will be a "no" vote on this legislation as written. Thank you.

Mr. President, those are Senator Tartaglione's remarks, which I read for the record, but indicate they are reflective of the thoughts of the Members on this side of the aisle.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, I feel compelled to rebut some of those remarks. I understand her concerns, but I would point out the impetus of this bill was local employers

coming to me saying, we need to hire individuals and we need help in getting gainful employees in our businesses. That was the intent of this legislation, to get this. These will be business partners that will be collaborating with the boards which will then, in turn, be investing significant resources into these individuals. I submit, it is not their intention to merely employ someone for 12 weeks and then move along. This is to fill a very dire need, not just in the 35th Senatorial District; but as I travel this Commonwealth as well, we are trying to find, and employers are trying to find, gainful employees, and this will fill that need. There is a laundry list of requirements that must be met in order to meet these needs. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, very briefly, I want to be clear. I think Senate Bill No. 69 is well-intentioned. It is not the intent of the legislation that raised the concerns by Senator Tartaglione, many others, and I think the AFL-CIO as well. I think the bottom line is there is a more appropriate way to be able to implement it with respect to insuring that taxpayer dollars are protected and there are not cliffs, as Senator Tartaglione referenced, that would incentivize folks to not do the right thing. I think, looking at the legislation and trying to add measures that are geared more towards trying to be a very solid, good program that complements the existing programs we have in place now, being thoughtful in that regard is what the message is. So until such time as that occurs, we will continue to be in opposition to this measure.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Kim Ward requests a legislative leave for Senator Brooks. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

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-28

Argall	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Aument	Dush	Mensch	Tomlinson
Baker	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Bartolotta	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Langerholc	Regan	Ward, Kim
Browne	Laughlin	Robinson	Yaw
Corman	Martin	Scavello	Yudichak

NAY-20

Boscola	Costa	Kearney	Schwank
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Street
Cappelletti	Haywood	Sabatina	Tartaglione
Collett	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Saval	Williams, Lindsey

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 89, SB 114, SB 274, SB 282, SB 382, SB 410, HB 186 and HB 284.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Department of Education) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Department of Corrections and the Board of Probation & Parole) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

2:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Department of Community & Economic Development) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 8; and certain Executive Nominations) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

9:15 A.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bills No. 251 and 434; and House Bills No. 101 and 110) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

10:00 A.M. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTION INTEGRITY AND REFORM (public hearing on state and local insight on the administration of elections in Pennsylvania) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)

11:00 A.M. EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 83, 224, 247 and 381) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

11:30 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 423 and 441; and Senate Resolution No. 36) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

12:00 P.M. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (to consider Senate Bills No. 108, 156 and 317; and House Bill No. 203) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

12:30 P.M. JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bills No. 420 and 457) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor AGING AND YOUTH (to consider Senate Bills No. 190 and 323) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 411; and House Bill No. 14) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bills No. 82, 115, 236, and 435) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 8; House Bill No. 14; and certain Executive Nominations) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bills No. 248, 433 and 455) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

9:00 A.M. FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 74, 286, 325 and 343; and House Bill No. 230) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

10:30 A.M. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (to consider Senate Bills No. 108, 156 and 317; and House Bill No. 203) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. **CANCELLED**

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, I rise today on a special day for Pennsylvanians and Americans across the land who trace their heritage back to beautiful Ireland.

Today the Irish community in this Commonwealth will celebrate the occasion of the feast of the glorious apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick. So I extend a very happy St. Patrick's Day to one and all. In every phase of our nation's history, Irish Americans have taken their place at the forefront of the political, economic, religious, social, athletic, and artistic fields. They draw from their ancestral roots, exhibiting a work ethic marked by the drive to make something out of nothing, to rise from meager means, and to succeed in living a full, yet humble life surrounded by family

and friends. Over 30 million Americans claim Irish heritage and, according to the United States Census, Mr. President, Pennsylvania is just one of six States to have over 15 percent of its population claiming Irish heritage.

We are a proud people. I am fortunate to trace my own ancestral roots to Ireland and am a third-generation Irish American. Last year I had planned to take my first trip to the motherland, but, like many others, those plans were dashed due to COVID-19. I look forward to making that journey in the near future so I can fully appreciate where my ancestors hail from.

In honor of the many who are proud to call themselves Irish American, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing March as Irish American Heritage Month in Pennsylvania. I would like to extend my personal appreciation to Senator Blake, who recently retired at the beginning of this month, who has been a champion of this special designation for the last several years. To all my Irish friends, remember, a Guinness a day keeps the doctor away. Sláinte.

Thank you Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Martin.

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize March 21, 2021, as World Down Syndrome Day. As mentioned in Senate Resolution No. 39, Down syndrome is one of the most common chromosomal conditions in the world. In fact, in the United States alone, approximately 1 in every 700 babies is born with Down syndrome, making it the most common chromosomal condition in our nation.

Thankfully, due to advances in medicine, early intervention, better education, and changing attitudes towards this community, not only are members of the Down syndrome community living much longer than they used to, but, more importantly, they are thriving. These wonderful human beings today are seen excelling in every field you can think of. Some are global influencers. Some are fashion designers. Many have gone on to become accomplished musicians, teachers, leaders of nonprofits, and even small business entrepreneurs. Just recently, I heard a story of a young man competing in the Ironman Triathlon despite his Down syndrome.

They are absolutely incredible. Mr. President, while these individuals are an inspiration to so many every day, I would like to take this special day, March 21, to remind them all how much they mean to their families, friends, and respective communities. So, once again, I stand here asking my colleagues to join me in acknowledging World Down Syndrome Day here in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Saval.

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, I rise today because last night in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia, eight people were shot to death at three massage parlors. Massage parlors tend to be businesses run by Asian people, and the workers are predominantly women. So it is no surprise that six of the people killed were Asian women.

In the last year, under conditions of unprecedented stress due to the global pandemic, there has been an increased wave of violence that has descended over our country. There has been despair, mania, rage fueled by the bottom rungs of wild social media speculation, and hateful speech coming from the holder of

the highest office in the land. There has been violence fueled by pervasive disinvestment in our communities, overwhelmingly black and brown communities. In my own city, there have been dozens of shootings spurred purely by chance. Turf wars in which unconnected people have been caught in the crossfires. Overwhelmingly, these have been black and brown youth. Our young people, their lives cut short. Families have lost their children. Each of us, every one of us in this Chamber has lost so many neighbors and friends we might have known.

Violence is simply violence, everywhere. But it is sometimes inflicted differently in different communities. In the last year, there have been 3,800 recorded attacks against Asian Americans. None of this is surprising to us, who have had to stomach vile speeches from our former President and many of his supporters, describing the coronavirus as the "China virus" or "kung flu." That violence has been an indiscriminate lashing out, which has often turned deadly. As an Asian American--the first Asian American in the Pennsylvania Senate, the first South Asian of the Pennsylvania legislature, the first person of color to represent my district--I have felt the pressure and the hatred that has come about in this moment, and I, like so many of us, have felt it for years. Indeed, 5 years ago, after one of then-candidate Trump's hateful speeches, I was physically attacked on the streets of my own city, in the district I would come to represent, by someone who simply associated my skin color with immigration. Today and every day, like thousands of us across Pennsylvania, I fear just such another attack.

We need to put a name to this hatred and we need to put a name to this violence. Overwhelmingly, attacks on Asian Americans have been against older people and against low-income women, many of the latter working in the service industry. Exploited once in industries that pay unlivable wages, they are subsequently exploited again as the targets of violence by white supremacists who, through unchecked expression online of every possible vile slur, of every variety of racist misinformation, all sanctioned for years by our former President, have been given the license and the means to hurt, maim, and kill again and again.

The history of anti-Asian racism in this country and against Asians elsewhere is, unfortunately, quite long. In the 1920s, Asians were barred from entering the country. In the 1940s, President Roosevelt interned 120,000 people simply for being of Japanese ancestry. Many of the people in my own district from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos came here after enduring the longest sustained serial bombing campaign in world history. Only in the 1960s, thanks to the organizing of black leaders for civil rights, were people from other countries, including my own parents, allowed into the United States. It is one of many instances in which solidarity among peoples has led to unexpected outcomes for people not yet known and unforeseen, in which the rights of black people in the United States meant rights for Asian peoples soon to arrive. It is thanks to this struggle and to the immigration that followed that many cities in Pennsylvania, including my own, have started to grow again, that businesses have started to thrive.

Solidarity is what keeps us safe. It does not mean that you and I share the same history, the same background, the same language. We assuredly do not. But solidarity means that we share some interest that is at the stake of our very being on which it is possible that our lives depend. Because of that, we act together. So I ask the people in this Chamber for solidarity. I ask each and

every one of you to think of that phrase made famous by Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, "Attention must be paid." Attention must be paid to the casual, vicious racism in which our former President repeatedly described a global pandemic as being, somehow, Chinese. Attention must be paid to barriers to the thousands of people seeking refuge in our State. Attention must be paid so that we become a welcoming country, a welcoming Commonwealth, in which we do not reject those who come here looking to build a life but rather one in which our neighbors seek, indeed clamor for, more neighbors. In which the diversity of our small towns and our cities is to be seen as the sure sign of their help. Attention must be paid to what is being encouraged to happen to our Asian American community. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 5,366 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 14 years, and it is far too long.

Mr. President, today I would like to discuss Amazon, a company which has become a very popular topic of conversation for many different reasons of late. It is a remarkable company. Some might call it the prototypical American success story. Jeff Bezos founded the company in his Bellevue, Washington, garage in 1994, the same year I was first elected to the Pennsylvania Senate. Bezos took Amazon public in 1997 at \$18 a share. The current price is more than \$3,000 per share, and total market value about \$1.7 trillion. To put that in perspective, had you invested \$10,000 in Amazon in 1997, your stock would be worth more than \$20 million today. To put that into further perspective, Walmart's current market value is about \$420 billion, and that is after more than 50 years as a publicly traded company. That is one-fourth the value of Amazon.

We have also heard a lot about Amazon in the news. Three years ago, it made headlines when it announced a \$15 minimum wage for its warehouse and customer service workers. But employees soon threw ice water on the good vibes when they revealed that Amazon had stopped their incentive-based bonus pay and stock grant programs. More recently, Amazon has garnered more negative press for prematurely rescinding its hazard pay program for frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and for its alleged union blocking tactics in Bessemer, Alabama, where employees are in the midst of a landmark unionization vote.

Undaunted, Amazon has lobbied openly in support of a \$15 Federal minimum wage and promoted its efforts through web-based and print advertising and through social media posts. Mr. President, in consideration of all these issues, we are left with one very pressing and critical question: as Amazon continues to grow in Pennsylvania and across the country, do working families really stand to benefit? One recent report by *Bloomberg* seems to indicate the answer is no, and that the company has actually driven down wages in the logistics industry. "A Bloomberg analysis of government labor statistics reveals that in community after community where Amazon sets up shop, warehouse wages tend to fall." The news agency reported, "In 68 counties where Amazon has opened one of its largest facilities, average industry compensation slips by more than 6% during the facility's first two years....Six years ago, before the company opened a giant fulfillment center in Robbinsville, New Jersey, warehouse workers made \$24 an hour on average, according to BLS data. [In 2019] the average hourly wage slipped to \$17.50."

Mr. President, it is a very troubling state of affairs when a giant corporation like Amazon is able to build its workforce--and in essence promote itself--by promising folks \$15 an hour in an industry where the going rate is actually much more than that, and where profits and worker productivity are soaring into the stratosphere. This sales job is only possible in a climate where workers have been conditioned to think that their labor holds little value; a climate where it is considered nor-

mal for full-time workers to rely on public benefits like food stamps and housing assistance; a climate where the minimum wage is just \$7.25 an hour and has not changed in more than a decade.

Mr. President, I have said it before and I will say it now, we in the General Assembly have a moral obligation to ensure that all employers pay all workers fair wages. We have an obligation to protect the dignity of all workers. Raising the minimum wage, as I have proposed in Senate Bill No. 12, would restore a level of dignity to employment, regardless of the job, and it would strengthen the faith among our lowest-paid workers that society values their labor.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Cappelletti.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, I will admit, Senator Saval, that is hard to follow, as I am hoping to speak out on the same issue as you - yesterday, in Georgia, as you noted, a violent shooting spree that left eight people dead, six of whom were Asian women. It occurred over the course of 45 minutes, and while it is still being investigated, let there be no doubt that when this type of violence occurs, and one community is overtly affected, it is racially motivated. Over the past 103, and the first 3 months of 2021, not inclusive of last night's events, and last year, in 2020, there was a 150-percent rise in crimes targeting Asian Americans in some of the country's largest cities, including ones in our great Commonwealth, as noted by Senator Saval and his experiences within his own community in Philadelphia.

Last night's events were a tragedy, adding layers of trauma to a community that is already suffering from high levels of racial discrimination. As elected Members of the General Assembly, it is our job to protect our citizens. It is our job to recognize their pain, to stand with them and fight with them and for them. I rise today to, again, ask my colleagues to prioritize commonsense gun legislation, as gun violence prevention can provide our citizens a sense of safety and security.

But above this, I am asking my colleagues to join me and stop the Asian hate. Speak up for the community. Speak out against racism. Provide our Asian American citizens with the comfort and security of knowing that their elected officials recognize the pain and trauma that they have been experiencing, not just through the past year, but for the entire time that they have likely been in this country. I ask you again, please join me, Senator Saval, and many of us, if not all of us here today, in speaking out against racism. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, thank you to my colleagues, Senator Saval and Senator Cappelletti, for their moving remarks today.

Mr. President, I rise to speak in honor of Sunshine Week and to echo some of the sentiments my colleagues have already expressed in its honor. It was not so long ago that Members of this Chamber would meet in secret to pass laws, laws that had severe, lasting consequences for our constituents with no public input. In fact, it was just last legislative Session when this body passed Act 77, an omnibus amendment to a code bill, during budget month, that was rushed through without any actual notice to the public. A bill I voted against because I was concerned we were making dramatic changes to the Election Code without having any real substantive hearings, or spending the proper time to thoroughly vet the language with our constituents and key stakeholders.

Now, just this week, I had my first meeting with the Senate Special Committee on Election Integrity and Reform because of the consequences that Act 77 had on our constituents during the November 2020 election. That really was not that long ago. But, thankfully, we have the Sunshine Act, an act intended to insure adequate public notice to afford all Pennsylvanians the ability to participate in the legislative process through their chosen representatives. But even today, while every Senate meeting is required to be publicized with advance notice, what is, quote, required notice, does not always mean adequate notice. Too many times through my first legislative Session I received, quote, advance notice, of a committee meeting at 8 o'clock the night before the meeting was supposed to happen. Less than 16 hours of notice that includes 6 to 8 hours of sleep is not adequate notice. How can any of us have the time to review and discuss bills with our constituents and stakeholders when we barely have enough time to read the bill ourselves?

That is why my colleagues and I have cosponsored a series of Senate resolutions to change the Senate rules to require that adequate notice is actually adequate. One of our resolutions will require committee chairs to provide committee Members with a minimum of 72-hours' notice of meetings and agendas. This type of notice will insure that I have the time to read the bill, talk to my staff, and reach out to key stakeholders. It is absolutely the right of all Pennsylvanians to witness decisions that use public taxpayer funds that are being made on their behalf. I encourage all of my colleagues who feel that way to cosponsor our Senate rules to require adequate notice.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I rise today to take an opportunity to speak on Senate Resolution No. 28, which designates the month of March 2021, as we have in past years, as International DeMolay Month in Pennsylvania.

The Order of DeMolay is a character-building organization of young men between 12 and 21 years of age who are preparing themselves to become better citizens and leaders of tomorrow. DeMolay has carried out its goals through programs of athletic competition, social activities, civic service, and many charitable projects.

For the information of the Members, in 2021 the members of the Order of DeMolay are observing the 102nd anniversary of the order. On behalf of the Order of DeMolay, I am proud to stand here to offer and speak on Senate Resolution No. 28 that resolves that the Senate designate the month of March 2021 as International DeMolay Month in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to echo the comments of my colleagues from Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. Last night, eight people were killed in a series of shootings in Atlanta. The plague of gun violence is not just a set of statistics. It robs us of family and friends, it robs us of birthdays, graduations, and dinners around the table.

While it may be too early to discern the shooter's motives, we cannot deny the fact before our eyes. Of the eight people left for dead, six of them were Asian women. It is a clear act of misogyny, and it follows a rising trend of white supremacist and mi-

sogyny violence and terrorism. This is not an isolated incident. Asian Americans have been facing a disturbing surge in violence and harassment over the last year. The organization Stop AAPI Hate has received almost 3,800 reports of anti-Asian incidents from March 2020 through February 2021. Pennsylvania ranks fifth in the nation for these incidents. Mind you, the number of incidents represent only a fraction of the anti-Asian attacks that actually occur. Now, racism is nothing new, but the rise in anti-Asian violence is hardly surprising when the former President spent a year calling the deadly pandemic the "China virus" or the "kung flu."

This should be a reminder to all of us as public servants about the power of our words. We must stop hate in all forms. I proudly join my colleagues, Senator Lindsey Williams and Senator Anthony Williams, to introduce legislation to modernize Pennsylvania's hate crimes statute. Our bill would add protections for hate-based intimidation based on ancestry, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, intellectual disability, physical or sensory disability, or behavioral or mental health. Incidents like yesterday's attacks show it is necessary to include gender and other identity factors into our hate crimes statutes.

Our laws are not capturing the growing violence in our communities. People will try to create fear and division because others look differently, pray differently, or love differently than them. But we cannot allow the forces of hate to win. Please join me in saying, with a clear voice, that hate has no home in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Anthony Williams.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I certainly want to acknowledge my colleagues, Senator Kearney and Senator Cappelletti, for their comments. But I have to underscore that my colleague Senator Saval's words were moving, powerful, articulate, insightful, and, most importantly, accurate and truthful.

This nation is great because we can celebrate a day like St. Patrick's Day, acknowledging that every single American comes from a different place, a different DNA, a different origin, a different language. The idea was and still remains, the promise is that wherever you come from, you are an equal and you will be treated as an equal. Senator Saval's acknowledgment of the eight human beings who lost their lives, and the fact that Senator Kearney reflects on the data and statistics that this level of violence is increasing in America, unfortunately, is not shocking to any of us. But what I would love to remind us all is that all of us share in some level of responsibility. Senator Saval's comments reflected upon the civil rights movement, and I can tell you my heart leapt and my eyes almost wept as you talked about a movement that, frankly, liberated a lot of Americans - veterans, disabled, women, and certainly Asian Americans.

But I also have to acknowledge that certainly white supremacy is a factor in the conversation we have today. But be very clear, our biases, all of us have them, and our prejudices. I can only reflect upon the time period of the 1980s and 1990s when many people from Cambodia and Vietnam landed on these shores and came to our black and brown communities and were not welcome. We have a lot of work to do as human beings and Americans. I want to tell you, my friend, Senator Saval, that you are a bridge, a refreshing commentary not full of anger but full of hope and promise. Speaking truth in a time and a period where

we all need to hear it. Celebrating on St. Patrick's Day, as we have to acknowledge the death of eight Asian Americans, is appropriate America, because we are at an intersection, a crossroads, if you will. Do we follow the promise of white men who wrote a Constitution that allowed for many of us, black and brown, to express freedoms that you cannot express anywhere else in this world?

Senator Saval, your passion, deliberate commentary, and resolve is felt by all of us. This is not meant to be a Republican or Democratic perspective, it is a human, Quaker, Pennsylvania value. We thank you for it. God bless your words, your enlightenment, and uplifting us in terms of what you brought to us all today. I only wish we could bottle it and share it in every neighborhood that suffers gun violence. I certainly need it in mine. God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, I had to rise over some of the previous comments, especially about President Trump and the implications that are thrown towards his supporters and the people who have, basically, stood for traditional American values. Now, it is interesting that they bring up President Trump while ignoring the fact that Dr. Fauci was actually calling it the "China virus" before the President was, and he is still in his position and working for the Biden administration.

I am very blessed to come from a county that was heavily involved in the underground railroad. Two of our judges were actually convicted of assisting the black slaves fleeing from their slavery. I am very proud of them. A close friend of mine actually wrote a play based on Judge Heath's conviction and the court cases that was very well attended in our county courthouse in celebrating his life and actions. The type of divisive finger pointing and constantly bringing up race is disturbing to me because, quite honestly, in the military, we all bled purple--either green, blue, whatever, we ended up calling it we bleed purple. We fought, stood, and worked alongside of each other. Now, under this current Federal administration, they have done a stand-down order searching out something that, quite honestly, I have not seen.

I have a son who is a para-rescuer. One of the crew chiefs with whom he worked was an African American who got killed in combat. Ryan has been there for that family. He volunteered for and has stuck with that family. Those kids look at him as kind of like a father. The type of stuff that is coming out of some of the people who make these political proclamations, especially so soon after the event--I have been in law enforcement, in some form or another, for about 30 years. When President Obama made the comment so quickly after that one case that the police acted stupidly, we see similar things going on all the time.

Politicians get up and make these proclamations, declarations, and accusations about people that, quite often, once the investigation is done, it is a completely different set of facts than what is being spewed by people in political spheres. That is very disturbing. We need to start understanding that the rule of law has a place, and as political people, political leaders, we should not get up and say the police acted stupidly before we know the facts. We should not be saying anything about things that we do not know.

All of this divisiveness has no place in America. This is not what William Penn was talking about. This is not what he came

and created. His relationship with the first peoples here in the Commonwealth--unfortunately, his sons did not follow his example, but he set the example. He did not just set the example for Pennsylvania, he set it for the entire nation. His teachings, the things he wrote about, those were talked about the whole way up through to the Civil War. They were part of the motivation. You had good Christian people like Wilburforce and others who were leading through Christian love. Not the type of rhetoric I have heard here today and I have heard over and over by people in political office for years.

I would ask that we start tempering what we are doing, both here in the Senate and when we are out there in our communities. We need to start having good, solid dialogue, but all this finger pointing and these general characterizations that are becoming caricatures, this has got to stop. We have to start having real conversations, and we need to make sure that we have the facts before we go spewing the types of things that I have been hearing of late.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Santarsiero.

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, I had not intended to speak today, but I felt it incumbent upon me to respond.

It is an obligation on all of us as citizens who care about liberty, who care about the ability for every human being in our country to enjoy the same freedoms that are guaranteed under the Bill of Rights and the United States Constitution. It is our obligation to speak out whenever we see those rights under threat or being abridged. It is not divisive to state the facts. It is not divisive to point out that a political leader for 4 years, actually 5 years, continually made comments that stoked the flames of intolerance, bigotry, and, yes, violence. There is no question about that. There is no need for further investigation. It is on the record. One only need look at the acts of violence that have occurred just in these last 4 years.

The Anti-Defamation League has just released a report where it cataloged the increase in hate crimes across the United States. The fact is that white supremacist groups are on the rise, and many of the communities that my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Saval, so eloquently spoke about are under threat. Those are the facts. It is incumbent upon all of us, Democrat and Republican alike, to speak out and acknowledge those facts, because the only way that we are going to turn the tide and stop the forces of intolerance, to stop the forces of racism and bigotry from prevailing, is if we stand up united and speak out against it.

Human history is filled with too many examples of when good people turn the other way and fail to act. We are in a moment now in our history where we dare not do the same. We will continue to speak out, and we will continue to demand that everyone in our society be treated with respect and dignity. That the American dream that we often talk about so easily on the floor of this Senate or in speeches in our districts, that it actually means something because it means something that applies to everyone. It is ironic that we are having this discussion today, on St. Patrick's Day, because those of us of Irish descent know full well that in the 19th Century in our own great city of Philadelphia, the Know Nothings, the supremacists of that time, burned Catholic Churches as a protest against the Irish. Let us not forget that every successive wave of immigration that has come to these

shores has faced discrimination and has overcome it because of their strength and because good people have spoken up, and then they, in turn, have enriched our culture as a people. It is not divisive to speak out for what is right. God help us if ever the day comes when we are afraid to do so.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, let us be clear. We stand with our Asian brothers and sisters because somebody needs to stand with them as they are under attack right now.

If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it pretty probably is a duck. What happened in Atlanta, Georgia, is something that is pervading America, has been somewhat silent for years, but because of the previous occupant of the White House, is now seen rising up in a dramatic fashion. He called it "kung flu." He set the tone. He caused this environment that we are in right now. He did, and he is going to be called out for that. His words laid out an environment and created an environment that embraced the neo-Nazis, the Proud Boys, white supremacists, that made it a little bit easier for folks to boldly go out, cause an insurrection, wear Nazi symbols, be clearly white supremacists, and more than likely, I am sure we will see the investigation lay out in front of us that this recent act in Georgia is an extension of that.

So, no, you do not get a chance to shut us up because we call out the truth. We speak to this truth. You do not get a chance to say, well, this divisive rhetoric, we need to stop talking about this in such a divisive way, when the principal individual who caused this divisiveness has laid up this reality in front of us right now, which is permeating all across the country, in fact, almost all across the world. You do not get the opportunity to shut people up because we are speaking the truth.

Hatred and racism must be confronted in its face every time it rears its head. Senator Saval, Senator Anthony Williams, Senator Kearney, Senator Cappelletti, and Senator Santarsiero spoke out on it. We all need to speak out on it. Maybe you need to speak out on it. Maybe our Republican colleagues need to speak out on it. Maybe someone needs to call the question why one of our colleagues had the audacity to send out a cosponsorship memo on a bill that equated being shut down on Twitter to slavery. The audacity to equate being shut down on Twitter to slavery.

We speak out on these realities because they are present in front of us. We speak out because if someone does not speak out, it is going to permeate, it is going to grow. It has to be shut down. It has to be stopped. So, you do not get the wind beneath your wings to shut us up on racism, to shut us up on hatred. No, you do not get that. In fact, what you get is the total opposite. All of us must speak loud.

It is interesting that there are some of us here who choose not to speak on the matter. You do not get that luxury. We live in a country that has this very ugly history of two very ugly original sins: the destruction of the indigenous people--which is interesting, as one of our colleagues calls out William Penn. What happened to the indigenous citizens of this land is one of the original sins. One of the other original sins is what it has done for the enslaved Africans.

Be clear, there are 50 States in this nation, and all 50 of them had on their books at one time, and some still do, the attempt to make black folks, people of color, and all communities of color,

second class citizens. There are 3,000 counties in this country, and every one of those counties has had on its books at some time, and still do, the attempt to put people of color in second class status. There are 19,000 cities in this country, and each one of those cities has had at some point, and still do, the attempt to put people of color in second class status. There are 13,000 school districts in this country, and each one of those school districts has had an attempt at some time, and some still do, the attempt to put people of color in second class status. Three thousand counties, the same thing. This is the history that we are dealing with. It is only good thinking people who can help us rise above it, to help us to achieve the, quote, American dream. Many of us live in, in too many respects, the American nightmare.

So, no, you do not get the luxury of shutting us up when it comes to this kind of issue. You get the luxury of having us speak out loud, clear, and forceful with facts and conviction. We are trying to make the America that we all want it to be, that is laid out in its original documents, to become the more perfect Union. That is what we are trying to do. That is what this conversation is all about. You do not get the opportunity to shut us up. You do not get the opportunity to deny the history. You do not get the opportunity to further this conversation of can we not all just get along, while you still perpetuate acts of violence, or give atmosphere for acts of violence to be just allowed to go on undressed. No, you do not get that chance.

Violence exists not just at the end of a rifle, violence exists in education policies that place people of color in second class status. Violence exists in communities that do not allow the economic advancement of all communities, but keep communities of color pushed down because they cannot access the appropriate economic means to rise up. Violence is also healthcare policies, and violence is intolerance. So yeah, the previous occupant of the White House has created an environment where the Proud Boys, the neo-Nazis, the white supremacists, and all of the others can flourish. He created an environment that allowed for an insurrection to occur. He created an environment that made it easier. What is the young man's name? Rittenhouse, who just walked down the street shooting people. The person in Georgia, interestingly enough, chose a specific group of individuals to go after.

No, you do not get that luxury of shutting us up. In fact, what you get is more vocal, vibrant, thoughtful, forceful, and intellectual conversations coming from those of us who want to make sure that justice is available for everybody and not just for a few. We stand with our brothers and sisters in the Asian community as they have stood with us. Maybe you should try doing the same. It might make you a better person.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Anthony Williams.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I come in peace.

I must confess, this body never fails to amaze me in terms of how we can conduct ourselves. While I certainly understand the desire to defend a political figure of a particular party, I do not understand how any comments would not start off with two things today: Happy St. Paddy's Day, whether you are Irish or not, but we honor those immigrants who found their way to this country; and two, mourn the death of eight Americans who lost their lives to senseless gunfire borne out of malice. I am very disappointed in the fact that the words which I spoke earlier were not heard, and that was, there is a responsibility to be spread

upon all human beings of different persuasions as it relates to bigotry, prejudice, and bias in this country.

Senator Saval did not speak out of anger. He spoke out of pain. I agree, it is time to talk. I will acknowledge publicly that I have friends of all persuasions, police officers and Republicans included. They are not fake friends, they are real friends, and we certainly have different perspectives at different times about different issues. But be very clear, my police officer friends have said, police officers at times do act stupidly, and, most importantly, inappropriately and sometimes illegally in their responsibilities. It is not just one particular person or one figure who said that, and by the way, not one party, not one race. It is people of all ilks who understand honestly and earnestly what this country is supposed to be about and what it should do and those who hold these responsibilities, how seriously they are, and how they should be taken.

Certainly, we know politicians speak stupidly. What struck me was, and is, that comments were made about premature judgments and the fact that we need to stop inciting levels of anger. Why I was struck by that was because I never heard any comment about the riots that occurred in Washington, D.C. And whether a person believes that was driven by the previous occupant of the White House, there is no doubt that the people who stormed the Capitol broke the law, are against what we believe as a country, violated the Constitution, and sacrificed whatever oath they took, if they were in the military or a police officer of any sort. There should be no debate about that. There should be a comment reflected about that.

So, there is truth in the fact that there is a desire to have a conversation that cannot be partisan, it has to be American. It has to be an American conversation that acknowledges the shortcomings of all, each individual and group collectively. None of us are perfect, and, therefore, we have some level of responsibility to move the country forward. But as my previous colleague sort of reflected the frustration of being lectured to, similar to if somebody came up and smacked me in the face and I retaliated, and then I got in trouble for it, is the frustration that you hear. It is borne out of splitting the orange, or egg, or whatever you want to split in half, and not acknowledging there is a complete truth to this.

I can only say to you that it is painful that anyone who would come and speak on this day of St. Paddy's Day would not celebrate it, and more importantly, on this day of mourning, would not acknowledge it. Anything less than that is unacceptable, not patriotic, not American, and not reflective of Pennsylvania values. Quakers, they really do listen, do intend to search your heart for humanity, and that is all you ever heard from our comments. The fact that some of that truth may have splattered upon a particular party or person, that is a responsibility we have to take on, just like when I acknowledge what African Americans did when many people came from the Vietnam War who did not look like us, who came in our communities, did the same thing. That is a truth. Those of us who occupy those spaces should repair them and work towards acknowledging it.

So, I want to be clear. I am not angry today. I am not. I have nothing other than what Senator Saval put in my heart: some level of responsibility, some warning, but some hope that we can find a better way to resolve our differences. Hope that we can follow the path that has been laid out by a Constitution that has been amended several times because it was not a perfect docu-

ment. Hope that in this current generation, new leaders are coming on board who will do better than what we have done. Open up the doors broader and wider to people who do not register in their same party, who do not look like them, and who are not of the same gender or race. But we have a responsibility to all human dignity in this country. So I can only ask the gentleman, if he can find it in some part of his being, to listen to what is said and not to prejudge what you think was said.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, like the Senator before me, I do not come in anger. I am disappointed. You know, we in this country have this thing called innocence until proven guilty in a court of law. There is a lot of prejudging that goes on. I know what the--for the incidents down in Georgia, there are some pretty strong indicators. And we should be in mourning for those people. We should be, and I have been, in prayer for those families.

We do need to start having a civil dialogue, a civil discourse. I condemned what happened at the Capitol. I condemned what happened in Portland. It does not matter if it is Antifa, Black Lives Matter, La Raza, or any neo-Nazi organization. Unlawful violence is unlawful violence. That is what our laws were set up for. When it is violence against people, it is against the law. It does not matter what the motivation. If it is unlawful, it is unlawful. When it comes to what does motivate, that is for us to start working on as a society in leadership positions to begin to start developing a dialogue that leads to something productive, not having diatribes. That is the difference. That is what I am seeking, dialogues rather than diatribes.

When I was in the military, like I said, we fought alongside one another, we had each other's back. It did not matter the skin color, the sex, any of that. I have a lot of close friends, still to this day, not just in this country but around the world, that that is not a factor in the way we treat each other. We need to start having dialogue. I am not here to shut anybody up in response to the Senator, two previous. I am just asking--I am not trying to compel anything--I am asking, can we start having dialogue without using the inflammatory language, because the situation is real.

I sat for about 4 years through various--both inner city and out in the country--communications watching children raising children on the streets. Working for 16 years in the Department of Corrections, the thing that I saw on the streets in Chester, west Philadelphia, north Philadelphia, Camden, and Baltimore was reflected in what I saw in the prisons. Nine out of every 10 inmates, even the people who come from the trailer parks out in the country, 9 out of every 10 inmates did not have a strong male role model in their home. I had access to the presentencing investigations. I was examining it. When I talked to some people who had the caseloads out at Muncy for the women, it is about 95 percent who are locked up, no male role model in the home. That is the biggest common denominator that we have.

There are things that we need to talk about and we need to have civil discussions. But using situations like what happened in Alabama--to instead of publicly stand up and just ask for prayer--I am hearing inflammatory language that is meant to stir people up instead of having a dialogue. I am asking for dialogue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Cappelletti.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, this is in response to the idea of dialogue. When we are talking about divisive language, rhetoric, where the blame falls, and how we start dialogue, I want white people to take a moment to realize that in doing this we do not get to negate the lived experience of people of color.

When Senator Saval and others have stood up and shared their trauma and their experience, when they say that the words that are being hurled at them while violence is being inflicted upon them are reflective of the former occupant of the White House, we as white people do not get to negate that. We do not get to change what they have lived through because we want dialogue that does not involve that that language and rhetoric was used against them. The lived experience and lived trauma of people of color is not something that we can begin to grasp, but we cannot dismiss it either. We have to respect it, we have to hear them and do what we can to continue to support them. Because until we do that, until we accept that this is what has been happening, that this is not meant to be inflammatory but that they hear these things and they feel these things every day, dialogue is not going to happen.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I know it is difficult to try to run this Chamber on Zoom and virtual. You are doing a yeoman's job making it all come together, and I appreciate that.

It is easy to say to have dialogue, and it is always easy to say, let us have dialogue. It is easier to say let us have dialogue when you do not have someone's foot on your neck holding you down. When you do not have banks discriminating against you and preventing you from getting a mortgage. It is easy to have a dialogue, and let us talk about it. Like I said, it is easy to have a dialogue and let us talk about it, but let us maybe skirt the facts. Let us skirt the facts that, as I said, in every city, county, school district, State in this nation, there have been laws on the books that have forced people of color into second class status. It is easy to have a dialogue, as I said, when you do not have someone's foot on your neck; financially, academically, your right to vote, the healthcare that you get. It is easy to have a dialogue and not bring up the hard issues when you do not have someone's foot on your neck.

It is easy to have a dialogue when there is no proliferation of guns and firearms running around in your community, illegal ones, ghost ones, whatever you want to call them. It is easy to have a dialogue. But the rest of us are going to bring up the facts, the statistics, the numbers, the impact, and that may not be easy. It damn sure -- excuse me, it damn sure is not easy for those of us who have to bring up those things, because they reflect in us the hell that we have gone through to try to make this thing work. It may not be easy for you to hear it. It may be tough for you to hear it. But I will tell you what, for my Jewish brothers and sisters, seeing folks at the insurrection that had neo-Nazi symbols and indicators on their apparel, or in Charlottesville, quote, Jews will not replace us, it probably was not easy for them. For our Asian brothers and sisters of all communities all across this country, and all across the world, imagining the horror that they

were going through hearing the information from last night, and how the details start to come out. No, it is not easy. It is painful. But we stand with them, because no one in any community in any situation should be discriminated against, and to the extent of violence. Like the guns that were utilized last night, or the explosives that were in position in the insurrection driven by the white supremacists, driven by the neo-Nazis, driven by the Proud Boys. The only way to win this fight on hate is to speak the truth. That is our intention, and that is what we will do.

It is not easy for us to do it, but it is our obligation to do it. It may not be easy for you to hear. It should be your obligation to listen. But then afterwards, to do a damn thing about it, to make a change. Because, quite frankly, let us have a conversation. Let us talk about it. Let us dialogue, let us have back and forth, let us talk about it. We have had lots of those conversations, have had lots of that dialogue. Unfortunately, change has not come. So we will talk about it. We will raise it up. We will lift it up. We will be vocal. We will carry the water and bring it to the table. Hopefully, you are prepared to listen, and hopefully, you will be prepared to make a difference, to make a change so that true equity and true equality, and so that all of the things written in the original documents, or at least the aspirational things, because, you know, there were some things written in the original documents that did not allow for equity and equality. But those aspirational things, hopefully, we will make progress. We will bring them up. Hopefully, you will stand with us to change.

Thank you, Mr. President.

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the following bills were signed by the President pro tempore (Jacob D. Corman III) in the presence of the Senate:

HB 157.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 1 p.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 1:01 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.