

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

SESSION OF 2021 205th OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 17

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, March 24, 2021

The Senate met at 10 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving 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.

Psalm 19 reveals God's glory in the heavens and in the law with these beautiful words. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky proclaims its builder's craft. The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye."

Heavenly Father, as we reflect on those words, help us to follow Your precepts so that we honor You in all that we do as we serve the great people of this Commonwealth. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

**APPOINTMENTS BY THE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointments:

Ms. Elizabeth Preate Havey as a member of the Governing Board of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority.

Mr. Roderick Henkels as a member of the Governing Board of the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator HUTCHINSON, from the Committee on Finance, reported the following bills:

SB 74 (Pr. No. 338)

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

SB 286 (Pr. No. 272)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for spending limitations.

SB 325 (Pr. No. 332)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for exclusions from tax.

SB 343 (Pr. No. 377)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for definitions.

HB 230 (Pr. No. 385)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in Independent Fiscal Office, further providing for revenue estimates.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Browne and Senator Martin, and a legislative leave for Senator Brooks.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Browne and Senator Martin, and a legislative leave for Senator Brooks.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Collett. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator K. WARD asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator REGAN, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

SB 420 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 420 (Pr. No. 487) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 7 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator K. WARD, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 420 (Pr. No. 487) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, in district attorney, assistants and detectives, further providing for district attorney, qualifications, eligibility and compensation.

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	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Browne	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Cappelletti	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Comitta	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Schwank	

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.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 78 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 89 (Pr. No. 179) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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-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	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Browne	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Cappelletti	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Comitta	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 106, SB 113 and SB 137 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 191 (Pr. No. 442) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Blair, Senator Judy Ward.

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, I rise to ask for an affirmative vote for Senate Bill No. 191. My bill would exempt agricultural buildings from the UCC requirements provided that the building meets basic safety standards, having smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, no smoking, and open flames would be prohibited. This measure also requires that the owner have liability insurance.

Recognizing the challenges and difficulties that family farms face today in keeping their operations profitable and preserving their farms for the next generation, farmers are looking to supplement their income by offering agritainment or agritourism activities on their land. I introduced this bill because several farmers in my district have raised concerns about being unable to legally host weddings and other special events due to the fact that they do not have sprinkler systems in their aging barns. The quotes they received to comply with the current code range from

\$40,000 to \$50,000 for individuals already struggling to make a living. I believe State law can strike a responsible balance between the safety of guests and the financial costs to the farmers who want to host these events, and I believe my bill does just that. This bill is supported by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Thank you for your consideration.

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-29

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

NAY-18

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

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 282 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 411 (Pr. No. 489) -- 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 third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-46

Argall	Costa	Mastriano	Stefano
Aument	DiSanto	Mensch	Street
Baker	Dush	Muth	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Boscola	Gordner	Pittman	Vogel
Brewster	Haywood	Robinson	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Hughes	Sabatina	Ward, Kim
Browne	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.

Cappelletti	Kearney	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Langerholc	Scavello	Yaw
Comitta	Laughlin	Schwank	Yudichak
Corman	Martin		

NAY-1

Hutchinson

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.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 82 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 83 (Pr. No. 483) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Fire Training 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.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 101 (Pr. No. 1008) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for limited civil liability for agritourism activity providers, for notice of limited civil liability and for acknowledgment of limited civil liability.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 108 (Pr. No. 73) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for medical assistance payments for institutional care.

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.

HB 110 (Pr. No. 78) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 21, 1988 (P.L.1036, No.116), known as the Hardwoods Development Council Act, further providing for Hardwoods Development Council.

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 156 (Pr. No. 135) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 26, 2001 (P.L.755, No.77), known as the Tobacco Settlement Act, in medical assistance for workers with disabilities, further providing for definitions and for medical assistance benefits for workers with disabilities and workers with medically improved disabilities.

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 and **HB 186** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 190 (Pr. No. 485) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for essential family caregivers in facilities during disaster emergencies.

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.

HB 203 (Pr. No. 239) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for living donor protection; and imposing duties on the Department of Health and the Insurance Department.

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 224, SB 236 and SB 241 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 247 (Pr. No. 215) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in professional employees, repealing provisions relating to religious garb, insignia, etc., prohibited and penalty.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 248 (Pr. No. 216) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for holidays and observances.

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 251 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 274 (Pr. No. 256) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 284 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 317 (Pr. No. 325) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for expedited partner therapy and for liability.

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 323 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 381 (Pr. No. 367) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for substitute teaching permit for prospective teachers.

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.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 382 (Pr. No. 309) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 403 and **SB 423** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 433 (Pr. No. 486) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in National Guard Youth Challenge Program, further providing for definitions and for administration, establishing the Keystone State Challenge Academy Fund and further providing for report and for audit required.

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 434, SB 435, SB 441 and **SB 455** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 457 (Pr. No. 488) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for qualifications of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General and for disqualification for offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

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.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON FINAL PASSAGE

RECONSIDERATION OF SB 191

SB 191 (Pr. No. 442) -- Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now reconsider the vote by which Senate Bill No. 191, Printer's No. 442, just passed finally.

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

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

NAY-19

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

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

PERMISSION TO ADDRESS

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleague, Senator Yudichak, to offer a condolence resolution. In January, we bid a fond, but very sad, farewell to one from the greatest generation, Patrick J. Solano of Pittston Township. Many of you may recall the moving tribute to Pat that was hosted here on the Senate floor by President pro tempore Scarnati in October of 2019, an honor that Pat called the optimum of his long and distinguished career that spanned ten administrations. Today we come together to offer our deepest sympathy to his wife, Marie, his six daughters, and his entire family. Those who knew Pat knew that he perfected the terms "oh, by the way," and "let me tell you another thing," usually with his finger raised. Every member of the Solano family, every one of Pat's large circle of friends, allies, and acquaintances, heard those phrases countless times. His signature opening always meant another entertaining story or recollection, a piece of advice, or maybe a dozen, was coming.

Pat Solano lived a long, active, fulfilling, and impactful life. A life that gave him a place at the head of the table for family, friends, and neighbors, all who adored and cherished him. As impressive as his public life was, as filled with involvement and accomplishment as his resume was, as many public and private leaders as he met and worked with and counseled, he always,

first and foremost, was about family. The family meals hosted by the Solanos were the thing of legends. It was a joy to be asked and considered a part of his extended family. If you were invited over for pasta, it was always something unlike my own home. Pasta dishes were rich and filling and they were the only part of the meal at my house. But in the Solano house, this was merely the forerunner to a seven-course Italian meal. What a wonderful experience of friendship and fellowship. As all of us have experienced during COVID-19, the hardship and disappointments of this pandemic was what really knocked Pat aside over the past year, not to be able to have family gatherings that were filled with lively conversation and the abundance of love that was always there. It was the one thing that he missed so much.

In his life, Pat filled so many roles for all of us to know him as a mentor, a mediator, an innovator, a problem solver, a fireman quenching overheated partisan disputes. It is quite a skill set to help turn a lose-lose partisan or institutional standoff into a win-win proposition advancing the public interest. Through all the ups and downs of politics, through Republican and Democratic administrations, Pat was there providing recommendations, making decisions, smoothing troubled waters, and searching out a better path. I would imagine that those listening could not name the last 10 governors of Pennsylvania. Pat counseled every single one of them in various capacities. His memory bank was an old-fashioned card catalog, where he was never at a loss for locating the right references. He was not merely witnessing history, he was helping to make history, a history of getting constructive things done in a productive way.

As we know, he was of the greatest generation called to serve. They did their duty with determination, courage, and fortitude. Nearly two dozen bombing missions over Nazi Germany before turning the age of 21. That alone would have earned him a lifetime of respect, but for Pat, he was just getting started. If we divide the world into those who contribute and those who take, Pat was a contributor at the highest order. Honor, duty, and patriotism were not self-assigned titles. These were values and virtues to be internalized and lived, and Pat did so with fidelity and zest. If you ever have the chance to visit Frances Slocum State Park, you will find the Patrick J. Solano Environmental Education Center. It is a marvelous tribute to all the work he did, as was his habit, behind the scenes, to secure the progress for which others would receive credit.

Pat was blessed in many ways and was able to enjoy a long partnership and wonderful marriage with his devoted wife, Marie. Able to see his family grow, especially his beloved daughters, Mary Pat, Cathy, Anita, Rita, Liz, and Anne and their extensive families. Pat was sharp, active, and influential up until the very end, so we can be very thankful that the Senate recognized and commended his contributions in 2019. He did so much for so many Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle, beyond the public stage, forging successes that we could all herald. It is fitting that his story will, today, become part of our official record indelibly and forever. So this is a final farewell to a friend, mentor, and confidant. So I wish eternal blessings to be granted to a good man, a good public servant.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator Yudichak.

Senator YUDICHAK. Mr. President, at the wonderful, robust age of 95, the prominent life of Patrick J. Solano came to an end.

A storybook life of a common man who achieved uncommon success in service to his country in World War II and in his chosen profession of public service. That storybook life came to an end just like a beautiful scene out of a Frank Capra movie. Pat, of sound and sharp mind, lay peacefully in his own home surrounded by his beautiful and loving family: his wife of 66 years, Marie; 6 daughters; 11 grandchildren; and his 3 great-grandchildren. Secure in the love of his family and secure in his unparalleled legacy of accomplishment in Pennsylvania politics, Pat Solano surrendered to his God and surrendered his political legacy to the ages.

I had the great pleasure to become a friend and confidant of Pat Solano over the last 20 years. I admired his political acumen and marvelled at his longevity. Pat Solano was a member of the Republican party, but his ideology never got in the way of finding common ground across the political aisle to deliver time and time again on issues to improve the lives of all Pennsylvanians. Issues from protecting our environment and conserving our precious natural resources to investing in economic development projects that have created thousands of jobs throughout north-eastern Pennsylvania. To know Pat Solano, to have shared a moment or two in the company of Pat Solano, is to understand the words of Tom Brokaw as he wrote them in the book *The Greatest Generation*. "There on the beaches of Normandy I began to reflect on the wonders of these ordinary people whose lives were laced with the markings of greatness."

God bless you, Pat Solano. May you rest in peace.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will now observe a moment of silence for a great American and a great Pennsylvanian.

(Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of PATRICK J. SOLANO.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator COSTA. 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 74, SB 286, SB 325, SB 343 and HB 230.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

10:00 A.M.

APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing -
State-Related Universities)

Senate
Chamber
(LIVE
STREAMED)

1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Department of Military & Veterans Affairs)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)	Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Resolution No. 90; and certain Executive Nominations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Pennsylvania Treasury Department)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)		<u>TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021</u>	
	<u>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021</u>		9:00 A.M.	SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTION INTEGRITY AND REFORM (public hearing on insight on the Administration of Elections in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)
10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)	11:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bills No. 150, 461, 550 and 556)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Office of Attorney General)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)		CANCELLED	
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Office of Auditor General)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)	12:00 P.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (to consider Senate Bills No. 341 and 442)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
	<u>THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021</u>		12:30 P.M.	TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 283 and 445; Senate Resolution No. 53; and House Bills No. 26, 56 and 124)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Department of Labor & Industry)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)		<u>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021</u>	
2:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Department of Agriculture)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)	2:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Department of Transportation)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
	<u>MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021</u>			<u>THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021</u>	
10:00 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing on pursuing excellence: needed K-12 education reforms in Central Pennsylvania)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)	10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Department of Health)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
	<u>TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021</u>		2:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (budget hearing - Budget Secretary/Governor's Executive Office & Department of General Services)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (public hearing on PA's economy - the reliability of our technology infrastructure)	exchange 1500 Spring Garden St. Philadelphia		<u>FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021</u>	
	<u>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021</u>		10:00 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing on pursuing excellence: needed K-12 education reforms in Western Pennsylvania)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (public hearing on PA's economy - the reliability of our energy infrastructure)	Veritas Medical Solutions 160 Cassell Rd. Harleysville		<u>MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021</u>	
	<u>MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021</u>		11:30 A.M.	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (public hearing on the use of Lyme disease funding by DOH and DEP)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
9:00 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing on pursuing excellence: needed K-12 education reforms in Eastern Pennsylvania)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)		<u>TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021</u>	
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 83, 108, 114, 190, 248, 317, 381 and 457; and House Bills No. 110 and 203)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)	9:00 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (S) and ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (H) (joint public hearing on Alternate Septic Systems - Act 34 Implementation)	Room 523 Iris Off. Bldg.
Off the Floor	BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 425 and 432)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)		<u>THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021</u>	
			9:30 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (S) and VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (H)	Room G-50 Iris Off. Bldg.

(joint public hearing on Pennsylvania's veterans home care and COVID-19 mitigation protocols)
CANCELLED

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

9:30 A.M.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (S)
and VETERANS AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (H)
(joint public hearing on Pennsylvania's veterans home care and COVID-19 mitigation protocols)

Room 515
Iris Off. Bldg.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise today to provide remarks about an individual who has worked in our Senate for a number of years and, more importantly, has been an outstanding employee and a person of great quality and integrity. One of our nicest and longest-serving employees, Anne Ronaghan. Anne R., as we refer to her in our office, is retiring this week after being the face of our Democratic Leader's Harrisburg office for more than a decade. Anne's cheerful demeanor and willingness to help all who entered our office will be sorely missed. When our constituents think about, and when we think about, interacting with individuals who are public servants, you always hope to encounter someone like Anne R, a warm, friendly, and helpful person. That is exactly what they found when they stepped into our office.

Following in the footsteps of her father, Robert Rybarczyk, who served the Commonwealth as a Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Anne R. joined the Pennsylvania Senate after graduating from high school near her hometown of Mountain Top, Pennsylvania. Anne began her career at that time with our former colleague, Senator Ray Musto, in 1985. In 2010, Anne joined our office and immediately became an invaluable member of our Senate team. She was able to manage what is one of the busiest offices in the Senate, and she did so when she guided legislative Members, staff folks, and other guests through the bustling Session days, and she always did so with a kind smile and a confidence of character that put everyone at ease. While her presence will be truly missed in our Leader's office, Anne has certainly earned a retirement after 38 years of service to the Senate of Pennsylvania and to the constituents of our Commonwealth. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Anne Ronaghan a peaceful and happy retirement full of love, family, and many new adventures that she has yet to discover. Thank you, Anne, for your service. We certainly appreciate it on behalf of the Commonwealth, and certainly our Caucus Members as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, today marks 5,373 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 14 years, and, Mr. President, it is far too long.

Mr. President, today is Equal Pay Day in the United States. I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness about the

terrible wage inequity that women experience in this country. I would also like to discuss my legislation, Senate Bill No. 186, that would make it illegal in Pennsylvania to discriminate based on rate of pay. It has become abundantly clear that the prolonged stagnancy in the minimum wage is a contributing factor in wage equity. In Pennsylvania, women fill more than 60 percent of our low-wage occupations. When we refuse to raise the minimum wage, women suffer. But that is not the only reason. Overt, indefensible gender bias in the workplace also causes wage inequality. This disparity transcends employment sectors and income tiers. The Institute for Women's Policy Research reports that American women earn just 82 cents for every dollar earned by men, and women's earnings are lower than men's in nearly all occupations, whether they work in occupations predominantly done by women, men, or occupations with a more even mix of men and women. In short, 58 years after the Federal Equal Pay Act was signed into law, women are still earning less than men for doing the same exact work. They have the same skills, qualifications, and experience, yet they are being paid differently.

Today was chosen as Equal Pay Day because it symbolizes how women must work 15 months to earn the same amount of money that men made in the prior calendar year. The disparities are even worse for women of color. Equal Pay Day for African American women is August 3, for Native American women it is September 8, and for Latino women it is October 21. Senate Bill No. 186 would correct this disparity by making it clear that any time spent on leave due to pregnancy or family leave shall not affect seniority, which happens too often today. The bill would lay out the bona fide ways an employer may pay a different wage rate to different employees, a seniority or merit system, or a system based on quantity or quality of sales. The bill would exclusively prohibit employers from using nominal job titles or descriptions alone to justify pay differentials. Under this legislation, employers may pay different wage rates based on education, training, and experience. Should they do this, however, the legislation puts the onus on the employer to prove they are not discriminating based on sex, a key component to hold employers accountable. It would grant the Attorney General powers to collect unpaid wages on behalf of the employees who suffer wage discrimination.

Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 186 is awaiting action in the Committee on Labor and Industry. I respectfully urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support its advancement. I also urge my colleagues to help promote gender pay equity by commemorating Equal Pay Day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, along with my colleague, Senator Muth, I rise to offer support for Senate Resolution No. 49 proclaiming the month of March 2021 as National Athletic Training Month. Licensed athletic trainers have a long history of providing quality healthcare for athletes and persons engaged in physical activity. The Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society represents over 3,000 licensed trainers in our Commonwealth in many settings, including youth athletic leagues, professional Olympic sports, colleges and universities, schools, hospitals, corporate settings, physicians offices, and the performing arts. I am happy to sponsor this legislation, along with Senator

Muth, to raise public awareness of athletic trainers in promoting licensed athletic trainers as an allied health professional.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague, Senator Tomlinson, to support Senate Resolution No. 49 recognizing March as National Athletic Training Month. Prior to my election in 2018, I worked as an athletic trainer in all levels of sports and settings. I have had the privilege of working with amazing athletes at the collegiate, high school, and professional level and traveling to three different countries with student and professional athletes, with dedication and talent like no other. Athletic trainers are tasked with insuring the health, safety, and well-being of those they take care of. That requires patient-centered care. Part of the reason why I am able to operate as a Senator and make well-informed decisions is my knowledge of evidence-based practice. Evidence-based practice means continued review of current and clinical research, just like you should be reviewing research based on how to implement new policies that help the people you are taking care of. My experience as an athletic trainer has also helped me look at things from a proactive standpoint, to prevent bad things from happening, instead of being reactionary. Different techniques with concussion management or different training sessions to prevent knee injuries are very similar to how we can prevent people from going into poverty, or how we can use systems and tracking data to make sure what we are doing does not lead to harm but is actually preventing it.

My experience has also led me to see great results out of those who I have once worked with. I am tremendously grateful for the athletes who still keep in touch with me today. Now that I am a Senator, some of them will certainly send a text updating me on where they are at in their life now. Including, most recently, I learned that one of the football players who I worked with, I think it was my first shoulder rehab at Arizona State University as a grad assistant athletic trainer, is now running to be the mayor of Compton, California. So, it is interesting that after his NFL career he is now going into politics to be a public servant, which I know he will excel at. Thank you, again, to Senator Tomlinson for recognizing this important profession and all the hard work they do, the long hours they work, and for taking care of athletes in all levels and settings.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge a special segment of our population, our farming community. It is not as big of a community as it used to be. We all used to be so close to agriculture, but now most families are several generations removed from the farm. That is why it is even more important than ever to acknowledge our farming community. Actually, yesterday was National Agriculture Day and I did not get the opportunity to make these remarks, but we can celebrate this every day. It really does not have to be a special day of the year. If you ate today, thank a farmer. From every meal you consume, to the clothes on your back, to the turf and trees in your back yard, a farmer has helped make all that and much more possible in our lives. We offer thanks and appreciation to the farmers rising at all hours of the night, if they milk three times a day, to

milk their cows. To the food processing workers caught in a food supply disruption unlike anything we have seen in this country since the Great Depression. To the farmer's market managers who worked tirelessly to insure their markets adapted and survived COVID-19. To the 4-H and FFA students who have diligently raised their animals and completed projects without the fanfare of a farm show. Like many industries, agriculture was deeply impacted by COVID-19. So it is important for us to recognize them this week, actually, which is National Agriculture Week, and to help celebrate their accomplishments. I hope our farming and food supply community knows that we appreciate everything they have done to keep us fed and their work to be good stewards of Pennsylvania's precious natural resources.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge the tragic and preventable epidemic of gun violence in our society. This morning, 10 families in Boulder, Colorado, woke up without the loved ones they had just 2 days ago. For many more families, this week is another week they must carry the trauma of living through yet another mass shooting in America, a trauma they will carry the rest of their lives. Just a few facts and truths, Mr. President, about the Boulder murders. The shooter had mental health issues, as acknowledged publicly yesterday by a family member. He bought an AK-15 just 6 days before the murders, and 10 innocent people are no longer alive. But, of course, Boulder, Colorado, Monday, and Atlanta, Georgia, last week, are not the only mass shootings in the U.S. this year. In the first 2 months of 2021, there have already been 76 mass shootings in the United States, including 9 here in Pennsylvania. One of those occurred in my own district in the town of McKees Rocks, where two people were killed and three more were injured back in January. We cannot continue to stand by and do nothing in the face of this tidal wave of senseless firearm violence. Solving this worsening problem will take the input and contribution of everyone in this Chamber. We all need to ignore the extremists and work to find rational, workable solutions. Let us put aside the "hair on fire" ravings of those who claim that conservatives do not care if children get gunned down or that liberals are bent on confiscating all guns. All of that is nonsense. If there was ever a need to avoid the noise and find commonsense solutions, it is time. It is past time.

Yesterday, colleagues from both Chambers, Republicans and Democrats, participated in an advocacy day event sponsored by CeaseFirePA, one of the many groups here in the Commonwealth working for solutions. We all heard heartbreaking testimony from survivors of gun violence and we heard their pleas for action. One of those issues that nearly all Pennsylvanians agree on is the need to get guns away from people who are clearly a danger to themselves or others. My legislation, Senate Bill No. 134, would empower families and police officers to petition a court to temporarily remove firearms from someone who is a threat to themselves or others. Pennsylvania averages about 900 firearm suicides each year. In nearly half of all mass shootings, the killer openly threatened to harm someone. I am so tired of hearing accounts from heartbroken family members and police officers who are powerless to do anything to prevent these tragedies.

Mr. President, it is time that our laws stand with those who are trying to protect innocent people. It is time that our laws empower families who are trying to get their loved ones the help they need. Under my bill, a family could petition a county common pleas court to suspend someone's access to firearms for up to 1 year. That is modeled after domestic and sexual assault PFAs. That measure would require the person to immediately surrender their guns to the police. This person would also be temporarily banned from buying, selling, or possessing firearms during that suspension. In issuing an extreme protection order, the judge could also refer the person in crisis for evaluation to insure that they get the help they need. I want to make it clear that during the suspension period, this person would have every right to petition a judge to rescind the suspension.

Mr. President, as a Member of this body for many years, I have met with countless responsible, law-abiding gun owners, and I can tell you that sportsmen and gun enthusiasts also do not want to see firearms in the wrong hands. All of these men and women have asked that such a system be fair and limited, that is all they ask, and I agree with them. I, too, want this law to be structured in a way that prevents frivolous accusations through judicial overreach, and I welcome any reasonable idea that would improve my bill and help strike this balance. According to a 2019 survey, extreme risk protection orders have broad support in the United States, with 77 percent supporting family-initiated extreme risk protection orders and 70 percent supporting law enforcement-initiated orders. Mr. President, my extreme risk protection legislation would get guns away from mentally unsound people without violating Second Amendment rights. It is a goal that all of us should be pursuing.

Mr. President, inaction is no longer an option. We need to deal with this issue responsibly, fairly, and quickly. Let us put our heads together and get this done.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I am honored to rise today to offer remarks in celebration of March 25 as Greek Independence Day. Our celebration of Greek Independence Day this year commemorates 200 years since the start of the Greek War of Independence in 1821, which ultimately restored a free state after nearly four centuries of oppressive rule under the Ottoman Empire. When working to reestablish an independent state, Greek Commander in Chief, Petros Mavromichalis, remarked to citizens of the United States that, quote, "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and...in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you."

The ancient Greeks in the city-state of Athens made vital contributions to democratic governments by inventing the concept of citizenship where laws were proposed by citizen assembly and subject to popular vote; by recognizing the principle of separation of powers and independent Athenian legislative, executive, and judicial branches; and by conceding and implementing the concept of trial by jury. The ancient Greeks developed democracy in which the power to govern was vested in the will of the people. Drawing upon the experience and philosophy of ancient Greece, our Founding Fathers formed our nation's own representative democracy. Throughout the twentieth century, Greece has been a staunch ally of the United States in every major interna-

tional conflict, where they have fought bravely alongside our own troops. Sir Winston Churchill said of the Greeks: "Hence we will not say that the Greeks fight like heroes, but heroes fight like Greeks." To this day, the Greek nation remains a reliable strategic partner and steadfast ally of the United States in the pursuit of freedom, peace, stability, and human rights, ideals that have forged a close bond between our nations.

My father first moved from Greece to the United States in pursuit of higher education and opportunity, earning his PhD in economics at the University of Buffalo. I, myself, was born in Athens, and like many Greek Americans, I have been raised to embody the best of American and Greek ideals, values, and culture. Every day Greek Americans across our Commonwealth work towards the American dream while carrying on the heritage and legacy of Greece. As many of you know, I lost my father this past year, making this the first Greek Independence Day without him. It is painful, but I know that I will be able to carry on his memory and legacy as a proud Greek American by sharing my cultural heritage here in the halls of the Senate and with his grandson. Having grown up under the Italian occupation of Greece, Greek Independence Day held a special place in my father's heart and it meant a great deal to him. As a Greek American and the daughter of a Greek immigrant, I proudly introduce Senate Resolution No. 45 celebrating 200 years of Greek Independence Day in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in recognition of National Equal Pay Day, the day each year when white women finally earn the same amount that white men earned during the previous year. I point that out, in particular, that it is Equal Pay Day for white women, because Equal Pay Day for black women will not happen until August 3, it will not happen for indigenous American women until September 8, and it will not happen for Latino women until October 21. Obviously, these numbers represent an average and do not apply to every woman. But, generally speaking, jobs that are seen as women's work--usually, caregiving or service positions like home healthcare workers, childcare workers, or nursing home or elder care workers--are lower-paid positions. Additionally, women take on a larger share of the unpaid work in a home, limiting the hours they can work or requiring them to take an extended break from the workplace, the quote, "mommy penalty." In contrast, women who take positions in jobs seen as, quote, "men's work" can face outright discrimination or harassment, but can also face assumptions that they are not qualified to be in that position by virtue of being a woman. An attorney mistaken for a secretary, a doctor mistaken for a nurse, a Senator, this Senator, mistaken for a staffer.

These disparities existed before COVID-19, but as has happened with so many other shortcomings in our social safety net, the pandemic not only highlighted the problem but, in fact, made it far worse. Women have lost far more jobs than men during the pandemic, bearing the brunt of the unemployment crisis. For example, in December 2020, women accounted for all of the job losses countrywide. Men experienced growth in jobs that month. Fifty-five percent of the jobs lost in 2020 were held by women, even though women typically make up a little less than half of the workforce. More than 2.5 million women left the labor

workforce between February 2020 and January of this year, compared to 1.8 million men. The industries hit hardest by the pandemic have been those staffed by prominently women: healthcare, education, elder care, service, and hospitality.

But these job losses only make up for part of the explanation. Women are leaving the workforce because their support systems have disappeared in the wake of the pandemic. As kids across the country began learning from home and childcare centers closed, many without the hope of reopening, women shouldered the burden of full-time parenting, managing online schooling, and working at the same time. I have several moms in my office juggling these responsibilities. While I am able to provide a supportive work environment that allows them to have some balance and flexibility in their home and work life, I know they struggle to feel like they are getting it all done. Multiply this across the country and essential workplaces that have not had the ability to work from home, or with employers who have not been flexible, and you have a recipe for an entire generation of women feeling forced out of the workforce.

This year, Equal Pay Day for white women is March 24. But the way the pandemic has affected the labor market, we may see that date moving further and further into the year in years to come. That is to say nothing about how long our sisters of color will have to wait to receive their equal pay days. But there are things that we can do to lift up workers, and women in particular. We can fund childcare centers, insuring that those who need quality childcare to work are able to find it. We can fully fund our schools so the next generation of leaders are ready to enter the workforce. We can support organized labor, which insures that workers receive equal pay for equal work regardless of gender or race. Let us work together to make Equal Pay Day for everyone December 31.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Equal Pay Day. It represents the average that women must work in the next year before they make what men made ending on December 31 of the previous year. To acknowledge that inequality, today is recognized as women's Equal Pay Day. As some may know, this pandemic has hurt women the most by far. Add layers of intersectionality, and you can see the real burden this pandemic has taken on women of color, in particular. When it comes to pay, we know there are inequities. If we break down women's earnings by race and ethnicity compared to what a white, non-Hispanic man makes, the inequality is stark. According to the National Women's Law Center, in Pennsylvania, women make 79.3 cents for every dollar a man makes. Black women make 66.2 cents, and Latina women make only 55.5 cents for every dollar a white, non-Hispanic man in this Commonwealth makes. It has been 58 years since President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Law into Federal law, yet we still have not reached equal pay in the United States. Pennsylvania's Equal Pay Act has not been updated since 1967 and is one of the weakest in the country. We must do better.

I am proud to join my colleagues in support of their legislation aiming to rectify this issue. However, I have also introduced a cosponsorship memo today that will require employers to disclose the pay range on job postings or the minimum compensa-

tion when a pay range does not exist. Disclosing pay ranges levels the playing field in job negotiations and helps applicants and employees detect and remedy any unjustified pay disparities. Transparency around salary ranges also provides companies with an opportunity to proactively review and evaluate their compensation practices and address any unjustified disparities between employees. Studies show that when job applicants are clearly informed about the context for negotiations, including the types of compensation, benefits, or conditions that are negotiable, or the typical pay for the position, women are more willing to negotiate, more successful in negotiating, and the gender wage gap narrows. Requiring employers to disclose the pay range on job postings prevents employers from perpetuating pay inequities due to the legacy of paying women and people of color less for equal work and excluding women and people of color from certain jobs and industries entirely.

Please join me in promoting fair workplaces, which will be better for employees and better for business in the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta.

Senator COMMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on my resolution designating the month of March 2021 as Music in Our Schools Month, Theatre in Our Schools Month, Dance in Our Schools Month, and Youth Art Month in Pennsylvania. We know that music, theatre, dance, and the arts in education plays an important and invaluable role in the growth, development, and education of our young people. Music and arts education engages students in their creative, cultural, aesthetic, intellectual, social, physical, and emotional development. Studies show that these activities have a positive impact on student discipline, confidence, achievement, compassion and empathy for others, and future academic and career success.

Like many areas of education, the pandemic has presented unique challenges to music, theatre, dance, and arts education; challenges at a time when, perhaps, these programs are needed the most. Today, I applaud and recognize the teachers and school staff who are embracing innovation and ingenuity to continue to safely bring these opportunities to our young people. During this time of anxiety and uncertainty, music and the arts continue to offer a healthy and productive outlet for all of us, especially our kids. Music and the arts can be a refuge, a source of inspiration, and a way to explore our innermost selves and our most daring dreams. As we look forward to the post-pandemic era, I hope we continue to recognize the value of music and arts programs in our schools so that they are not first, or ever, on the chopping block when it comes to budget season.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for cosponsoring and supporting this resolution. I am a product of music education in our schools. To this day, I have the joy of playing violin, piano, and, occasionally, sousaphone. I know that my colleagues share the joy and appreciation, the value of music, dance, theater, and the arts and a rousing performance. The arts bring us together. We need the comfort, joy, and inspiration that the arts bring to us now more than ever. So, this all begins with the arts and education in our schools, which we celebrate this month.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

RECESS

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, April 19, 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 12:31 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.