

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

SESSION OF 2021 205th OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 22

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, April 28, 2021

The Senate met at 11 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.

In Psalm 138 we hear the hymn of a grateful heart. "I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; before the gods to you I sing. I bow low toward your holy temple; I praise your name for your fidelity and love."

Heavenly Father, today I ask You to bless us with grateful hearts. Help us to be thankful for the many blessings You have bestowed upon us. The brightness of Your glory; the goodness of Your love, mercy, and forgiveness; the beauty of Your peace; and the presence of Your hope. Help us to walk in faith and be thankful for these great gifts. All this we ask in Your name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator J. WARD, from the Committee on Aging and Youth, reported the following bills:

SB 484 (Pr. No. 500)

An Act amending the act of November 24, 2015 (P.L.232, No.64), known as the Pennsylvania Long-term Care Council Act, further providing for Pennsylvania Long-term Care Council.

HB 464 (Pr. No. 1392) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1234, No.204), known as the Family Caregiver Support Act, further providing for title of act, for intent, for definitions, for primary caregiver support program, for reimbursements, for entitlement not created and for enforcement.

Senator YUDICHAK, from the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development, reported the following bill:

SB 243 (Pr. No. 688) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in games of chance, providing for games of chance operations during disaster emergency.

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

SB 477 (Pr. No. 689) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in consolidated county assessment, further providing for definitions, for changes in assessed valuation and for abstracts of building and demolition permits to be forwarded to the county assessment office.

SB 478 (Pr. No. 503)

An Act amending the act of October 27, 1979 (P.L.241, No.78), entitled "An act authorizing political subdivisions, municipality authorities and transportation authorities to enter into contracts for the purchase of goods and the sale of real and personal property where no bids are received," further providing for title of the act; adding a short title; and providing for contracts for services.

SB 479 (Pr. No. 504)

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246, No.47), known as the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, in municipal financial distress, further providing for designation and for performance of coordinator; and, in receivership in municipalities, further providing for receiver.

SB 480 (Pr. No. 505)

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in associations and organizations, further providing for associations and organizations for mayors; in elections of officers, further providing for eligibility; in powers, duties and rights of appointed officers and employees, further providing for appointments and incompatible offices and for police serving under cooperative agreement or contract; in corporate powers, further providing for specific powers; in taxation and finance, further providing for investment of funds; providing for solid waste collection and disposition; and, in ordinances, further providing for ordinances and resolutions and for publication.

SB 524 (Pr. No. 599)

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in home rule and optional plan government, further providing for submission of question for election of gov-

ernment study commission and for limitation on enactment of ordinance or filing of petition.

Senator PITTMAN, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following bills:

SB 157 (Pr. No. 139)

An Act providing for the establishment of first-time home buyer savings accounts for first-time home buyers in this Commonwealth.

SB 439 (Pr. No. 457)

An Act amending the act of April 8, 1982 (P.L.310, No.87), referred to as the Recorder of Deeds Fee Law, further providing for county demolition funds.

Senator STEFANO, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following bills:

SB 150 (Pr. No. 130)

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' pensions and benefits, further providing for blind veteran's pension and for amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension.

SB 461 (Pr. No. 469)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, further providing for organization.

SB 550 (Pr. No. 686) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.723, No.230), known as the Second Class County Code, in special powers and duties of the county, further providing for flags to decorate graves.

SB 556 (Pr. No. 687) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), referred to as the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, further providing for death benefits relating to COVID-19 and for definitions.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator STEFANO, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following resolution:

SR 96 (Pr. No. 680)

A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a performance audit on the provision of 911 communications service under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 53.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Stefano. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of January 25, 2021, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of January 25, 2021.

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

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator K. WARD and were as follows, viz:

YEA-47

Argall	Costa	Martin	Schwank
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Dush	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
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	Langerholc	Saval	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 26 and **HB 56** -- 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 74 (Pr. No. 684) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, it is an honor to stand here today with my colleagues in this body and rise in support of Senate Bill No. 74. Senate Bill No. 74 allocates up to \$10 million in tax credits annually over a 10-year period, or potentially \$100 million over a decade, to qualifying pediatric cancer research institutions in Pennsylvania as designated by the Secretary of Health. Each institution could potentially earn up to \$2 1/2 million in any given year for pediatric cancer research, and the money must exclusively be utilized for pediatric cancer research.

So why is this important? It is important because less than 4 percent of cancer research funding is allocated towards pediatric cancer research. Meanwhile, cancer remains the leading cause of death by illness for those under the age of 15. Due to lack of research, many of the treatments for pediatric cancer kids were actually designed for adults. Generations ago, in many cases, they caused long-term physical, psychological, and emotional damage. It is also noteworthy that throughout the course of the last couple of years there have been shortages of these critical, lifesaving treatments, which have caused rationing of drugs like vincristine. I have been very proud of this body for its support of children with pediatric cancer research over the last couple of years, and we have done a lot to help them in some of the most trying battles that we can imagine. This, however, is probably the biggest, most critical need. I believe all of us--and I see so many gold ribbons being worn by my colleagues or gold color in honor of the day--have met families or even have loved ones who have gone through these battles.

I often wonder sometimes--you know--if I am having a bad day or I am listening to my children who tell me how difficult their day was, I often think about these kids. I think about these kids who are battling this deadly disease--by no fault of their own--and I think even more about those who not only are engaged in that battle every day, but then they have the courage to come up here with their families to battle, to find a cure, to find better treatments, because they do not want to see future kids go through that same pain. They do not want to see future parents have to go through this pain alongside their children as well. This is important. I believe we will have the support to get this done from the Senate, and I pray that we get it through the House this year and to the Governor's desk. There is no better way to honor those who have come here to make this difference, but also to

honor those angels who we have already lost, by passing this bill and saying that this is a priority. These children, their battle, their families, and those angels who have gone before us are a priority to us all.

So I urge my colleagues to once again stand with these children and the families that battle pediatric cancer and say enough is enough--we need to tackle this challenge. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Kane.

Senator KANE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Bill No. 74. I thank the gentleman from Lancaster County and my colleagues for introducing and supporting this bill. This is personal for me, again. For those of you who do not know, 6 years ago I was diagnosed with cancer. When you get a cancer diagnosis, it feels like a death sentence. You feel like your world is ending. For me, my first thought was, I was not going to walk my daughter down the aisle. I am happy to say, in June of 2019, I was able to walk my oldest daughter, Samantha, down the aisle.

(Applause.)

I cannot imagine what that would feel like as a child--to feel like your life has an end date already set before you have a chance to live it. Yet, hundreds of children across Pennsylvania experience that reality every single year. This bill will allow Pennsylvanians to expand pediatric cancer research and save lives. I urge a "yes" vote, and I thank all my colleagues for taking action on this important issue. Thank you.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I am sorry. I apologize for not getting notice to you earlier. I want to rise and take a few moments to, first and foremost, thank the gentleman from Lancaster County for putting forth this pediatric cancer research program, which I think is essential and one of the good things that we can do here in this General Assembly before our work is done through this budget process. I would be remiss if I did not rise and talk a little bit about one of those families, who the gentleman from Lancaster County mentioned, who gets up every day and deals with this issue. One of our colleagues, my good friend from Allegheny County, Senator Fontana, for the past several years has been working in this space because his granddaughter suffered, and is in remission now, from pediatric cancer. As a close friend, I know how much it has weighed on him and his family, but he addressed it. In the Pittsburgh region, he has put together fundraising events for the past 6 or 7 years or so that raise money through this work that he donates to the research facilities in Pittsburgh, UPMC and Highmark--or I should say the Allegheny Health Network--to fund pediatric cancer research.

So, I certainly understand what Senator Martin was talking about, because that is exactly what our colleague has gone through with his family, and I would be remiss if I did not let my colleagues know what he has been dealing with but, more importantly, the work that he has been doing in this space to address precisely what was talked about, providing research dollars to be able to find a cure as we go forward.

So I, too, join my colleagues in asking that we support this legislation, work together, and fight hard through this budgetary process to make certain that we bring this to closure and fund it by June 30, when we conclude our budget work.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to support this legislation as well. I can only imagine what families go through who are dealing with a child who is suffering from cancer. You know, at this time our family is dealing with the plagues of cancer as one of our former colleagues, my uncle, former Senator Milton Street, has stage IV cancer. As we deal with the challenges, and he is an adult, we are able to understand what he is going through. I can only imagine what it would be like for a person who is just starting out in life, who has not had a chance to raise children and grandchildren and, indeed, see great-grandchildren born, who does not quite understand why this is happening. My uncle often explains to me, he says, son, however this works out, I have had a good life. I have been privileged to do things that many people could only dream of. I can only imagine, if you are looking into the eyes of a child whose life has just begun, how much more troubling this would be.

So, I thank the gentleman from Lancaster for sponsoring this bill, and I urge a "yes" vote as well.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair would also like to acknowledge the loss of our own colleague, Senator Arnold, to cancer at this time.

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-47

Argall	Costa	Martin	Schwank
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Dush	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
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	Langerholc	Saval	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	

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.
(Applause.)

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 78 -- 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 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 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-47

Argall	Costa	Martin	Schwank
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Dush	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
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	Langerholc	Saval	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	

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

HB 101 -- 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 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 third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, today I rise to ask my colleagues to support a lifesaving piece of legislation. Mr. President, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how important it is to ensure that our most vulnerable patients in Pennsylvania receive the critical care they so desperately need. This is espe-

cially true for patients who require highly specialized care, including ventilators. We are all one car accident away from needing such care, including those suffering from debilitating diseases such as multiple sclerosis, ALS, Parkinson's disease, and the list goes on and on. Providing this kind of lifesaving treatment is complex and expensive, and we have learned that facilities which offer this care have not been adequately compensated for the services that they do provide. This is why it is so critical for us to ensure that patients can continue to rely on essential services at a time when our entire Commonwealth needs them most.

Senate Bill No. 108, which I have cosponsored with our colleague, Senator Laughlin, would provide additional and adequate dedicated Medicaid funding to nursing facilities that serve a substantial number of patients who require ventilator and tracheostomy care. The Medicaid reimbursement funding shortfall for nursing facilities that specialize in providing this care has existed for over a decade. As a matter of fact, Senator Laughlin and I introduced this bill before anyone knew about COVID-19. However, these concerns and the need to ensure continued access to these providers has only been heightened by the global health pandemic. We hear every day about the need for ventilator equipment and the services provided by just a handful of facilities in Pennsylvania. We cannot allow these facilities to close. Currently, just 10 facilities in the Commonwealth treat nearly half of the State's 650 patients who require these services annually. If we lose any of these key providers, we lose regional access to this care for families. Studies show that the support of families and friends is vital to the recovery of delicate patients. These patients lose the places that they call home and risk their lives relocating to hospitals where the care is not only four times more expensive, and possibly 6 hours away, but also extremely dangerous for their already compromised, highly vulnerable immune systems. If we lose these providers, we lose these Pennsylvanians. It is that simple.

The time to act and finally help ensure that these few providers are able to continue providing lifesaving care is right now. We cannot protect ventilator- and tracheostomy-dependent patients' lives without these nursing facilities that already have the specialized equipment, supplies, and trained staff in place. Ensuring providers are reimbursed for these costs will not only preserve access to care, but will also provide an incentive for more providers to offer these services in their own communities. Thank you to Senator Laughlin for cosponsoring this legislation with me and to many of our colleagues who have provided strong bipartisan support for this measure. I urge an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 108 for the hundreds of patients who rely on this care and the thousands of us who may need this care one day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to echo my colleague in supporting Senate Bill No. 108. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities across the Commonwealth have faced a shortage of ventilator beds. In 2019, the largest provider of ventilator and tracheostomy care in the State filed for bankruptcy protection due to the chronic underfunding of these services for Medicaid patients. The coronavirus outbreak has brought to light the critical nature of ventilator care and the dire consequences when that care is not

readily available. In fact, it is among the top concerns consistently identified by healthcare providers and advocates. Before the outbreak upended our daily lives, I had the opportunity to visit the Fox Subacute skilled nursing facility in my district where I met Zafir Borroughs, or "Z" as he likes to be called, who has been a ventilator patient at Fox since 2008. Z, who has muscular dystrophy, chose to make Fox Subacute his home for a very relatable reason: he was sick of living with his parents and he wanted some independence. The idea of being moved from his chosen home terrifies him; because, like his fellow ventilator patients across the Commonwealth, Z could be forced to find care and housing elsewhere since Fox has filed for bankruptcy due to decreased rate reimbursement. In the lead-up to when this bill was first introduced last Session, Z was so determined and excited to visit Harrisburg and share his story with you personally last March. With the pandemic still impacting his ability to meet with legislators, he is stuck having to rely on me to convey how much his home means to him.

Z is a wonderful ambassador for the many patients at these facilities who cannot speak for themselves. While many are short-term patients recovering from an illness or surgical procedure, others are long-term residents, victims of car accidents, and other traumatic brain injuries. So many of their families have reached out to me. They want their family members to be nearby where they can visit, where they know and trust the staff. Without this legislation, these patients could be moved to any open ventilator bed. Before the COVID-19 crisis, this meant the possibility of being hundreds of miles away from family and known caregivers or returning to a hospital where costs are higher and outcomes for this type of patient are worse. All that was before our hospital ventilator beds were in such high demand with COVID-19 and regular ICU surgical patients. Now, more than ever, facilities like Fox Subacute at Warrington, in my district, are vital to maintaining our fragile healthcare system. Z and trach/vent patients all across the Commonwealth are relying on us to ensure that their care and their homes remain intact.

By voting in favor of Senate Bill No. 108, we can support patients in need of care, ensure skilled nurses and staff in need of family-sustaining wages have jobs, prevent local businesses from closing, alleviate hospitals of increased risk, and ensure open beds are used for additional patients. I thank Senator Bartolotta and Senator Laughlin for working to bring this bill to a vote, and, again, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on Senate Bill No. 108.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, just a very brief comment. I think it has all been said, but I thank Senator Bartolotta and Senator Laughlin for their dogged determination in trying to get this bill done. They have been working on it for several Sessions now, and I think it is so important. For somebody who has a facility in their district--Fox Subacute--all it took for me was to take a quick visit to that facility to realize how vitally important it is for those who are in treatment and the families of those who are in treatment. I think it is adding insult to injury when an institution like that is closed down and families have to travel long distances to visit, as if they have not been through enough.

So, I think this funding is so vital for these folks who have suffered extremely unfortunate circumstances, and we should

work together to make sure that we remedy this so they can go on getting the care they need in a facility close to where they live. So, thank you very much, again, for giving me the time, Mr. President, and thank you to those great Senators who have strongly supported this. Thank you.

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-47

Argall	Costa	Martin	Schwank
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Dush	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
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	Langerholc	Saval	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	

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 113, HB 124, SB 137, SB 147, SB 156 and SB 274 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 425 (Pr. No. 616) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13), known as the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act, in medical professional liability, further providing for informed consent.

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-47

Argall	Costa	Martin	Schwank
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Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Dush	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
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	Langerholc	Saval	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	

NAY-0

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

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

SB 434 (Pr. No. 441) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in food protection, providing for milk sell by date and best by date labeling.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Beaver, Senator Vogel.

Senator VOGEL. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 434, which I cosponsored along with Senator Schwank and Senator Judy Ward, provides for milk sell-by date and best-by date labeling as per the recommendations of the Dairy Future Commission, which was part of the PA Farm Bill we passed in 2019.

Specifically, this legislation will allow milk plants the option to apply to the Department of Agriculture to label milk in excess of the current 17-day limitation so long as the milk plant has met the required criteria with regard to testing and bacteria limits. The reason this is so important is because surrounding States, now, when they put out an RFP for milk, they want 18 to 20 days. With Pennsylvania's 17-day limitation, our dairy processors are cut out of the process of bidding on milk for other stores and places that would sell milk because of our 17-day limitation when surrounding States and places have 18- to 20-day limitations. So, this is a commonsense piece of legislation which I believe will help our dairy processors here in Pennsylvania, and I encourage a positive vote. Thank you very much.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, my colleague, Senator Vogel, did a great job of explaining what this bill is about, but there are a few other things that I would like to remark on. One is to thank Senator Corman who, actually, it was his bill that was the formation of the Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission. That was Senate Bill No. 585 which we passed a couple of years ago. This is one of the ideas that came out of that commission, which I served on with Senator Vogel and Senator Judy Ward. So there were 54 recommendations to assist the industry that

came out of this commission. This is one of the first ones that we are actually able to implement.

Yes, it is certainly going to help our dairy processors. We need to know that we are the only State left that has this limitation, other than the State of Montana. I also believe this bill will be good for consumers as well. They will have much more confidence that the milk they purchase on the shelf is actually fresh and they can keep it in the refrigerator for a longer period of time. Also, I believe that this will have benefits to our food banks as well, because we see, as we have during the pandemic and, really, years before, that there is a desire now for fresher foods and for foods that all of us consume, like great dairy products. This will ensure that those milk products will also have the opportunity to be sold by food banks as well, or to be purchased by food banks and distributed by them. So, you know, it is a small step, but it is a step forward. As we know, our dairy industry certainly could use all the help it could get. This body has, actually, done a good job of that and I urge my colleagues to continue that record by supporting this bill. Thank you.

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-47

Argall	Costa	Martin	Schwank
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Dush	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
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	Langerholc	Saval	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	

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

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 28 (Pr. No. 10) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the administration of permits by State agencies, for a tracking system for permit applications, for the establishment

of permit programs, for third-party review of permit decision delays and for annual reports.

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.

SB 32 (Pr. No. 14) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for definitions, for proposed regulations and procedures for review and for final-form regulations and final-omitted regulations and procedures for review; providing for regulations deemed withdrawn; further providing for procedures for subsequent review of disapproved final-form or final-omitted regulations; providing for concurrent resolution required for economically significant regulations; further providing for existing regulations; and providing for State agency regulatory compliance officers and for Independent Office of the Repealer.

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

HB 104, HB 108 and SB 119 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 126 (Pr. No. 98) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for definitions and for existing regulations.

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

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 178 (Pr. No. 1370) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, in administration of act, further providing for records of and reports by employers; in compensation, further providing for qualifications required to secure compensation and for rate and amount of compensation; in determination of compensation, appeals, reviews and procedure, further providing for determination of compensation appeals and for decision of referee and further appeals and reviews; and, in shared-work program, further providing for participating employer responsibilities.

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 184 (Pr. No. 964) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in criminal homicide, further providing for the offense of causing or aiding suicide.

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

HB 186, SB 224, HB 230, SB 236, SB 241, SB 283, HB 284, SB 286 and SB 312 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 319 (Pr. No. 327) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, in liability and compensation, further providing for compensable injuries, subrogation and proration.

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 REREFERRED

SB 423 (Pr. No. 427) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in membership, credited service, classes of service, and eligibility for benefits relating to retirement for State employees and officers, further providing for mandatory and optional membership in the system and participation in the plan; and, in benefits, further providing for termination of annuities.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 425 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 426 (Pr. No. 430) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for definitions, for proposed regulations and procedures for review, for final-form regulations and final-omitted regulations and procedures for review and for procedures for subsequent review of disapproved final-form or final-omitted regulations.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 427 (Pr. No. 939) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in Pennsylvania liquor stores, further providing for sales by Pennsylvania liquor stores.

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 435, SB 441, SB 455 and SB 463 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 486 (Pr. No. 515) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act, in preliminary provisions, providing for preference for training programs.

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.

SB 503 (Pr. No. 527) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 28, 1935 (P.L.477, No.193), referred to as the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law, further providing for disability benefits and for definitions.

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.

SB 520 (Pr. No. 526) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for definitions, for proposed regulations and procedures for review and for final-form regulations and final-omitted regulations and procedures for review; and providing for concurrent resolution required for economically significant regulations.

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 521 (Pr. No. 541) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other offenses, further providing for the offense of invasion of privacy.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 533 (Pr. No. 511) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, prohibiting certain regulatory action 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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 552, SB 554, SB 562, SB 563, SB 566 and HB 951 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator BOSCOLA. 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 150, SB 157, SB 243, SB 439, SB 461, SB 477, SB 478, SB 479, SB 480, SB 484, SB 524, SB 550, SB 556 and HB 464.

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, APRIL 29, 2021

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS and EDUCATION (joint public hearing on PASSHE update)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
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FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021

10:00 A.M.	LAW AND JUSTICE (S) and LIQUOR CONTROL (H) (joint public hearing on ready-to-drink beverages)	House Maj. Caucus Rm. Room 140 Main Capitol
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THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

9:30 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (S) and	Room G-50 Irvis Off.
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VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (H) (joint public hearing on Pennsylvania's veterans home care and COVID-19 mitigation protocols)
CANCELLED

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021

10:30 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (public hearing on expansion of 5G and small cell wireless infrastructure in Pennsylvania - Part 2)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
11:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 73, 237, 351 and 664; and House Bills No. 365, 412 and 416)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 82, 115, 251, 323, 341, 403, 432, 442 and 445)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021

9:30 A.M.	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 279 and 568)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
10:00 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY and LOCAL GOVERNMENT (joint public hearing to consider Senate Bill No. 275)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
10:30 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (public hearing on a potential data breach with the Department of Health's contact tracing vendor)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)
12:30 P.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 519, 559 and 561; and House Bill No. 854)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

9:00 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS and ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (joint public hearing to discuss Senate Bill No. 284 (Yaw) - bonding of solar and wind installations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
9:00 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (public hearing on PennDOT's Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

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 Irvis Off.
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I had the opportunity this morning to meet with some of our folks from our nursing home industry and talk about their concerns. It is kind of ironic and appropriate today because, obviously, that industry is facing dramatic problems right now. Although there are many, one of the most critical is their workforce and trying to find people who are not burning out because of the difficulty of the job they have, the stress of the job they have, and finding new people to come in and replace those workers under such difficult circumstances that we have seen for the last 13 months during this COVID-19 pandemic. So today, ironically, I was prepared to come anyway, and maybe it is appropriate since I had that meeting this morning, to talk about a couple things in my district, about our healthcare workforce and the great things they are doing. I want to take a moment to pay tribute to those folks in my district.

We have all lost family members, friends, and critical members of our community to this pandemic. But as I said, maybe one of the silver linings that came out of it is what a dedicated workforce we have seen, and really heroes of our community. As a matter of fact, they even called it hero pay, they try to give people extra pay to come and do the difficult work they have to do. Recently, my local hospital, the Mount Nittany Medical Center, located in State College, was honored by *Newsweek* as one of the top 350 hospitals in the world in 2021. Not just our State or our nation, but the world. It was one of the 15 hospitals in the State to earn that designation. So I think, first of all, it is a great thing for Pennsylvania to have 15 hospitals recognized as top hospitals in the world and, obviously, living in Centre County all my life, having the Centre County hospital listed as one of the top hospitals in the world is really a great honor for them and well-deserved for all the very difficult work they have done. Also, one of the healthcare organizations, a free medical and dental clinic in my district, Centre Volunteers in Medicine, which I will get the opportunity to be with on Saturday, reached a milestone of administering over 20,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and by May 1 they think that will climb to 25,000. So, Centre Volunteers in Medicine has always stepped up in our community to help folks and people who have difficulty paying for healthcare to receive healthcare. As expected, during a crisis, they stepped up again and are becoming a vaccine outlet for people and have done an amazing job of getting shots in the arms, which is so important. They refer to themselves as the little vaccine clinic that could, and I think that is a very appropriate name. I am very excited for their work. Pennsylvania has come a long way under the leadership of our Secretary of Health and the legislative task force in moving Pennsylvania from one of the slowest States in the nation on getting vaccines out to now one of the fastest, and the fastest among the big States. So, obviously, there is good news there, as well.

Finally, Mr. President, my hometown of Bellefonte started a thing a year ago, and it is continuing and coming up on May 2. They are honoring their frontline heroes with something they call Bells Across Pennsylvania Day. It is on Sunday, May 2. It is an expression of gratitude and we are encouraging all residents, businesses, and churches to ring their bells for 3 minutes at 7

p.m. on Sunday to honor those hometown heroes. They did it last year in the height of the pandemic, and they are going to do it again. I think it is a great tribute. We can all walk out of our houses with whatever bells we may have, all across Pennsylvania, and take a moment to thank these workers and the workforce who have literally put their own lives on the line to go into these settings to assist those who are sick from the pandemic. I had that meeting this morning and I thought, what an appropriate time for me to come and honor a couple of organizations in my district that are trying to do great things. Even though things are becoming normal again in little ways, and this vaccine is getting out, there are still challenges in that industry; and I wanted to take a moment today and recognize the healthcare workers all across Pennsylvania and also some of the local organizations in my district that are doing great things.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from York, Senator Phillips-Hill.

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the observance of Donate Life Month here in Pennsylvania and thank my colleagues for their support of this commemoration. Organ and tissue donation is a corrective and lifesaving medical procedure, and each person who donates can potentially save or enhance more than 75 lives and take 8 people off the organ transplant waiting list. It is estimated that more than 107,000 people throughout the United States are awaiting life-saving organ transplants, and 7,000 of those people are right here in Pennsylvania. On average, 20 people will die each day in the United States waiting for a transplant. In 2020, approximately 12,000 individuals in the United States, including 687 people right here in Pennsylvania, elected to give through organ donation after their death. This is true heroism and should be recognized and honored.

In November 2008, the morning of Thanksgiving, our dear friends lost their son as a result of an impaired driver on Interstate 83. It was Thanksgiving morning. In the midst of their incomprehensible pain at the loss of their son, their son's simple act of becoming an organ donor provided them peace, comfort, and solace. It would be hard for me to imagine that just 5 years later, in November 2013, my own family would be on a journey that ended with my own father receiving the greatest gift, the gift of life, as he was the recipient of a donated heart. He would not be here today were it not for someone's incredible bravery and selflessness in making the choice to be a donor.

We would be remiss if we did not also take a moment to reflect on the work of those incredible transplant medical team professionals and researchers who make donation possible, as well as to reflect on those incredible individuals who have passed but whose choice to donate is keeping someone else alive. They truly are heroes. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to visit www.donatelifepa.org to learn more about organ donation or to register online to add the designation to their driver's licenses or State identification cards.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, today I rise in support of efforts that will ensure that, moving forward, all Pennsylvania governors work with the legislature when handling emergency disasters that last beyond 21 days. We have learned over

the past year that this is critical so that we can better protect our communities, schools, and businesses. When we work together, government works better. That is why I voted "yes" on several potential constitutional amendments earlier this year, including two measures to restore checks and balances to a governor's executive powers. These measures will appear as ballot questions in the primary election on May 18.

I have maintained from the very beginning of this public health crisis that began over a year ago that it is possible to protect both lives and livelihoods. These are not mutually exclusive. I believe these amendments do just that by appropriately requiring cooperation and communication between the branches of government when a prolonged disaster strikes. The amendments we passed were very straightforward and easy to explain. One amendment would limit emergency declarations to 21 days unless the General Assembly approves an extension if it is warranted. The other amendment would give the General Assembly the power to vote to end an emergency declaration by passing a simple resolution to that effect. It is important to note that these provisions are not exclusive to Governor Wolf. They would apply to all future governors, both Republican and Democrat, in all future emergencies. These measures would mean that no single branch of government, not the executive, legislative, nor judicial branch, could maintain unilateral power during an emergency. It would mandate a cooperative and collaborative process.

I have continually heard concerns from the healthcare community that the Governor's initial shutdown caused sick people, who did not have COVID-19, to be so terrified of the pandemic that they were not going to the emergency room when they needed it. Making matters more problematic was the fact that no elective procedures and medical screens for life-threatening illnesses could be performed for 7 weeks under the Governor's order. We are now seeing that cases relating to depression, mental illness, and food insecurity are skyrocketing. Domestic violence service providers and child protective services are bracing for historic increases. Many of these problems will take months or years to resolve. Many of the harmful consequences that have occurred as a result of the statewide shutdown could have been significantly mitigated if the Wolf Administration would have worked with State lawmakers in the beginning of the fight against this pandemic.

Mr. President, I voted "yes" to bring these amendments to the people of Pennsylvania so that their voices are heard. I strongly encourage voters to know what a "yes" vote means on these constitutional amendments during the spring primary on May 18.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Tartaglione has submitted remarks for the record. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

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

Mr. President, today marks 5,408 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 14 years, and it is far too long.

Mr. President, as pandemic mitigation protocols ease for taverns and restaurants across the Commonwealth, and as these popular businesses begin welcoming more patrons through their doors, we have been reading and watching a lot of news reporting about a shortage of

workers in the industry. Typically, the reports showcase interviews with business owners discussing their fruitless efforts to fill open staff positions and why, as the proprietors will often say in so many words, good help is hard to find. I cringe to repeat such a stale and, frankly, disrespectful adage, but that is the essence of the message we are being told by understandably frustrated business owners via media organizations large and small.

Even worse, the interviewees and interviewers are all too often content to perpetuate the simplistic and rhetorical notion that enhanced pandemic-related unemployment benefits are to blame—that working folks would now rather sit at home, indifferent to the potential long-term consequences it might cause them. That said, I was pleasantly surprised to read an article from the *Standard-Speaker*, from northeastern PA, recently in which the top official from one of the State's leading hospitality industry organizations was quoted as offering a more thoughtful and elaborate assessment of labor market conditions. He acknowledged that the pandemic has led workers to realize there is a fundamental flaw with many of the jobs the industry has to offer—that waiting on tables or tending bar is not the type of stable, recession-proof career they want for themselves or their families.

Yes, money is a factor, but it is one of many. There is a much bigger picture to see. Workers are also concerned about their personal health and protecting themselves from the whims of patrons who resist basic precautions like social distancing and mask-wearing. In fact, I point to one specific occasion when a liquor store worker performed his required task of asking a patron to don a mask upon entry to the store. The worker was instead responded to with a "Heil Hitler" and raised arm which was once the Nazi salute. This worker and many like him want a safe work place, access to paid sick and vacation leave, affordable childcare, and other benefits. They want consistent, predictable earnings that Pennsylvania's antiquated tip credit system deprives them of. They want the financial stability that will enable them to further their education, buy a home, and plan for their long-term future.

Mr. President, there has long been a glaring need for an overhaul of our minimum wage law, including the tipped minimum wage. The coronavirus pandemic has only hastened that need. The need will not be satisfied by one-time hiring bonuses or the haphazard, delayed, and deficient wage increases that some employers have finally decided to offer prospective employees—the kind of anecdotal narratives that seem to be the focus of most of the reporting on the topic of late.

On the other hand, my legislation, Senate Bill No. 12, would create meaningful and universal reform in our minimum wage law. It would end the tipped minimum wage and ensure that wages for all Pennsylvania workers, including tip earners, increase regularly and predictably as consumer prices increase. Senate Bill No. 12 would help to solve the worker shortages that many of our tavern and restaurant owners have been talking about of late. For the benefits of the industry and its workers, I urge the Senate to advance my legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to offer remarks in support of Senate Resolution No. 95, which recognizes the first week in May as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week. Tardive Dyskinesia, or TD, is associated with taking certain kinds of important medications, such as antipsychotics, that help control dopamine, a chemical in the brain. These antipsychotics are prescribed to treat conditions like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Research done by the Citizens Commission on Human Rights shows that more than 12 million Americans take antipsychotics and that more than 500,000 of those patients may have TD. However, it is estimated that upwards of 50 percent of TD cases in the U.S. are undiagnosed. The condition is often misunderstood due to a lack of public awareness, and symptoms can be mistaken for other conditions such as Parkinson's disease or tic disorders. TD may continue indefinitely, even after stopping or changing medications. However, the ear-

lier it is diagnosed, the better the chances that treatment will be effective.

TD is often seen through involuntary movements in the lips, jaw, tongue, and eyes, though it can also affect other parts of the body, including the upper body, arms, hands, legs, and feet. Movements may appear to be rapid and jerky or slow and writhing in a repetitive, continuous, or random pattern. The uncontrollable movements of TD may be disruptive to people's lives both because of the symptoms themselves and due to the social and emotional impacts of living with the disorder. It is important for patients and their friends and family alike to be educated on the symptoms of TD and how they can be treated and managed. Recent pharmaceutical breakthroughs are capable of supporting individuals with TD so that their underlying conditions requiring the antipsychotics can still be treated. Now, more than ever before, people living with TD can feel the hope and confidence of treatment.

I am proud to stand before you, Mr. President, and my colleagues to speak on these issues and offer my support to our constituents in the Commonwealth who experience TD. Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week aims to educate the public about this condition and promote assistance for those who may be affected. By increasing education, awareness, and recognition of TD, we can give those who may be suffering the knowledge necessary to start a conversation with their doctor and work toward diagnosis and treatment. I hope that we will take the time to learn about TD and have conversations with our own families and loved ones who may be silently tackling those challenges.

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 talk about International Workers' Memorial Day. Every year on April 28, the world recognizes an international day of remembrance and action for workers killed, disabled, injured, or made unwell by their work. On April 28, 1971, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), promising every worker the right to a safe workplace. OSHA has prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses, but we still have a lot of work to do to ensure a safe workplace. This year we cannot even calculate how many workers that is. Let that sink in. We do not know how many workers were killed or made sick at work this year. COVID-19 has impacted all of our lives, but the effect on our frontline workers has been devastating. We have lost healthcare workers and first responders, bus drivers and mechanics, grocery store and food processing workers, and countless other frontline workers. These workers put their lives and the lives of their families on the line to keep us safe, to keep us fed, and to keep the economy moving.

We cannot see our essential workers as heroes only during a global pandemic. We cannot simply put up a billboard that says heroes work here and do nothing to help them. They are the backbone of our economy and deserve to be protected on the job. Many of us heard from workers in our districts in the past year who felt unsafe. Last year, the Department of Health created a complaint form for workers to use if they felt unsafe at their job, and sitting elected officials criticized that form, calling it a, quote, snitch line. Workers should feel safe in their workplace and if they do not, if they need to use a confidential form to report serious health and safety issues, then they should be able to

do that. Those who represent them, those who employ them, have an obligation to their safety. If they are not protecting them, we should.

We need stronger whistleblower protections so that workers are not only protected, but encouraged to raise health and safety issues. Without whistleblower protections, many workers remain silent, putting their lives and the lives of their colleagues at risk. Alone, a single worker is often at the mercy of their boss. They can be demoted, transferred, or even lose their job. As a whistleblower myself, I know how hard it is to speak out. You risk everything, and we have an obligation as legislators to make sure those brave Americans are protected when they do speak up. We also must extend OSHA protections to State and local government employees. It should not matter who signs your paycheck, every worker should be entitled to the safest workplace possible. The public sector OSHA bill has been pending for years in the Pennsylvania legislature, and we should finally pass this critical safety legislation.

Finally, we, as a State legislature, should encourage Congress to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2021. If workers want to form a union to protect themselves so they are not just one against their employer, this decision should belong to workers alone, free from coercion, interference, and intimidation. The PRO Act would empower workers to exercise their right to organize, hold management accountable for violating the rights of their workers, and promote union elections that are free from interference from employers. We owe it to each and every one of the workers and their families, especially during this last year, to take bold, big steps to protect our workers in the workplace. So today, we remember the dead; but tomorrow and forever, we must fight like hell for the living.

Thank you, Mr. President.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

Senator Jacob D. Corman III as a member of the Legislative Data Processing Committee.

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, May 10, 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 12:25 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.