

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 12

SENATE

MONDAY, March 6, 2023

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

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend MARSHALL MITCHELL, of Salem Baptist Church, Abington, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Merciful and Almighty God, we give thanks first for this day. And secondly, we give thanks, O God, for the opportunity for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity. We ask now that Thy divine hand of providence would hover over this entire Commonwealth, over this Senate, and over her people. We ask, O God, that we would be mindful of the fact that You have made us all in Your image and in Your likeness, and as such, we have so much in common. We pray now, O God, that the winds of life will be in our sails and that we might move forward on smooth seas. We ask these and all other things in Thy wondrous name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Mitchell, who is the guest today of Senator Haywood.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MEMBER OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH
AND DIAGNOSTIC COMMISSION

March 2, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Aaron H. Danks, 1801 North Second

Street #2, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Brian Reed, Manheim, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
BERKS COUNTY

March 2, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Berks County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Paul Yatron, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

March 1, 2023

Senators BROWN, BARTOLOTTA, PENNYCUICK, SCHWANK, LAUGHLIN, COSTA, KANE, BAKER, KEARNEY, FONTANA and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 466**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 19, 1995 (P.L.33, No.3), known as the Economic Development Agency, Fiduciary and Lender Environmental Liability Protection Act, further providing for definitions.

Which was committed to the Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, March 1, 2023.

March 3, 2023

Senators BARTOLOTTA, BOSCOLA, LAUGHLIN, FLYNN, LANGERHOLC, SCHWANK, COLLETT, KANE, STEFANO, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, CAPPELLETTI, HUTCHINSON, J. WARD, COMITTA, DiSANTO, HAYWOOD, ROTHMAN, BAKER, YAW, ARGALL, KEARNEY and COLEMAN presented to the Chair **SB 25**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law, further providing for title, for

definitions, for State Board of Nursing, for dietitian-nutritionist license required, for unauthorized practices and acts not prohibited, for temporary practice permit, for graduates of schools of other states, territories or Dominion of Canada, for persons entitled to practice, for certified registered nurse practitioners and qualifications, for scope of practice for certified registered nurse practitioners, for prescriptive authority for certified registered nurse practitioners, for Drug Review Committee, for professional liability, for reporting of multiple licensure, for continuing nursing education, for punishment for violations, for refusal, suspension or revocation of licenses, for reinstatement of license and for injunction or other process; and providing for the expiration of the State Board of Nursing's power to license certified registered nurse practitioners.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, March 3, 2023.

Senators BARTOLOTTA, VOGEL, AUMENT, ROBINSON, COSTA, KEARNEY, COLLETT, CAPPELLETTI, DILLON, COMITTA, GEBHARD and L. WILLIAMS presented to the Chair SB 462, entitled:

An Act establishing the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program and the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program Fund; imposing powers and duties on the Department of Education; and making a transfer.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, March 3, 2023.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS
ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF
THE CONSTRUCTION WORKPLACE
MISCLASSIFICATION ACT

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Labor and Industry
Harrisburg, PA 17121

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Michael Gerdes
Secretary of the Senate, Pennsylvania State Senate
462 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

The Honorable Brooke Wheeler
Chief Clerk, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
129 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Secretary Gerdes and Chief Clerk Wheeler:

The Construction Workplace Misclassification Act (Act 72 of 2010) requires the Department of Labor and Industry to submit annually, by March 1, a report to the Pennsylvania General Assembly detailing data on the previous calendar year's administration and enforcement of the Act.

It is my pleasure to provide the report titled Administration and Enforcement of the Construction Workplace Misclassification Act as required by the statute.

An electronic version of the report, and a direct link to the document on the Department's website, will be provided via email to each member of the General Assembly as well.

Sincerely,

NANCY WALKER
Acting Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

ANALYSIS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
MINIMUM WAGE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Labor and Industry
Harrisburg, PA 17121

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Michael Gerdes
Secretary of the Senate, Pennsylvania State Senate
462 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

The Honorable Brooke Wheeler
Chief Clerk, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
129 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Secretary Gerdes and Chief Clerk Wheeler:

The Pennsylvania Minimum Wage Act directs the Department of Labor and Industry to produce an annual report detailing data on the previous calendar year's demographics and any other relevant characteristics of workers paid at or below the minimum wage. The required report is due to the General Assembly by March 1st of each year.

It is my pleasure to provide the 2021 Analysis of the Pennsylvania Minimum Wage report as approved by the Minimum Wage Advisory Board and required by the Act.

An electronic version of the report, and a direct link to the document on the Department's website, will be provided via email to each member of the General Assembly as well.

Sincerely,

NANCY WALKER
Acting Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Labor and Industry
Harrisburg, PA 17121

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Michael Gerdes
Secretary of the Senate, Pennsylvania State Senate

462 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

The Honorable Brooke Wheeler
Chief Clerk, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
129 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Secretary Gerdes and Chief Clerk Wheeler:

On behalf the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board (PA WDB), it is my pleasure to present the Board's 2022 Annual Report to the General Assembly.

This report satisfies the board's responsibility under the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Act to provide annual updates by March 1st on the performance of the workforce development system and share the annual reports submitted by local workforce development boards.

An electronic version of the report, and a direct link to the document on the Department's website, will be provided via email to each member of the General Assembly as well.

Sincerely,

NANCY WALKER
Acting Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

Senator Camera C. Bartolotta as a member of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver as a member of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Mr. Ronald N. Jumper, Esq., to serve in his stead as a member of the Joint Committee on Documents.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator PENNYCUICK, from the Committee on Communications and Technology, reported the following bill:

SB 379 (Pr. No. 272)

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the prohibition of unauthorized applications.

Senator BAKER, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported the following bills:

SB 169 (Pr. No. 159)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juvenile matters, further providing for limitation on and change in place of commitment; and making editorial changes.

SB 170 (Pr. No. 160)

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in criminal history record information, further providing for juvenile records; and, in juvenile matters, further providing for powers and duties of probation officers, for informal adjustment, for consent decree, for adjudication, for disposition of delinquent child and for powers and duties.

SB 267 (Pr. No. 232)

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

SB 371 (Pr. No. 314)

An Act amending the act of November 22, 1978 (P.L. 1166, No. 274), referred to as the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law, providing for Indigent Defense Advisory Committee; and establishing the Indigent Defense Grant Program.

Senator BROWN, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following bill:

SB 143 (Pr. No. 388) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preemptions, providing for restrictions on utility services prohibited.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brooks.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Muth, and a legislative leave for Senator Cappelletti.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brooks.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Muth, and a legislative leave for Senator Cappelletti.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of January 9, 2023; January 10, 2023; and January 11, 2023, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of January 9, 2023; January 10, 2023; and January 11, 2023.

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

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

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

YEA-50

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Kearney		

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

**GUEST OF SENATOR ARTHUR L. HAYWOOD
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, today I rise to welcome our guest Chaplain, my friend, Pastor Marshall Mitchell. Pastor Mitchell is the senior pastor of Salem Baptist Church of Abington, and that is the church that I attend as well. Just yesterday, we celebrated his 10th anniversary proudly, and I am so glad that he has joined us here today. He grew up--and I just saw a good friend, Senator Anthony Williams--he grew up at Pinn Memorial, where his late father, Reverend Frank B. Mitchell, served as a pastor there for over 40 years.

And I have got a few other things I would like to share about Pastor Mitchell, including: he is a graduate of Howard University. He recently was recognized by Morehouse College as a distinguished pastor in this nation. Years ago, he served as chief of staff of Congressman Floyd Flake and knows well the challenges of operating in a body such as ours. But he has brought to our community a Salem campus. And that campus includes a place for young people to have sports; a place for a banquet center for the community; a place for feeding the hungry; a place for individuals to have daycare. This is going to be a tremendous campus in the future, as it grows to be even a greater center for our community. It is not just in this leadership, a physical space, but he has been providing spiritual leadership and guidance to me, my wife, and our family, as well as the entire community. I ask you to please join me in welcoming our guest Chaplain, Pastor Marshall Mitchell, to the Pennsylvania State Senate.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I am grateful that my friend and colleague, Senator Art Haywood, would allow me to participate in these comments. Many of you may reference

Pastor Marshall Mitchell in the appropriate way as pastor. He is a friend of mine. And so, I could not let him just depart this Chamber without referencing how extraordinary he is as a human being. Everything that has been commented on and documented in public comments by Senator Haywood are certainly true, but I will tell you that Marshall is much more than the words on a paper. The legacy of his family has been beyond means in Philadelphia. His father was a spiritual leader to many, many, many leaders in Philadelphia, political, business, civic, likewise, who turned to him for direction in a period of time when African Americans were just seeing the fruits of their labor in this country. And certainly, his father was a part of that, and Marshall, in some regards, is a chip off the old block with regard to that, but he is a person who is well-educated. Wilberforce University had the benefit of his leadership and stewardship for many years. He was a chief of staff at a very early age to a distinguished congressman. He is a person who knows a lot about the entertainment industry. So, he is a person of extraordinary stretch and means and knowledge in life. But most importantly, he is just a good guy who has served many of us. And I do not think there is a person on this floor from Philadelphia County who does not know him, have not turned to him for guidance or direction, and I am appreciative that he has prayed for us because we definitely need it in these times. But most importantly, we are so grateful that you spent some time with us, Marshall, and certainly, Senator Haywood who has shared him with us as well. God bless you, and safe travels returning home. Thank you.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I join the chorus of voices extolling the virtues of Pastor Mitchell. And since so much has been described and said about him from our previous colleagues, the only thing left is for me to point out that when he is not here and so conservatively attired, he is quite the fashion plate as well [laughing], frequently dressing quite well. Okay? And they said everything else. But I do, really do, in all sincerity, appreciate your leadership and your willingness to take a moment of your time to be with us today. And so, I guess I get the honor of saying, and if I would ask my colleagues to rise and join us in a hearty welcome for Pastor Marshall Mitchell.

The PRESIDENT. Will the Senators please welcome Pastor Mitchell.

[Applause.]

**GUESTS OF SENATOR
CHRISTOPHER M. GEBHARD
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Gebhard.

Senator GEBHARD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Alysa Bainbridge, Miss Pennsylvania 2022, of Leesport, Berks County. Alysa proudly represented the Commonwealth this past December at the Miss America competition in Connecticut. Recently, Alysa has been traveling the State with the More Than Tour. Through this program, she teaches children how to care for their mental health and be allies to their peers who are struggling. Alysa also established a nonprofit, Tyler's Triumph, named in honor of her brother, which highlights the stories of those struggling with addiction and mental illness. This is especially prudent

because today is national Black Balloon Day. Black Balloon Day was established to remember those who have lost to an overdose, overdose deaths, and raise awareness with the public about substance abuse disorders. Pennsylvania is fortunate to have such a dedicated advocate on this important issue. Alysa is truly committed to help end the opioid crisis plaguing our communities here in the Commonwealth.

Alysa is a graduate of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia with a bachelor of arts in communication studies and a minor in journalism. She is currently a hardworking graduate student, pursuing her master's of science in leadership at Cabrini University in Radnor, Pennsylvania. Alysa's parents, Jeff and Michele, have joined her today and are seated in the gallery. Please help me give a warm Senate welcome to Miss Pennsylvania, Alysa Bainbridge.

The PRESIDENT. Welcome to the Senate.
[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I am delighted today to introduce to my Senate colleagues two young men from Germany. Interestingly enough, Anas Al-Quraan visited my office as part of his work with one of the criminal justice agencies in Germany. He is here on a work-study program. Anas Al-Quraan is the youngest candidate ever for the German Parliament and is now the head of the Youth Parliament. Anas works in the German economic ministry and is studying economics at the University of Dusseldorf. We had a wonderful conversation on the issue of college tuition and how much it costs in the U.S. versus in Germany. Our conversation was very enlightening for me.

Anas is also joined by a friend of his who is also studying here and accompanying him on his visit here, and that is Jason Ullah. Jason is a student as well. He is studying music composition, and he hails from the city of Reutlingen, which is Reading--the city of Reading's sister city--in Germany. Having been in Reutlingen myself, I was so delighted to meet these young men and welcome them. They visited my district office, and I insisted that they see our beautiful State Capitol. I wanted them to go back to Germany with good memories of how wonderful the buildings, the edifice of Pennsylvania government is. So, if you would, Mr. President, please ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Anas and Jason to our Pennsylvania State Senate today.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Schwank please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.
[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR DEVLIN ROBINSON PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Moon Area High School Jazz Band to the Capitol today. You may have heard these talented young students livening up the East Wing Rotunda as you came here this afternoon. This band is an extracurricular ensemble with students in grades 9 through 12 who regularly rehearse after school. They study and perform

various musical genres such as big band swing, Latin jazz, rock, and contemporary jazz. They perform all over my district in Allegheny County at local jazz festivals and community events, culminating in the Spring Jazz Ensemble Concert held in May, which is sure to be excellent entertainment for jazz enthusiasts. Directed by Nick Barthen and Alan Fear, the members include: Alexandria Bailey, Logan Balkovec, Elissa Bookbinder, Kingston Brady, Brea Burke, Mason Coulter, John Doan, Greer Erhard, Aidan Feeser, Ben Fogle, Shane Henry, Carson Jacoby, Adam Konley, Matt Kustra, Allie Lerch, Avery Merklin, Lucia Palmer, Luke Ramsey, Max Rolinson, Ben Russin, Bennett Short, Logan Smith, Josh Stepp, Dex Thomas, Max Thomas, and John Zbihley. Please join me in welcoming the Moon Area High School Jazz Band.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Robinson please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.
[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR NIKIL SAVAL AND SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleague, Senator Sharif Street, to recognize members of the Temple University Graduate Students' Association who are visiting from Philadelphia. The association, known as TUGSA, represents the dedicated graduate students who help make Temple University a world-class institution. Graduate students are the unsung heroes of American higher education. They are teachers who help young researchers and practitioners engage with academic material and mentor them through the rigors of university life. They support faculty in their research and lead projects of their own, providing the essential labor and expertise that make new technologies and new insights possible. And they do this all while furthering their own education, earning master's and doctoral degrees to become experts in their disciplines and advance their fields for our collective benefit. I know the long hours, competing responsibilities, and financial pressures that TUGSA members' work entails. I was a graduate student tasked with teaching, researching, and studying while supporting a household. The work is incredibly rewarding, but demanding mentally, emotionally, and financially.

Currently, TUGSA members make an average of just \$19,000 a year for the vital work they do on behalf of the Temple University community. Their healthcare plans do not cover partners, their family members, or their dependents. They receive just 5 days of paid parental leave after the birth of a new baby. Their demands are straightforward and reasonable. They want a living wage, secure benefits, and good working conditions. This is the least that Temple can do to recognize the indispensable work TUGSA members do day-in and day-out to make Temple run. As you may know, TUGSA members have been on strike for 5 weeks, risking their professional careers to improve working conditions, not just for themselves and their colleagues, but for all current and future graduate students at Temple and across the country. I support their noble efforts, and I am proud to welcome them along with Senator Sharif Street to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I join my colleague, Senator Nikil Saval, in welcoming to the Pennsylvania Senate the members of the Temple University Graduate Students' Association, affectionately known as TUGSA. They came with a very simple message to the university and to all of those who are listening, that when we talk about the work that they do and we say we want them to show them respect, they want that respect reflected in their paychecks, and they want Temple to be fair by expanding their healthcare. It is really that simple. They wanted to make sure that we recognize that, and we are here, and we welcome them; and we thank them for standing up for their rights and for standing up for the rights of those who will come after them.

Thank you, Mr. President. I ask the Members join us in giving a hearty welcome to the students from TUGSA.

The PRESIDENT. Will the guests of Senator Saval [and Senator Street] please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUEST OF SENATOR SCOTT F. MARTIN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to introduce Robbie McArdle, who is shadowing me today in the Senate. Robbie is the son of Debbie and Robbie McArdle, Sr., and is a graduate of Garden Spot High School with an interest in politics and public service in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Throughout his time at Garden Spot High School, he founded and served as president of the Garden Spot Youth in Politics club, where he worked to bring together both Republican and Democratic students to learn about each other and serve together in the community. As a club, they read to young elementary students to encourage kids to begin reading while they are young. They held community building activities with local law enforcement to help create relationships between police officers and students. They also raised money through fundraising for mental health awareness programs. I am sure Robbie has a bright future ahead of him as he looks to serve his community. Therefore, Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in giving our traditional warm welcome to Robbie McArdle.

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

[Applause.]

RECESS

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

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

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

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

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

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Rule 21(b), the Chair is giving the Senators notice that photographers from both Caucuses have been granted permission to take still photographs on the floor of the Senate during Session today.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Dush, Senator Farry, and Senator Mastriano, and a legislative leave for Senator DiSanto.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, no further leaves.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Dush, Senator Farry, and Senator Mastriano, and a legislative leave for Senator DiSanto. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 8 (Pr. No. 290) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, in casualty insurance, further providing for coverage for mammographic examinations and diagnostic breast imaging and providing for coverage for BRCA-related genetic counseling and genetic testing.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, cancer has impacted most of our families, with its haunting effects lasting for generations. Although we do not yet have a cure for cancer, we do have excellent screening tools and genetic testing available. Senate Bill No. 8 is a comprehensive breast cancer screening and testing bill that will eliminate all costs associated with breast MRIs, ultrasound, and genetic testing and counseling for Pennsylvanians

at high risk for hereditary cancers. This includes BRCA gene testing. BRCA1 and BRCA2 are tumor-suppressing genes that are crucial to fighting cancer. Both men and women who inherit a BRCA gene mutation are much more likely to develop a hereditary cancer, such as breast or prostate cancer. Discovering one has the BRCA gene is a lifesaving development that often leads to early cancer detection and preventative treatments. Genetic testing provides essential information to family members who may have a high likelihood of inheriting a mutation. Having a family discussion about cancer after a relative is diagnosed is inevitable.

For me, the conversation came when my father, diagnosed with prostate cancer at a relatively young age, had been fighting for years. He had a radical prostatectomy, multiple rounds of radiation, hormone therapy, and a host of other drugs to try to stop the spread. Every treatment seemed to buy us some time. But just when we thought it was eradicated, the prostate-specific antigen, or PSA, would reappear, indicating the cancer had metastasized in his body. It was incomprehensible why the cancer was winning after early detection and numerous treatments. So, we began tracing our family's medical history. Two of my father's uncles discovered prostate cancer in their 80s, which is typically after the age PSA is recommended. Sadly, both succumbed to the disease. My father's grandmother, Mary, had breast cancer in her early 30s and ovarian cancer in her 60s, of which she succumbed to the disease. There had always been talk of a genetic component to our family's battle with cancer, but we never had a clear answer. Finally, with modern science, physicians had discovered that the BRCA gene mutation is the culprit to our family's history. I too have the BRCA gene. Having the gene does not necessarily mean I will get cancer, but it does make me more conscious of my healthcare. Checking my PSAs to establish a baseline in my 30s will give me a fighting chance in the event I receive the dreadful news of having cancer. The legislation will eliminate all costs associated with breast MRI, ultrasound, and genetic testing and counseling for Pennsylvanians at high risk for hereditary cancers. For me, it is personal, as it is for many of us here today. The earlier we can detect cancer, the earlier we can start saving lives. I am proud of this legislation, and I thank my Senate colleagues for its support. Thank you.

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

Senator PENNYCUICK. Mr. President, three of the scariest words in the English language are spoken thousands of times a day in a doctor's office across the country: you have cancer. This year, more than 12,000 Pennsylvania women will hear these words as they are diagnosed with breast cancer. These women are our friends, our family members, our neighbors, our co-workers, and perhaps even ourselves. You have cancer. This diagnosis was delivered to both of my grandmothers, my mother, my aunt, and two of my cousins.

For those reasons and so many more, I am proud to support Senate Bill No. 8, put forth by my friend, Senator Kim Ward, which will pave the way for greater access to preventative screening and early detection. By removing out-of-pocket costs for preventative breast cancer screening and genetic testing, we are giving women better odds of catching cancer early. Early detection increases the odds of effective treatment and ultimately, remission. I want to thank Senator Kim Ward and my co-prime sponsor, Senator Robinson, for their leadership on this bill, and my

Senate colleagues for their overwhelming support of this measure. I also want to take a moment to recognize my predecessor, former Senator Bob Mensch, for his leadership on this topic, which arose from his family's breast cancer journey.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, on behalf of the Members on this side of the aisle, I too rise in support of this very important legislation. And I too want to thank the sponsor, our President pro tempore, and certainly, the previous speakers as well. This is an important legislation, as we discussed in the committee meeting recently, how it impacts people's lives and our personal--Senator Robinson talked about his personal journey. Each of us have our own personal journey with family members and the like as we try to reconcile how we deal with cancer. I want to thank the President pro tempore for her courage in terms of having this very public discussion about what needed to be done and being able to do it during last Session and continuing that effort this year--how important it is.

And I certainly would be remiss if I did not recognize two people who have been at the forefront of this issue as well. As was mentioned, our former colleague, Senator Mensch, and also Pat Halpin-Murphy. I am not sure where Pat is at, whether she is here or not, but someone who has been in this effort, and it looks like she is on the other side. Thank you for your work that you have been doing in this space. You know, for those new Members who are here, she led the efforts for many years in this space, and we want to say thank you because as much as we can find out about somebody's heritage or about what they may be inheriting genetically, it is very important going forward, and many of these things that will now be covered, where there has been resistance in the past about covering these procedures, how important it is right now to be able to say you will be able to have these tests done and be able to deal with those issues after that. So, again, thank you, and thank you, Madam President, for the work that you have done. Thank you.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I want to begin by saying thank you to all of my colleagues. You know, 49 of you signed and cosigned this legislation. That sends a very strong message to the women of Pennsylvania that we are going to do what we can to help them through this disease, which is 1 out of 8 women, which is why we called it Senate Bill No. 8. That is a lot of women. With 6.5 million women in Pennsylvania, do the math. There are a lot of mothers, grandmas, aunts, cousins, you name it, there is a lot of people who are affected by this disease, and when you get this disease and when you get this diagnosis, it is a punch in the stomach. But knowing that we are here fighting for them, that we are here to make it--early detection--better, without a co-pay, means a lot.

You know, I am not going to tell my whole story because I have done it so many times. I do not want to bore you all to death. But the fact of the matter is, twice I got turned down for tests, and because I could afford to pay for it myself or I knew someone to call, I was able to get those tests. But many, many women are not able to do that. And this would put all of them in a position to be able to get the testing they need. Because, as Pat says: early

detection saves lives. This is preventative in that we can prevent if we know we have a gene or we know that we have the gene, we can take the actions we need to try to put an end to getting the cancer, and we can be careful.

And you know, with the MRI bill, I always think about this, and I do think about it. My cancer was early, but it could have been earlier if I had been able to get an MRI. If someone would have offered me an MRI, and I think we did not get offered MRIs a lot because insurance was not going to pay for them. So, this is important and really, thank you so much. We are building on the work that Senator Mensch has done here during his time here and thank you all so much. As I look around the room and see all of the pink, it just, it really means a lot. Hopefully, we can get this across the finish line. Thank you all for your support. And thank you, Senator Regan, for wearing pink pants. [Laughter.] They are my favorite thing. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Muth and Senator Dush have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Kearney		

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.]

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will briefly be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

LEAVE CHANGED

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request that Senator Mastriano's leave be changed from a temporary Capitol leave to a legislative leave.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests that Senator Mastriano's leave be changed from a temporary Capitol leave to a legislative leave. Without objection, the leave will be changed.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL AMENDED

SB 144 (Pr. No. 119) -- 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, providing for fire-fighting foam management.

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

YAW AMENDMENT A0160 ADOPTED

Senator YAW offered the following amendment No. A0160:

Amend Bill, page 2, line 24, by striking out "for" and inserting:

used in

Amend Bill, page 2, line 24, by inserting after "prevention":

firefighting

Amend Bill, page 2, line 24, by inserting after "or":

fire

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 24 and 25, by striking out "in this Commonwealth"

Amend Bill, page 2, line 25, by striking out "the" where it occurs the first time and inserting:

such

Amend Bill, page 2, line 25, by inserting after "product":

sold for use in this Commonwealth that indicates

Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 16 and 17:

"Manufacturer." A person that manufactures, imports or distributes domestically personal protective equipment for firefighting entities.

"Personal protective equipment." Items designed, intended or marketed to be worn by firefighting entity personnel in the performance of their fire and rescue activities, including jackets, pants, shoes, gloves, helmets and respiratory equipment.

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

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

YEA-50

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Kearney		

NAY-0

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

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 154 (Pr. No. 126) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8654, carrying State Route 3035 over the Little Conemaugh River in East Taylor Township, Cambria County, as the East Taylor Township Veterans Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 43558, carrying U.S. Route 22 over a tributary of Hinckston Run in Jackson Township, Cambria County, as the Officer Matthew Krupa Memorial Bridge; and designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 55994, carrying State Route 4002 over California Run in Cambria Township, Cambria County, as the Senior Chief Stanley "Stush" Kubat, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 162 (Pr. No. 43) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in military educational programs relating to medical officer or health officer incentive program, further providing for definitions, for establishment of program, for program stipend, for additional incentives, for recoupment of incentive payments and for adjustment of stipend amounts; and making editorial changes.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.
Upon motion of Senator PITTMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 191 (Pr. No. 89) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 1, 1945 (P.L.1242, No.428), known as the State Highway Law, in rural State highway system and State highways in cities, boroughs and towns, further providing for improvement, reconstruction and maintenance.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 232 and **SB 297** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 298 (Pr. No. 382) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in equipment standards, further providing for unlawful activities; in other required equipment, further providing for restraint systems; and abrogating regulations.

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

SB 443 (Pr. No. 377) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 46706, carrying State Route 4001, also known as Iverson Road, over Stevens Run in Blacklick Township, Cambria County, as the PVT Donald D. Marsh Memorial Bridge.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 446 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 447 (Pr. No. 370) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs, establishing the PA VETConnect Program.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.
Upon motion of Senator PITTMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 453 and **SB 459** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 48, ADOPTED

Senator PITTMAN, without objection, called up from page 3 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 48**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the United States Department of Agriculture to include 2% and whole milk in the Nutrition Standards for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and as a Smart Snacks option and urging the United States Department of Health and Human Services to recommend to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to modify the milk standard to include 2% and whole milk.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, in 2010, Congress passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which put restrictive

regulations on the consumption of whole milk in schools. In the first 2 years of this Act, 1.2 million fewer students drank milk with their lunch. Implementation of this Act has had a negative health and nutrition impact on our children, as well as a negative impact on our economics and agricultural industry, as 1 out of every 10 jobs in Pennsylvania are in our agricultural industry. The United States Department of Agriculture is currently proposing updates to school meal standards to support healthier meals for kids and is expected to issue a final rule for schools to plan for the 2024-25 school year.

Now is the time as a State legislature to encourage an even healthier option to be considered by adopting this resolution, urging the USDA to also allow 2 percent and whole milk, both flavored and unflavored, to be offered in schools, grades K-12. With this change in standards, schools would have the option of making these milks available to students without jeopardizing their Federal funding. Think about this, Mr. President: our schools are penalized by the Federal government if they offer whole milk to our kids in school. I appreciate my colleagues' support of this resolution, and I also ask the Federal government, please, let our kids drink whole milk in schools. Support our farmers and our agricultural industry.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise in favor of this resolution. Clearly, while well-meaning, the idea that we should have young people have healthier options was not necessarily served by the unintended consequences of that Federal action. It has resulted in children drinking beverages that have less nutritional content--even if less calories--and sometimes result in an even further diminution of their health. Bottom line, kids are healthier drinking milk than drinking diet drinks. They are healthier drinking milk than drinks that are flavored with artificial sweeteners. I grew up drinking chocolate milk or other milks in school, and I think that Pennsylvania children would be better served if the Federal government allowed our school districts to return to having children drink milk, or at least it being offered as an option for young people. Secondly, Pennsylvania is a tremendous dairy-producing State, and it would be good for our dairy industry as well. So, Mr. President, I urge a "yes" vote on the following resolution.

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

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, as the proud husband of a school lunch lady, I am grateful for this resolution, and I strongly urge its support. My wife has observed, since that Federal regulation has come down, that the number of milks that are thrown out and discarded and the amount of milk that has actually been consumed by students while they are getting sugar-loaded drinks brought in or able to purchase them within the schools--it has had a tremendous impact within the schools. Unfortunately, they have to buy milk based on the population--the census for the school--and a lot of that milk ends up in the trash, and it is a complete waste.

Additionally, there was a recent report by the Federal government--the U.S. military--that basically, since this rule has taken effect, we are up to 78 percent of America's young people between the ages of 18 and 24 are no longer able to pass the physical

tests in order to become members of the United States military. Almost 8 in 10 of our 18-24-year-olds are headed towards obesity, and largely, it is because of these sugar-filled drinks that we have forced to be brought in to replace the milk. I am grateful for the maker of the resolution, and I encourage its passing. Thank you.

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

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

YEA-50

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartagliano
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuik	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Kearney		

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The resolution is adopted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

Senator BROWN. 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 143, SB 169, SB 170, SB 267, SB 371 and SB 379.

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, MARCH 7, 2023

Off the Floor AGING AND YOUTH (to consider Senate Bills No. 137, 167 and 168)

Rules Committee
Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

10:00 A.M. INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (to Room 461
consider Senate Bills No. 188 and 190) Main Capitol

10:00 A.M. LABOR AND INDUSTRY (to consider Senate Room 8E-A
Bills No. 226, 239 and 359) East Wing
(LIVE
STREAMED)

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

1:00 P.M. TRANSPORTATION (public hearing to collect Univ. of Pitt.
testimony on "Charging Electric Vehicles") Alumni Hall
Room 121
4227 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023

1:00 P.M. COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY Room 8E-B
(public hearing on cyber security for cloud- East Wing
based government applications)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023

1:30 P.M. EDUCATION (public hearing on K-12 school Hearing Room 1
budgeting and fund balances) North Office

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, today I rise along with my colleague, Senator Rothman, to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima through Senate Resolution No. 55. The 36-day assault during World War II from February 19 to March 26, 1945, was one of the bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history, but it was one of the most important. Iwo Jima served as a vital airbase for fighter escorts supporting long-range bombing missions against mainland Japan. It allowed for sea and air blockades, the ability to conduct intensive air bombardment, and the destruction of the enemy's air and naval capabilities. The seizure of Iwo Jima was deemed necessary, but the reward would not come easy. During this battle, the United States Armed Forces suffered the loss of 6,821 troops and more than 19,000 were wounded or captured. The losses were incomprehensible, but the valor was unmatched. Iwo Jima saw more Medals of Honor awarded for actions there than any other single battle in American history. The iconic Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima photograph by Joe Rosenthal was taken during this battle, and it depicts five United States Marines and one United States Navy Corpsman raising the flag atop Mount Suribachi. The act of raising the American flag together at the island's highest point sent a clear message to both the Marines below and the Japanese defenders. In the years that followed, the image proved its significance, as it became the symbol of the Marine Corps itself: the courage, honor, and commitment every marine embodies to this day. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said it best: "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue." Please join me in honoring those who served and sacrificed during the battle of Iwo Jima.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Gene Yaw) in the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,084 long days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. But even though our legislative Chambers have shown no real ambition in the past to pass an increase in our unlivable, poverty-level wage, I am optimistic we may be on the track to finally pass meaningful minimum wage reform here in Pennsylvania. Tomorrow, as you know, Mr. President, our new Governor will deliver his first budget address to the Joint Session of our House and Senate. He will be highlighting his legislative priorities and will outline his economic plan for our Commonwealth for the coming year. And while we do not know everything that will be included in his address and his plan, I am optimistic as ever that he will call on this body to raise our starvation-level wage and finally put our Commonwealth's lowest earners on the path to economic growth. It should be a surprise to no one that our \$7.25 minimum wage just is not acceptable.

More than 16.5 years ago, the legislature in Pennsylvania came together to increase the pay our Commonwealth's lowest earners make. Now, after record inflation, a historic pandemic, and economic uncertainty for too many Pennsylvanians, it is time again for our legislature to act and act decisively to put our Commonwealth's workers on the path to prosperity. We cannot, in good conscience, fail to address one of the greatest issues facing our State. We must come together and take decisive action for our Commonwealth's lowest earners and put them on a path to \$15 an hour. Mr. President, we have a governor who wants to sign a minimum wage reform legislation. Shortly, we will have legislation introduced in this Chamber to tackle this moral crisis. Now, we just need to ensure we have the will to act in our Commonwealth's best interest. Let us finally act and put Pennsylvanians on the path to prosperity, not the continued path to poverty.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

March 6, 2023

Senators MASTRIANO, HUTCHINSON, and BOSCOLA presented to the Chair **SR 59**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the impact of the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment on residents of this Commonwealth.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, March 6, 2023.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION**APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE**

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

March 6, 2023

TO: President and All Members of the Senate

FROM: Senator KIM WARD
President Pro Tempore

Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules of the Senate and in consultation with the Minority Leader, I hereby make the following committee changes:

- Remove Senator Collett from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.
- Appoint Senator Tartaglione to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.
- Remove Senator Tartaglione from the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.
- Appoint Senator Collett to the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 4:48 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.