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Education Government Nonprofit

Workshop gives business, government leaders a taste of poverty

By Thomas A. Barstow, Contributing writer, January 12, 2018 at 12:01 PM



Paula D. Copeland, left, a manager for the state Department of Human Resources, counts out fake money for Leslie Rapsey, who was acting as a clerk at a utility company. Rapsey actually works for the Community Progress Council, which held a poverty simulation exercise Thursday at York College. The simulation brought together business and community leaders who pretended to be poor for one morning so they could better understand what the working poor go through. January is Poverty Awareness Month. - (Photo / Thomas A. Barstow)

Access to health care, jobs, housing, transportation and child care was just beyond reach. If they were attainable, they were costly necessities that made the difference as to whether there would be dinner on the table or lights on at night.

They scrambled to find jobs and to feed their families, while handling as best they could the mishaps and misfortunes that easily derail plans, leading to hunger or homelessness or both.

"There was a lot of uncertainty," said Mike Buckingham, who is retired after several careers, including a stint as a CPA. "You don't know what is going to happen next."

One woman, who was given the identity of a 9-year-old, said she resorted to theft, taking an imaginary ring from an imaginary pawn shop set up for the simulation. The woman said her family was facing sickness with no health insurance, so she stole the ring so the family could eat.

A man said he was arrested for loitering, which meant that he couldn't fill out an application for housing and that led to half a week of homelessness.

More than one participant used the words "helpless" and "frustrated" to sum up their experiences.

Rohrbaugh said the issues of poverty are countywide, and not just a problem in York city.

"It's everywhere," she said.

The Community Progress Council has held simulations before. The goal is to sensitize as many people as possible to the problem, so they feel compelled to do something about it, she said.

The simulation also showed the stresses that the professionals face, whether they are social workers or police officers or educators. Stations were set up across the room, so that the participants could interact with such agencies.

Deb Goodling-Kime, the CFO at the Community Progress Council, acted as a teacher at a school, having to deal with students and parents. Oftentimes, those who give aid in one area can't always help in the ways a child or parent might need. For example, a teacher isn't really in a position to help a student who is hungry, and that causes stress.

"Teachers have that pressure a lot," she said. "So they give their own money and time and food and do other things."

In the end, the group of community and business leaders felt compelled to suggest ways to help. One person suggested that businesses could do more to offer flexible schedules and to be more compassionate with low-wage workers who run into unforeseen problems.

Schrodel, who also works with the newly formed York County Council of Human Services Agencies, suggested that like-minded groups develop bilingual classes that could help everyone provide better services.

Paula D. Copeland, a manager with the state Department of Human Services, said agencies and businesses could work to remove barriers. For example, a lot of agencies are only open during normal business hours. The simulation drove such points home, she said.

"We need to go back and see what we can do to try to remove those barriers," she said.

Helfrich said he will continue advocating for neighborhood centers, churches and other places where community members gather to have forms and applications readily available so people don't have to travel downtown to get started when applying for jobs or services. The idea is to have about 20 "ecosystems" citywide that would offer assistance with issues that make sense, he said.

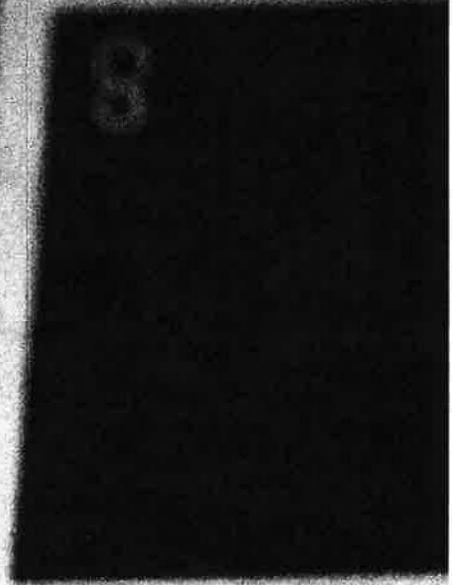
Rohrbaugh said the event gives participants a real taste for what it is like to be poor.

"It shows how chaotic it is to live in poverty," she said.

ADMINISTRATIVE

A retired person looking to
hire a person with car for
transportation to and from
several local Bloomsburg
points of interest several
times a wk. 570-389-1733.

Jobs
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Pittsburgh Regional
Building Trades Council
Building Better Together

1231 Barksville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Phone: 412-344-4775
Fax: 412-344-7262

February 5, 2018

The Honorable John Taylor
Majority Chairman
House Transportation Committee
Rm. 214 Ryan Office Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable William Keller
Minority Chairman
House Transportation Committee
Rm. 326 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Chairmen Taylor & Keller:

I write on behalf of the Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council and its 17 locals and members to submit comment to the House Transportation Committee on House Resolution 76 (D. Miller) and House Bill 163 (Sacccone). These two pieces of legislation have a direct beneficial impact on our local union members and craft sectors.

While HR 76 is a non-binding resolution, it is the first step in a process that can get more people back to work. This resolution would mirror dozens of other states that have petitioned to be relieved of the federally mandated requirement of automatic suspension of a person's license upon even a misdemeanor drug conviction.

Since 86% of Americans use their personal vehicle for work, this across the board mandate is an impediment to gainful employment for workers

Similarly, we support the passage of HB 163 which goes a step further by eliminating mandatory license suspension for state and federal drug violations. We recognize the important difference between these offenses and a DUI, which clearly shows an inability for people to be able to make sound decisions relating to operating a vehicle. Here we believe that non-vehicle relating drug charges should be handled differently and therefore should not automatically require a suspension of driving privileges.

It is our hope that these changes, along with greater access to treatment, will ensure a quick return to work for many Pennsylvanians.

Respectfully,

To the Legislative body et al,

This letter is in support of HB 163, and HB 42. This legislation would eliminate suspensions for what the American Association of Motor Vehicles categorizes as "social non-conformist violations." Violations that have nothing to do with the safe operation of a vehicle.

Currently a license can be suspended if an individual has been convicted of any drug offense, (HB 163), a Court decrees that a vehicle was used in the commission of a felony, or if child support is three or more months in arrears, (HB 42). This practice has prevented individuals from returning to, or seeking employment and has been detrimental to the reunification of already fragmented families.

In addition, I support HR 76 declaring that the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania opposed the enactment and enforcement of a State law, under a Federal mandate, that requires the suspension or revocation, or the delay of issuance or reinstatement, of the driver's license of an individual convicted of a violation of the Controlled Substance Act or another drug offense. Many states have opted out of this mandate and continue to receive federal highway funding without penalty.

MY NAME IS IVAN CROCKETT I NEVER HAD A DRIVERS LICENSE
DUE TO MY CRIMINAL RECORD, DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE, DRIVING WITH
UNLAW SUSPENSION MY ~~DR~~ PHOTO ID NUMBER WAS TURNED INTO MY DRIVERS
LICENSE NUMBER AND MY LICENSE BEGAN COITINE SUSPENDED WITHOUT MY
KNOWLEDGE CURRENTLY MY DRIVERS LICENSE IS SUSPENDED UNTIL 2029
AND THIS PUTS ME AT A DISADVANTAGE AND MAKES IT NEXT
TO IMPOSSIBLE TO APPLY TO THE KIND OF JOBS THAT I AM
CAPABLE OF PERFORMING

Approval of this legislation would not only give me hope for my future and the future of my family, but would have a significant impact on preventing recidivism. Those of us with applicable skills would be enabled to make a positive impact on our communities, and families. Those of us in need of training and treatment would be able to seek these out without impediment.

Please vote yes to HB 163, HB 42 and HR 76, and permit Pennsylvanians to work.

Sincerely,

Ivan M. Crockett
IVAN M. CROCKETT

2905 MERWYN AVENUE
PITTSBURGH PA 15204

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I support it so that I can
provide for my family

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Sincerely,

Richard Coleman
319 Gardner St. McKees Rocks, PA 15136

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my i get a chace with a drugs and my license ^{ben on hold} ~~been~~ for
4 years

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Sincerely,

Joseph Wofford 24-D midway dr west mifflin, pa 15122

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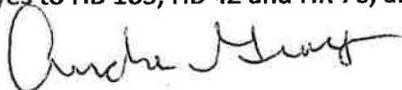
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I HAVE my license suspended for possession of a small amount of drugs it was not a felony I cant get the job I want because I cant drive

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I havent had my licence for 10 years my judge will not reduce the caust for my fine I will still pay for my DUI that happend in 2007 please help

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Sincerely,

Darron Brown
1240 Superior Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15212

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I'm suspended due to drug charges
I need my driver liscen's for jobs

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Sincerely,



2374 Josh Gibson Dr. 15214

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I Duayne need support this HB 163, and HB 42 legislation due to my license getting and being suspended because of a drug case when not even behind the wheel during incident I cant support nor can I provide transportation for family or get a Bitter paying job.

Approval of this legislation would not only give me hope for my future and the future of my family, but would have a significant impact on preventing recidivism. Those of us with applicable skills would be enabled to make a positive impact on our communities, and families. Those of us in need of training and treatment would be able to seek these out without impediment.

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Sincerely,

Duayne
230 Cleveland ave
apt 2 15207 PA 15207

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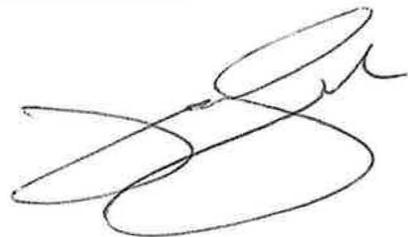
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DUE TO ME OWING CHILD SUPPORT MY LICENSE IS SUSPENDED MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM WORK. NOT HAVING MY LICENSE HAS BEEN VERY DETRIMENTAL TO MY LIFE.

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Sincerely,
JOSHUA SUCHI
129 E. SCHWAB AVE
MUNHALL PA 15120



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I Support this bill because I'm affectes
me in my Life to be able to support my
family and work

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Sincerely,

J'Quai Brown

339 Blvd of Allies Pgh PA 15222

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My license was suspended for P.W Intent. 7 yrs ago I never had a traffic violation in my life. Just wanted to know if we can do anything to get it back. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Will Upshaw

Approval of this legislation would not only give me hope for my future and the future of my family, but would have a significant impact on preventing recidivism. Those of us with applicable skills would be enabled to make a positive impact on our communities, and families. Those of us in need of training and treatment would be able to seek these out without impediment.

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236 Walters Ln.
Springdale PA. 15144

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Sincerely,

Milt, Gebhart
6 S. Fremont Ave
Pittsburgh, PA
15202



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Sincerely,

Paul Huymaier

704 2nd Ave
pgh, PA 15219

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Sincerely,


Amy Kent
1782 Harcor Dr
Pittsburgh PA
15226

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Sincerely,

Darrell Kirkbride
Darrell Kirkbride
504 Hidden Ct.
McKees Rocks, Pa 15136

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Nate King


412 Fox Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15237

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Brittany Buttry-Watson
815 Woodworth St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

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Approval of this legislation would not only give reentrants hope for their futures and the futures of their families, but would have a significant impact on preventing recidivism. Men and women with applicable skills would be enabled to make a positive impact on their communities, and families. Those in need of training and treatment would be able to seek these out without impediment.

Please vote yes to HB 163, HB 42 and HR 76, and permit Pennsylvanians to work.

Sincerely,

Patricia
Edon
704 2nd Ave
Pittsburgh, Pa
15219

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Sincerely,

Aleksey Maksimov 11/9/2017

339 Blvd. of the Allies

Pittsburgh, Pa 15222

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Sincerely,

Melvin Wright
4800 Verona Rd
L-112-609-9172
Verona Pa 15149

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Lost my license in 1984 because i wasn't able to pay fines, and i had to drive so i have strikes against me for driving without a license, (suspended now until 2047).

Approval of this legislation would not only give me hope for my future and the future of my family, but would have a significant impact on preventing recidivism. Those of us with applicable skills would be enabled to make a positive impact on our communities, and families. Those of us in need of training and treatment would be able to seek these out without impediment.

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Sincerely,



*John Rogelman
1015 Coal Street
Wilkinsburg, Pa. 15221*

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Sincerely,

Charles Blackwell
618 S. Mathilda St
Pgh, PA 15224

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned below the typed name and address.

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Sincerely,

Steven Allen
515 Allegheny Blv
Verona 15147

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MEREDITH McDONALD
406 ARBOR LANE
VERONA, PA 15147

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Sincerely,

JESSE THORNTON
2440 PERRYSVILLE AVE
Pgh, PA 15214

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Sincerely,

W. Bruce Thayer
945 Washington Blvd



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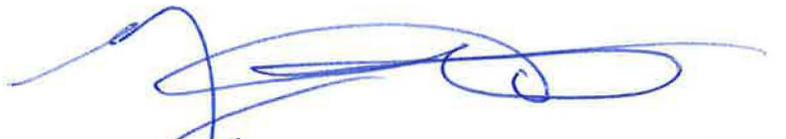
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Sincerely,



1014 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
PSH PA 15233
GREGORY T O'T

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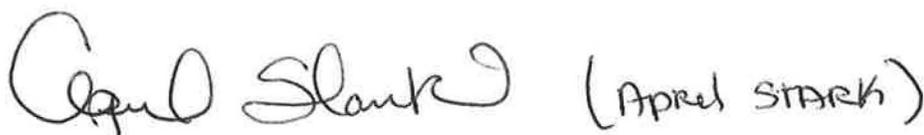
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Sincerely,

 (April Stark)

2753 Sacramento Ave
Pgh PA 15204

412-733-6266

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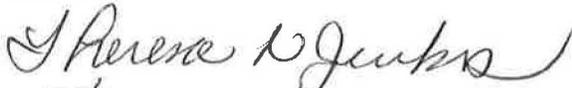
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Sincerely,


Theresa R Jenks
1801 Chessland St
10911 DH 15205

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ANTWANN BUSA 663 CALERA ST. PENN. PA. 15207.

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Sincerely,

Richard D Celinski
426 George St
Braddock Pa

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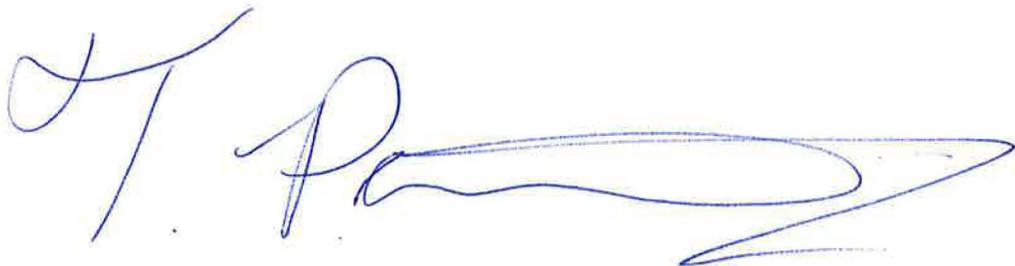
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Sincerely,

Tashawna Patterson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Patterson', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

10 Roberts St Rear
Pgh PA 15219

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Sincerely,

Shirley Slade

Shirley Slade

1205 Liverpool St

Pgh, PA 15233

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Sincerely,

Justin Moxton

20734 Rt. 19 Lot 19
Cranberry Twp. PA 16066

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Sincerely,

Dashawna Tindall
412-808-5347
817 Anaheim St.
Pittsburgh PA 15219

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Sincerely,

Karen Perlebach
232 Wilbur Street
Pgh. Pa. 15210

To the Legislative body et al,

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Approval of this legislation would not only give reentrants hope for their futures and the futures of their families, but would have a significant impact on preventing recidivism. Men and women with applicable skills would be enabled to make a positive impact on their communities, and families. Those in need of training and treatment would be able to seek these out without impediment.

Please vote yes to HB 163, HB 42 and HR 76, and permit Pennsylvanians to work.

Sincerely,

Angelos Callogestulak
115 N. BEATTY ST APT 210
PHILADELPHIA PA 19106

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Sincerely,



2504 Hyer Ave
North Versailles PA 15137

Apt 53 A

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Sincerely,

I support this bill
Nattale Turner
Nattale Turner
11-9-17
127 St. Croix Drive
Penn Hills Pa 15235

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Sincerely,

Christina Wimer
Christina Wimer

309 S. 2nd St.
Duglesville PA 15110

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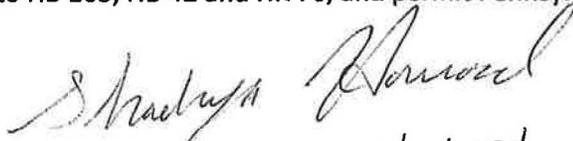
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Sincerely,


907 Woodward AVE
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

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Sincerely,

Morris Taylor MORRIS TAYLOR
418 JOHNSTON AV
PIT. PA. 15207

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Took a plea bargain in 2015 and it was an agreement or
I wouldn't get the plea for 2-4 yrs

B. Kennedy

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Sincerely,

Balon Kennedy
102 Reellyn Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

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Sincerely,

Victor Morgan
25 N. 2nd Street
Duquesne PA 15110

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Sincerely,



Sarah Shields

1902 Johnston St.
N. Braddock Pa 15104

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Sincerely,

Suzette Sankey
Suzette Sankey
1070 Elcker Rd
New Ken Pa. 15068

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Tim Russell
Timothy Russell
113 Lanford Dr.
Pittsburgh PA 15235

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Sincerely,

Kristin Panichella

Krist - Panichella

731 COURTVIEW DRIVE
GREENSBURG PA 15601

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Sincerely,

Justin R Hoffer



53 Thelma Drive

West Newton, PA 15089

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Sincerely,

Darlene Dukic

DARLENE DUKIC

107 JAMES ST.

N. VERSAILLES PA 15137

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GREG BIVENS
714 CHERRY BLOSSOM CT
DEZMONT, PA
15626

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Sincerely,

Amy S May

Amy S May

307 RESERVOIR RD

APOLLO, PA 15613

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Sincerely,

Patricia Mitchell-Marsh
Patricia Mitchell - Marsh
204 Singer Avenue
McKees Rocks Pa 15136

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Alexander Perla

4105 Monroeville Blvd

Monroeville, PA 15146

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Sincerely,

Quayshawn Sloan

2829 Shadeland ave pgh, Pa 15212

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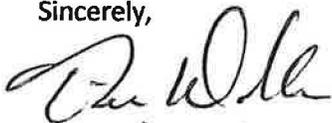
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Tim Dillon

950 - Greentree Rd, Suite 302

Pittsburgh, PA 15220

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Karen Marshall
2738 Merwyn Ave. Pgh PA 15204

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Please vote yes to HB 163, HB 42 and HR 76, and permit Pennsylvanians to work.

Sincerely,



Sheila Halter

CLP

4400 FORBES AVENUE

Penn., PA 15213

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Sincerely,

Joseph Thomas



2552 Centre ave. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219 Apt. #3

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Sincerely,



Handwritten signature of Matt Demas, consisting of a stylized first name and a large, looped last name.

Matt Demas

107 Holkhill Dr

PGH, PA

15237

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Sincerely,

Shravinda
Sumath Ravindra,
1 Warm Sunday Way
Mech Pa 17052

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Sincerely,

Serena Williams
Williams

7528 Penn Ave. Apt. 1
Ft. H, PA
15208

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Sincerely,

Thomas Bowe
4101 LEE MANOR DR
ALLISON PARK PA 15101

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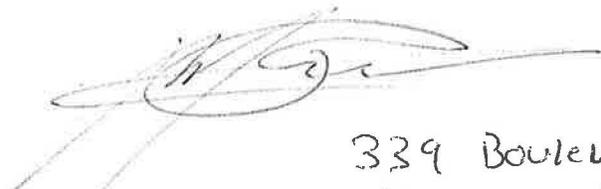
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Sincerely,

MICHAEL PITTENGER



339 Boulevard OF THE ALLIES
PITTSBURGH/PA/15222.

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Justin Thrush
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501 N. NEGLEY AVE

Pittsburgh PA 15206

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Jenn Strang
102 Euclid Ave
Dravosburg, PA
15034

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Nancy DeRozala (Lucas)
1003 Vermont Ave
White Oak PA 15131

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Christina Stanford
1329 Woodland Dr
Monroeville PA 15146

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Deanna Nase
580 Rainier Dr.
Pgh, PA, 15234

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Edward Romito

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216 Carson ST
Springdale Pa 15144.

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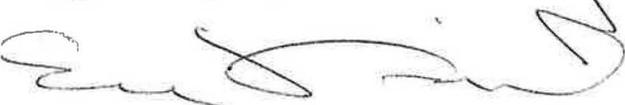
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Sincerely,

Emily Fischl
429 Fox Hill St.
Greensburg PA 15601


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Brandie Lamanna
Brandie Lamanna
400 Chapeldale Drive
Apollo, PA 15613

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Sincerely,



MONTY MATHIAS
325 NOEL DR
MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

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Sincerely,

Scott Mehlert
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1121 Glenbrooke Ave
Moon Twp 15108

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Sincerely,

Alma Shipby
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2316 Cleveland St.
McKeesport, PA 15132

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Sincerely,


Michelle Westbrook

145 Windsor Dr.
Pgh., PA 15235

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Sincerely, Michelle Burk



202 N Lincoln Ave Apt 3
Greensburg PA 15601

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Please vote yes to HB 163, HB 42 and HR 76, and permit Pennsylvanians to work.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]
[Faint handwritten text]

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Sincerely,

Connie Kramer, LPC
C. Kramer
1620 Branning Rd
Pittsburgh PA 15235

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Adam Hutchinson



706 Old State Route 66
Greensburg Pa 15601

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Sincerely,

Jon Parrotta



422 Shelbourne Dr
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

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Sincerely,

PATRICK BUTLER



222 WELSH AVE
WILMERTON, PA 15148

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Sincerely,

Sheppi Denson
912 Bernd St. Pgh Pa 15210

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy M. Guadalupe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

To the Legislative body et al,

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Sincerely,



388 New York Ave
Clinton, P. D. 15025

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Sincerely,

Wayne Edwards
501 Sunnyfeild Dr
Monroeville PA 15146

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Please vote yes to HB 163, HB 42 and HR 76, and permit Pennsylvanians to work.

Sincerely,

Kristen Dixon

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristen Dixon".

606 Industry Street
Pittsburgh PA 15210

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Sincerely,

Daniel Dwyer

12 telescope st Pgh PA. ~~15203~~
15203

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David Dent

4784 Oakhurst Avenue

Abson, PA. 15044

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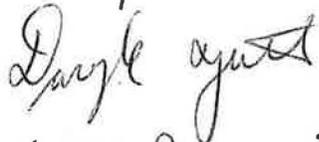
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Sincerely,

Daryle Yates



6101 Rodman St. 15206

Pgh, PA

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of the letters 'D.B.' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line extending to the right.

109 Lincoln Ave. Bellevue, PA 15202

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2450 Charles St Pgh, PA 15214

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107 BARR AVE
Pgh Pa 15205

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Sincerely,

Sidney McLean

1413 Centennial St.
McKeesport, PA 15132

To the Legislative body et al,

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Sincerely,

Henry L. Coon
123 ROBINSON DRIVE
Pittsburgh Pa 15236

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Sincerely, William Hamilton
400 Swissville Ave
P64 PA 15221

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Kateri Kondrich

2707 Banker St.

McKeesport, Pa. 15132



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11 Topella St

Pittsburgh PA. 15217