

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUDICAIRY COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS  
PUBLIC MEETING

STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA

MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
ROOM 140

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022  
10 A.M.

PRESENTATION ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 99

BEFORE:

Honorable Paul Schemel, Majority Subcommittee Chairman  
Honorable Joshua Kail  
Honorable Andrew Lewis  
Honorable Todd Stephens  
Honorable Joseph Hohenstein, Minority Subcommittee Chairman  
Honorable Michael Zabel

\* \* \* \* \*

*Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Honorable Barry Jozwiak

Honorable Timothy Briggs

I N D E X

TESTIFIERS

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

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MAJORITY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCHEMEL: Good morning. I'd like to call this meeting of the House Subcommittee on Courts to order.

Elana, if you'd please call the roll.

(The roll was taken)

Thank you very much. Appears that we have a quorum present.

I'd first like to begin by recognizing Chairman Stephens. Chairman Stephens chaired this subcommittee for some time. He is now chair of a full committee of his own. Chairman, we are very pleased and honored that you are able to be here as a member with your experience.

I'd also like to recognize the co-chair, Chairman Hohenstein. Very thankful for you to be here with us as well.

House Resolution 99 passed the House by unanimous, bipartisan vote 200-0 on November 10, 2021. Since the resolution initiated this investigation, a similar resolution has been introduced in the Pennsylvania State Senate.

Numerous public officials and citizens have called upon Commissioner Halcovage to resign from office. It has become clear that Mr. Halcovage has no such

1 intention. That being the case, the process of impeachment  
2 will need to move forward.

3           Significantly, House Resolution 99 authorizes the  
4 House Judiciary Committee and this Subcommittee to subpoena  
5 witnesses, documents and other materials for the purpose of  
6 performing its duties. The resolution states, "Resolved,  
7 that the Subcommittee on Courts is authorized and empowered  
8 to [take and] make recommendations to the Judiciary  
9 Committee of the House of Representatives and, in the  
10 performance of its duties may:

11               (1) send for individuals and papers and subpoena  
12 witnesses, documents and other materials under the seal of  
13 the subcommittee chairperson;

14               (2) administer oaths to witnesses;

15               (3) take testimony; and

16               (4) prepare and file pleadings and other legal  
17 documents."

18           Under the Rules of the House and the resolution,  
19 this subcommittee is authorized to use its subpoena power  
20 to compel the production of testimony and documents.  
21 Evidence can be received either in open public forum or in  
22 executive session.

23           If the committee believes that it would be  
24 appropriate under the circumstances, I believe it is  
25 incumbent upon us to use the subpoena power to ensure the

1 relevant witnesses are heard and documents are produced and  
2 reviewed in an orderly and expeditious manor. Accordingly,  
3 I've called this meeting of the subcommittee to conduct  
4 some housekeeping measures so we can be in a position to  
5 take testimony and receive documents efficiently and  
6 effectively as this investigation proceeds. To that end we  
7 will consider a motion in a moment. But first, Chairman  
8 Hohenstein, do you have any remarks?

9           MINORITY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HOHENSTEIN: Thank  
10 you Chairman Schemel, and I simply want to go on record  
11 that impeachment is one of the most serious processes that  
12 we as a body have. And we here in this committee, I think,  
13 are taking this specific process very seriously, handling  
14 it with professionalism that it deserves and also looking  
15 to hold to account our fellow elected representatives and  
16 in so doing actually holding ourselves to account for how  
17 we conduct the public's business. And I appreciate Chairman  
18 Schemel and his work thus far and look forward to being  
19 able to conduct ourselves in the way that befits this type  
20 of proceeding. Thank you.

21           MAJORITY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCHEMEL: Thank you  
22 Chairman Hohenstein.

23           That being said we've heard the motion. Is there  
24 a motion to consider the resolution?  
25

1 REPRESENTATIVE STEPHENS: So moved.

2 MAJORITY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SCHEMEL: Thank  
3 you. Chairman Stephens makes the motion. Is there a second?  
4 Chairman Hohenstein seconds the motion. Are there any  
5 comments or discussion on the motion? That being said, are  
6 there any "no" votes on the motion? Seeing no "no" votes  
7 the resolution passes unanimously.

8 With that this meeting is adjourned.

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1           I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings  
2 are a true and accurate transcription produced from audio  
3 on the said proceedings and that this is a correct  
4 transcript of the same.

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7           Rachael Losiewicz

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