

HOUSE REPUBLICAN

POLICY

COMMITTEE



2023 Q2 REPORT
APRIL-JUNE

JOSHUA D. KAIL, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



HOPE

Republican Policy Committee

The Republican Policy Committee continues its path to remove obstacles to opportunities throughout the Commonwealth. The Committee is driven by a desire to enable Pennsylvania and the families that live here to reach their full potential. Throughout our travels we have seen one missing link to unlocking Pennsylvania's future – **Hope**.

We are seeing our children, our friends, and our family leave our state in search of better opportunities elsewhere. The House Republican Caucus has made a commitment to our Keystone State to support policies that are grounded in reality and put Pennsylvania in the position to thrive. Throughout the second quarter of 2023, the Republican Policy Committee has placed a keen focus on what we as legislators can do to provide:

Hope for Pennsylvania families through innovative policy solutions that are people driven and future focused.

Oppportunity to the citizens of this great Commonwealth. We must harness the ample resources offered right here in Pennsylvania, from a highly skilled workforce and abundant energy portfolio to our manufacturing might and agriculture prowess, we must foster the opportunities found here so we can continue to grow as a state.

Prosperity through family-sustaining jobs. We need to promote Pennsylvania as open for business by removing burdensome taxation, easing the regulatory climate, and addressing overbearing bureaucracy.

Excellence in government. Government should work for the people in an efficient and effective manner. Too often we see government as a hurdle to success. Government must promptly react to the needs of its people and allow citizens and the market to guide sound policy.

The Republican Caucus strives to address the issues of the day and remain steadfast in our commitment to the Keystone State. We can and must do better to deliver hope to Pennsylvania families.

The following report is a summary of all hearings, tours and events pursued by the 2023-24 Republican Policy Committee from April through June 2023. This Q2 report will provide a glimpse into the wide range of issues and concerns addressed by the Committee and potential solutions to the obstacles to opportunity. Further information to build upon what is included in this report such as testimony, testifier biographies, and videos can be found at www.pagoppolicy.com.



Chairman Joshua D. Kail

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HOPE

KEEPING COMMUNIT



FOR FIRST RES



PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS: HELPING MOTHERS AND FATHERS



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Rep. Craig Williams

"I'm standing shoulder to shoulder with you to fight crime, to make our community safe."

TESTIFIERS



Liam N. Power, Chair of the Education Task Force, Office of Advocacy and Reform

"Trauma-informed restorative justice practices build healthy relationships and instill a community-oriented nature."



Professor Gregg Volz, Director of Youth Courts, Harcum College

"Things don't need to be the way they are. These efforts will go a long way in developing the citizens the Commonwealth needs."



Chief John Egan, Chief of Police, Bethel Township Police Department

"Officers deserve to have a camera on their body in this day in age. The pictures don't lie. Body cameras protect our officers and the citizens of the Commonwealth, and state grants should be prioritized."



Bob McCarron, President, Chester County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 11

"People need to be held accountable, or else why do we have laws? Without accountability, we have anarchy. We need to respect and use our existing system."

Keeping Our Communities Safe

May 8, 2023

Concord Twp. Municipal Complex, Glen Mills
Hosted by Rep. Williams

Crime is spreading outward from Philadelphia and impacting the lives of law-abiding citizens in Delaware County. The Policy Committee invited our law enforcement officers and experts in restorative justice to discuss the reality of our policing capabilities and efforts to redirect youth away from criminality. There are no simple answers to these problems, but upholding the rule of law, supporting the work of our sworn law enforcement officers, and providing off-ramps to the "school-to-prison pipeline" will assist in keeping our communities safe

TAKEAWAYS

RESTORING JUSTICE

- ▶ Trauma-induced mental health issues are directly correlated with a person's likelihood of negative interactions within our legal system. **Statistically, 8 in 10 people suffering from mental health ailments will interact with our legal system at some point in their lives.**
- ▶ **One quarter of kids within the criminal justice system were initially referred by their schools.**
- ▶ "Youth Courts" offer alternatives to our traditional criminal justice system. These specialized courts utilize age-appropriate peers to adjudicate more fitting punishments for youth offenders.
- ▶ "Youth Courts" can begin as early as 5th grade, and students are trained by professionals on determining how the offenses of their peers should be addressed.
- ▶ Utilization of "Youth Courts" can limit the need for suspensions and expulsions, and also limit future referrals to the criminal justice system.
- ▶ **"Youth Courts" correlate with fewer children requiring placement in delinquency prevention programs.** Placement in these programs has dropped by 65% in two decades.

TESTIFIERS



Chris Eiserman, President, Delaware County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 27

"Our department is struggling to fill shifts, and this issue needs to be at the forefront of the Commonwealth."

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

- ▶ Remove the financial barriers to entering law enforcement by providing police academy training and associated gear freely, upon successful completion, to incentivize new recruits to join the force.
- ▶ **State grants for police should prioritize body cameras** regardless of perceived criminality in a region.
- ▶ **Philadelphia's unwillingness to prosecute criminals is hamstringing our police and enabling crime to spread outside of the city's limits.**
- ▶ Florida is poaching PA officers with promises of signing bonuses, increased pay, and honoring their pensions through pension reciprocity.
- ▶ Police training facilities need to be modernized to support our new and existing officers.





Rep. Ryan Mackenzie

“Our first responders are in a crisis situation. In terms of the resources they receive, the personnel they need, and ever-increasing costs.”

TESTIFIERS



Tito Burgos, Fire Chief, Emerald Star Hose Fire Company #1

“We can’t continue to sell hoagies to buy new fire trucks!”



Brian Carl, Deputy Chief, Weisenberg Volunteer Fire Department

“It is not feasible to ask a volunteer, that risks their life to respond to emergencies, to raise money just to keep the lights on and fuel in their trucks.”



J.T. Klein, Firefighter, Northeast Field Service Representative, Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association

“I respect anyone who answers the call, but we need to think about how we provide these services to our communities.”



Don DeReamus, Legislative Committee Chair, Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania

“We bear witness to the best and worst of humanity and live with the good and bad outcomes of our work, some of those images seared into our souls.”

For Our First Responders

May 30, 2023

Emerald Star Hose Fire Company, Slatington
Hosted by Rep. R. Mackenzie

Crisis, disaster, dire, and emergency... these words describe the current status of our firefighters and EMS. These descriptions of our first responders manifest into delayed response time and increased risk for Pennsylvanians. To address these growing concerns the House Republican Policy Committee held a tour and public hearing at the Emerald Star Hose Fire Company to discuss the challenges facing our first responders.

TAKEAWAYS

FIREFIGHTERS

- ▶ Grants, grants, grants. Every department wants them, but they are difficult to find and apply for. Departments want a “One Stop Shop” for firefighter grants.
- ▶ Volunteer firefighters deserve state incentives for their service. Tuition assistance, tax rebates, CDL training, pensions/monthly monetary awards for years of service, etc.
- ▶ **Current “fire fees” levied by municipal governments are not enough to support volunteer departments.**
- ▶ Firefighter training facilities must be available throughout the Commonwealth. Our firefighters cannot be expected to travel long distances to receive necessary training.
- ▶ Volunteer departments desire more active communication with our state agencies during an emergency. Firefighters will always respond and address the emergency, but it is PennDOT’s duty to act as a road crew after the emergency situation is contained.
- ▶ Efforts to consolidate volunteer departments are gaining traction. Many departments are unsure of how to go about the process, have deep desires to retain their local fire departments, **and there are no state incentives to consolidate**, so the process is progressing slowly.
- ▶ If departments are considering consolidation they may find guidance through the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee’s 2005 report on *“The Feasibility of Regionalizing Pennsylvania’s Volunteer Fire Companies”*.

TESTIFIERS



"I've almost died while caring for someone else."

Howard Schwartz, Certified Paramedic and Board Trustee, Northern Valley EMS

FIREFIGHTERS (cont'd)

- ▶ PTSD/PTSI impacts first responders and is not covered by insurance or workers compensation. PTSD/PTSI is an occupational injury borne by our first responders.

EMS

- ▶ **EMS is mandated to provide service, but there is no mandate that they get paid!** They receive 30–40 cents on the dollar.
- ▶ Working through insurance takes time and effort to receive compensation, and if no insurance is available, payment likely does not occur.
- ▶ **PTSD occurs in 30% of first responders, while impacting only 8.7% of American adults.**
- ▶ EMS experience life and death situations daily. The toll incurs PTSD/PTSI, yet these are not recognized under PA's Workers' Compensation statute.
- ▶ EMT suicides have surpassed line-of-duty deaths. **There is a mental health crisis actively occurring.**





Rep. Kate Klunk

"Pregnancy Resource Centers give me hope for the future of Pennsylvania."



Rep. Paul Schemel

"Pregnancy Resource Centers inspire courage and perform life-changing work that creates strong families."

T E S T I F I E R S



Rocky & Harmony, Testaments to the Work of PA Pregnancy Resource Centers

*"*Cute cooing*"*



Amy Scheuring, Executive Director, Women's Choice Network

"Our mission is to be transformational in the lives of women and families."



Chelsey Youman, National Legislative Advisor, Human Coalition

"We're providing women with empowerment, independence, and a life of hope and love with their family."

Pregnancy Resource Centers: Helping Mothers and Fathers

June 7, 2023

205 Ryan Office Building

Hosted by Rep. Klunk & Rep. Schemel

In the words of Governor Casey, Pregnancy Resource Centers "help to fight the poison of hopelessness with love". The Republican Policy Committee was joined by Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) providers and clients to hear of the services provided, the lives touched, and the hope inspired by these facilities. Resources, assistance, and supports are available to mothers and fathers of all backgrounds, and the day's hearing highlighted the care and services offered to women and their families.

TAKEAWAYS

HOW WE HELP

- ▶ Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs) offer free ultrasounds to women, with 80% of recipients choosing to continue their pregnancy.
- ▶ Free STD testing and treatment is commonly available through Pregnancy Resource Centers.
- ▶ **Abortion pill reversals are possible!** Centers have begun offering immediate assistance to mothers who take the abortion pill at home and regret beginning the abortion protocol.
- ▶ **Educational and fellowship programs are provided to expectant dads** to prepare them for fatherhood and enable them to build and maintain strong families.
- ▶ Telehealth enabled PRCs to continue providing services through COVID, and extend their resources to rural communities.
- ▶ A majority of PRC funding stems from local community donations, with the remaining supplied through Real Alternatives (state funding) as reimbursements for services.
- ▶ PRCs provide health insurance, diapers, strollers, and other necessities free of charge to mothers and families.
- ▶ **Assistance is guaranteed for children and families up to one year after the child's birth.**

TESTIFIERS



Jill Hartman, Executive Director, A Woman's Concern

"Supporting underprivileged women and families should not be controversial."



Quinn Laffin, Client of Women's Choice Network, Expectant Mother

"I'm grateful for Woman's Choice Network. They provided me with an education about my options and informed me of all that was available to me... I was in the right place."



Crystal Morales, Client of A Woman's Concern, Mother of Harmony

"I'm so grateful for A Woman's Concern. They have helped me become the great mother I am today."



Lindsay Smith, Client of A Woman's Concern, Mother of Rocky

"A Woman's Concern cares deeply and offered support without judgement."



Nicholas Luccarella, Client of A Woman's Concern, Father of Rocky

"Courageous Dads aligned me into a place with a purpose... AWC saved my dream to finally have a family of my own. A true home to come back to every day."

WHO WE HELP

- ▶ With family and friends far from her current school and employment, Quinn found local assistance and support through her PRC.
- ▶ Crystal first approached her PRC while 8-months pregnant. **She and her daughter Harmony will continue to receive direct assistance until Harmony's first birthday.**
- ▶ **Courageous Dads**, a program offered through PRCs, assisted Nicholas (father of Rocky) in developing valuable parenting skills and connected him with a support network of other fathers.
- ▶ Couples therapy, offered by PRCs, strengthens the bonds between mothers, fathers, and their children.





THERE MAY BE ROOM THERE

MAKE IT THE SEED

MY GOD

NATION



SCIENCE

ART

THE SPIRIT OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

OPPORTUNITY

EFFECTIVE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FOR OUR DRIVERS AND STUDENTS



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CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION: A PATHWAY TO OPPORTUNITY



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Chairman Josh Kail

“One of the most important factors of education is ensuring our students can get to and from school safely.”

TESTIFIERS



Aaron Sepkowski, President,
Pocono Transportation

“We want to provide the best possible transportation to our neighbors, families, and friends.”



DJ Frye, Owner, Frye Transportation Group

“The number one safety component is the individual behind the wheel.”



Todd Rittenhouse, Fleet Manager,
Rittenhouse Bus Lines

“Electric vehicle grants are nice... but what will happen when the grants run out?!”

Effective School Transportation for Our Drivers and Our Students

May 2, 2023

Room 418, Main Capitol

Hosted by Chairman Kail

The men and women who transport our children to and from school are integral to the future potential of our next generation. The drivers of big yellow school buses deliver hope and opportunity to our children and families, and the Committee invited the school transportation community to share insight into their work and the obstacles they face in serving our children and schools.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ The training needed to become a licensed school bus driver generally takes 12 weeks. It is nearly identical to CDL licensing.
- ▶ The push to electrify our school bus fleet is causing immense financial issues for our transportation providers and schools.
- ▶ **Electric school buses cost four times that of a typical clean diesel bus** – Approximately \$400,000 per vehicle.
- ▶ **Electric buses have significant limitations**, making them unsuitable for the needs of PA students, families, and schools. Their maximum range is between 100-150 miles, and their batteries lose 40% of their efficiency in temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The need to seasonally heat and cool the bus further strains the battery life.
- ▶ A majority of schools contract with transportation providers. **Increases in expenses borne by the transportation provider are billed to the school district, which then falls on the local tax base.**





Rep. Craig Staats

“Not all education is a one-size-fits-all approach. It is important we continue to support our technical schools and students, to prepare them for the future just as we do with traditional education.”

TESTIFIERS



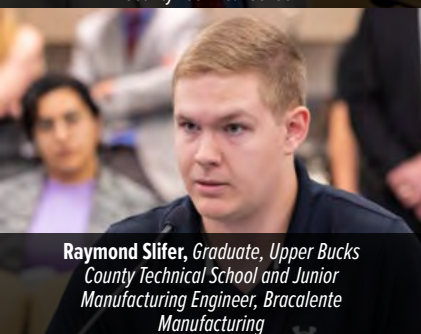
Michael Herrera, Executive Director, Upper Bucks County Technical School

“Career & Technical Education is the key to unleashing the true power of our students, communities, and economy.”



Rich Matthias, Instructor, Upper Bucks County Technical School

“CTE programs help to bridge the divide between education and industry.”



Raymond Slifer, Graduate, Upper Bucks County Technical School and Junior Manufacturing Engineer, Bracalente Manufacturing

“My education journey has led me to be 20 years old, earning over \$50,000 a year with unlimited room for advancement and NO COLLEGE DEBT.”



John Maketa, Strategic Advisor—Workforce Development

“You can’t train someone to weld on ZOOM!”

Career & Technical Education: A Pathway to Opportunity

May 17, 2023

Upper Bucks County Technical School, Perkasié
Hosted by Rep. Staats

Opportunity abounds at Career and Technical Education (CTE) Schools throughout the Commonwealth. Through a CTE school, students can pursue trades and lifelong careers before graduating high school. To learn more about the benefits offered through CTE, the Policy Committee toured Upper Bucks County Technical School to speak with students and faculty, and see the incredible results of their work and studies. There is no single path through life, and CTE offers a viable option that inspires hope for our future generations.

TAKEAWAYS

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ PA does not utilize CTE Schools at the same rate as other states. **PA ranks 36th out of 50 for CTE enrollment**, with only 6.42% of students enrolled in CTE.
- ▶ CTE School funding and support stems from local public schools via a funding formula, federal supplemental funding from the Carl Perkins’ Act, and partnerships with local industry to supply materials and teaching aids.
- ▶ CTE is open to all public-school students, and was recently opened to homeschool students, but enrollment is difficult for cyber charter or charter school students.
- ▶ Penn State and Temple University are THE ONLY schools to provide CTE teacher certifications in PA.
- ▶ Requiring CTE teachers to pursue teaching degrees is an onerous process, and a teacher’s professional qualifications and previous schooling are often not recognized by Temple University or Penn State.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

- ▶ CTE students receive real-world experience through paid co-ops with local employers while pursuing their education.
- ▶ **Many CTE skills and trades are immune to AI displacement.** A robot cannot be a plumber, carpenter, or mechanic. These skills cannot be outsourced.
- ▶ Encouragement of CTE will reduce student debt burdens and enable young people to purchase homes, start families, and immediately invest in their communities.
- ▶ **CTE graduates, on average, earn \$5,000 more per year than those with only a high school diploma.**
- ▶ CTE Schools partner and cooperate with industries to train students for in-demand careers.



PROSPERITY

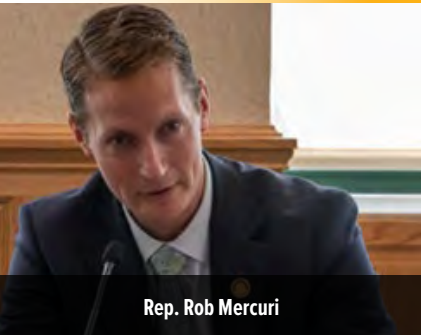
MANUFACTURING INTO THE

HOSPITAL TRANSP

ELECTRIFYING OUR WORLD: IMPACTS ON GRID INTEGRITY & RELIABILITY

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Rep. Rob Mercuri

"The time to start innovating for the future of manufacturing in Pennsylvania is now."

TESTIFIERS



Matt Blackburn, Senior Manager of Government Relations, Aurora

"We are creating the jobs of the future. Jobs that will stay here in Pittsburgh."



Bryan Iams, Vice President, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer, PPG

"The public policy choices made in Pennsylvania are crucial to our success in delivering on the promise of advanced manufacturing."



Brian Kennedy, Senior Vice President, Operations and Government Affairs, Pittsburgh Technology Council

"If you're going to spend more money on workforce development, I urge you to spend it in a way that is in partnership with the private sector."

Manufacturing Our Way Into the Future

April 27, 2023

Hampton Twp. Community Center

Hosted by Rep. Mercuri

Advanced manufacturing is driving new residents to Pennsylvania and providing opportunity for the next generation. Our Commonwealth has the available resources, energy, research institutions, and workforce necessary to propel the state into a productive and inspiring future. The Committee convened to learn of the ongoing research, development, and manufacturing occurring in PA, as well as the efforts underway to ready our workforce for the careers of tomorrow.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ The passage of HB2398, Act 130 of 2022, enables PA to attract autonomous vehicle researchers and developers. Without this legislation, autonomous vehicle R&D would not be possible in PA.
- ▶ **Carnegie Mellon University is a major driver for AI and robotics development.** The university brings talent and know-how to the Commonwealth.
- ▶ Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) expressed that RGGI makes PA "less competitive" for manufacturer investments.
- ▶ **Our Advanced Manufacturers would benefit from the following:**
 - Decrease the timeframe of the cuts to **Corporate Net Income Tax**, and bring PA's treatment of **Net Operating Losses** in line with other states and the federal tax code.
 - Many companies have struggled with **recruiting and retaining employees**. Efforts need to be made to encourage higher education to work alongside advanced manufacturers when developing curriculum, and for further investment in vocational training.
 - PA **regulations** are not always grounded in sound science or achievable goals. Our manufacturers would like for regulators to listen to the regulated community when developing and enforcing new regulations.



- ▶ PA's tech sector is ATTRACTING people to the state — largely without the need for state-sponsored aid thanks to our existing workforce and the reputation of Carnegie Mellon University.
- ▶ **A 4-year degree is no longer necessary to find a career in the tech field.** 14-week “boot camps” or apprenticeship programs are enough to get started at an entry level. Colleges and community colleges have begun exploring options outside of a 2-year or 4-year degree to get people working as soon as possible.





Rep. David Rowe

"Almost every hospital in Pennsylvania is noncompliant with the federal price transparency regulation; the issue isn't the language of the regulation, the issue is the lack of enforcement."

TESTIFIERS



Dean Clancy, Senior Health Policy Fellow, Americans for Prosperity

"The true customers of our hospitals are currently not the patients, but the insurers."



Patrick Neville, Former Republican Leader, Colorado State House of Representatives

"Price transparency is the first step in developing a functioning health care system."



Jim Jusko, JD, President and Founder, Firelight Health

"If the price of food rose like health care over the last 50 years we'd be spending \$50 for a gallon of milk!"



Chris Deacon, Owner, VerSan Consulting

"With the combination of health care providers and insurers we're moving towards a single payer health care system today, even if we're unaware of it. The only bulwark against this is price transparency."

Hospital Pricing Transparency

May 4, 2023

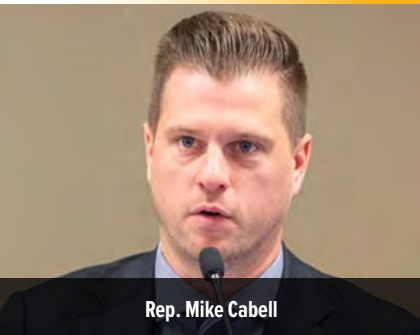
Open Discourse, Lewisburg

Hosted by Rep. Rowe

The distinct lack of price transparency within our health care system disables the free market and adds immense cost and strain to patients pursuing care. Lack of transparency impedes competition, obfuscates prices until services are rendered, and traps hardworking insured patients in lifelong debt. The Republican Policy Committee held a hearing on the matter to bring light to the darkness of hospital pricing and empower Pennsylvanians to receive the care they deserve at a fair price.

TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ **Health care costs have increased at a rate higher than inflation for the last 50 years.**
- ▶ Federal rules addressing hospital pricing transparency can be simply incorporated into state law to enable state-level enforcement.
- ▶ **90%+ of Americans are supportive of greater transparency in hospital pricing.**
- ▶ Colorado, Texas, Virginia, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Wisconsin have all made attempts to strengthen the federal transparency rules through enacting state laws and enforcement mechanisms.
- ▶ The federal rules on hospital pricing do not instruct hospitals how the data should be shared. With proper data standards the IT world could revolutionize the industry and enable patients to "shop" for procedures and care.
- ▶ **Transparency in pricing will enable private practices to compete with major health care networks** – bringing back the availability of private practitioners and family doctors.
- ▶ Vertical integration within health care, where insurers and providers are the same entity, disincentivizes reducing costs.



Rep. Mike Cabell

"As policymakers and stakeholders, we need to focus on three areas moving forward: Expansion, not transition; crawl, walk, run; and let the market decide."



Rep. Jonathan Fritz

"We need a reliable, on-demand electrical delivery system, and right now that consists of natural gas, nuclear, coal, and hopefully in the near future, hydrogen."

TESTIFIERS



Stephen Bennet, Manager of Regulatory/Legislative Affairs, PJM Interconnection

"If current trends continue, we will be at elevated risk of resource adequacy shortfalls later in this decade."



Glen Thomas, President, GT Power Group

"The most state-of-the-art plants in the world are right here in PA!"



Robert Bair, President, Pennsylvania Building & Construction Trades Council

"Grid reliability is more than just reliability, it's JOBS!"

Electrifying Our World: Impacts on Grid Integrity & Reliability

June 16, 2023

Back Mountain EMA, Dallas

Hosted by Rep. Cabell & Rep. Fritz

To further the push against Governor Shapiro's energy tax the House Republican Policy Committee heard from those who build and maintain our electric grid along with the generators that feed it. The day's hearing brought to light the liability imposed on our grid through efforts to further electrify our world. The Committee highlighted the absurdity of encouraging further electric usage while taxing our baseload energy generators out of the market, driving up energy prices and devastating our grid's reliability.

TAKEAWAYS

GRID CAPABILITIES

- ▶ **97% of new generation in the PJM queue is largely intermittent** (solar & wind), and is not a reliable 1:1 means to replace existing coal or gas generators.
- ▶ Easing PA's permitting system will enable more generation, investments in the state, and lead to greater efficiency.
- ▶ PJM is concerned with adequate supply, accurate forecasting, robust transmission, and reliable operations. **State and federal energy policies, like RGGI, pose extreme liability to our grid and PJM's ability to address these concerns.**
- ▶ The closure of existing baseload electric generators is largely due to government and private sector policies, not the free market or the will of the people.
- ▶ **Without state and federal subsidies, solar and wind energy would not be competitive with existing electricity generators.**

TESTIFIERS



George Stark, Director of External Affairs,
Coterra Energy

"We need ALL energy sources, but we must have a baseload... We need to utilize all of the natural gas we have underfoot to drive our state forward."

GRID SUSTAINABILITY

- ▶ Increased use of electric home heating has moved peak electric use from the summer months to the winter months. PA's grid can handle this change due to coal and gas on-demand generation.
- ▶ PA generators must compete with subsidized energy from other states. This has led to an imbalanced market.
- ▶ **16,000 acres of farmland must be converted to solar fields to generate what a single coal-powered generator could produce.**
- ▶ Energy jobs will suffer under an energy tax. Our capable workforce will find new opportunity in Ohio and West Virginia.
- ▶ **BP built 90 wind turbines on 9,000 acres to power 47,000 homes per year. In comparison, 3 acres of unconventional well pads can generate that amount of energy every 48 hours.**
- ▶ **NY is blocking PA energy from traveling north.** Drilling and pipelines must stop at PA's borders, to the detriment of both PA industry and our neighbors to the north.
- ▶ **A single unconventional well pad in PA can power ALL of Philadelphia!**



EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO OPPORTUNITY



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PENNSYLVANIA'S ENERGY POLICY: BOOM OR BUST



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Rep. Torren Ecker

“RGGI, the Governor’s energy tax, will cripple Pennsylvania.”

TESTIFIERS



Greg Moreland, Pennsylvania State Director, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

“You can’t threaten to tax our business owners at higher rates and say we are open for business.”



David Taylor, President and CEO, Pennsylvania Manufacturers’ Association (PMA)

“An energy tax will force PA to miss out on enormous opportunity.”

The Negative Impacts of the Energy Tax

June 12, 2023

205 Ryan Office Building

Hosted by Vice Chairman Ecker

The Policy Committee invited PA manufacturers and small businesses to discuss the negative impacts of Governor Shapiro’s \$663 MILLION energy tax. The energy tax on the horizon for years now, RGGI, has been pursued without legislative approval and poses immense harm to PA residents and industries. This tax, which will shutter existing energy generators and increase the prices on nearly all the goods and services we use each day, does not serve the interests of the people of our Commonwealth nor increase our ability to compete on a global stage.

TAKEAWAYS

► The economics of RGGI are simple:

- “Carbon tax” costs will surely get passed on to consumers.
- Existing baseload generators will either shut down or increase the cost of their energy.
- Small businesses will then need to increase the costs of the goods and services they provide.
- Consumers will be forced to pay rising costs for life’s necessities due to an energy tax.

► Does RGGI...

- Reduce Carbon Emissions? **NO** – CO2 emissions will “leak” across state lines from West Virginia and Ohio.
- Protect and Create Jobs? **NO** – RGGI eliminates high-paying energy jobs, decommissions energy generators, and creates financial obstacles to new and existing businesses.
- Protect Consumers? **NO** – RGGI is a regressive tax that will harm Pennsylvania homes and businesses that already struggle to make ends meet.



- ▶ **Coal-fired power plants that would face closure via an energy tax are in full compliance with DEP and EPA standards. There is nothing wrong with our existing energy generators!**
 - The Homer City coal-fired power plant closed in July due to pressures from RGGI.
- ▶ Existing RGGI states are energy consumers, not producers. PA is the **NUMBER ONE exporter of energy in America**. The toll of an energy tax on PA will be both unique and unprecedented.
- ▶ Natural resources are needed for more than just energy production. **Coal, natural gas, and oil are manufacturing feedstocks**, and an energy tax will increase the price of the manufacturer's energy bill as well as material input costs. Prime examples include glass and steel production.
- ▶ **Whatever products PA stops producing will instead be manufactured in Ohio, West Virginia, or abroad.** Instead of controlling standards and emissions, PA will offload production to entities and people outside of our laws and regulations.
- ▶ **An energy tax will strain our electric grid.** PJM has voiced concern that electrification of our grid and closures of existing generators will risk rolling blackouts and an inability to hit our baseload needs.





Rep. Jim Struzzi

"We must ensure that the future of Pennsylvania, the future of Indiana County, is viable and strong. We have the resources to do it."

TESTIFIERS



Greg Kalembe, Business Manager, Homer Center School District

"We are going to encounter a great financial loss with the Homer City Generating Station closing."



Jud Kroh, President, Robindale Energy

"RGGI is a concern to us. Not just for our local businesses, but for grid reliability and economic issues."



Shawn Steffee, Business Agent, Executive Board Trustee, Boilermakers Local 154

"The position of the Boilermakers is that this catastrophe is completely avoidable!"



David T. Stevenson, Director, Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, Caesar Rodney Institute

"We don't want to go backwards. We got where we are thanks to affordable and reliable electricity."

Pennsylvania Energy Policy: Boom or Bust

June 23, 2023

Homer City Fire Hall
Hosted by Rep. Struzzi

PA faces either a future of energy prosperity and growth, or intermittent blackouts and financial ruin. Radical and punitive energy policies have claimed another victim, the Homer City Coal-Fired Generating Plant. This closure will harm the future of the region and risk the reliability of our electric grid. To draw attention to the coming plant closure and the impact of the energy tax on our state, Rep. Struzzi invited the House Republican Policy Committee to hear from his local community and industry experts. The Committee investigated the future of PA energy policy and the impact on our region, our family-sustaining careers, and our coming energy bills.

TAKEAWAYS

POWERING OUR COMMUNITIES PANEL

- ▶ **Retaining an active Homer City Coal-Powered Generating Station is key to maintaining the tax base of Homer Center School District.**
- ▶ The Homer City Generating Station is worth \$720,000 in annual real estate tax revenue for the Homer Center School District, **over 12% of the district's total annual tax revenue.**
- ▶ The loss of the Homer City Generating Station will require a 14% tax increase on residents in the district to replace the lost tax revenue.
- ▶ An energy tax will simply move the coal out of Pennsylvania and into the boilers of Ohio and West Virginia.
- ▶ Before an energy tax was introduced in PA, the Commonwealth was actively building gas-fired power plants. Now, new construction has stopped. *Is this a coincidence?!*
- ▶ PA is losing our skilled tradesmen to oil, gas, and coal jobs in Ohio and West Virginia every day. We share the same resources, but state policy is an obstacle to PA's opportunities.

TESTIFIERS



Nick Cohen, President and CEO, Doral Renewables, LLC

"The best thing a state can do is stay out of the way of business and trust the free market."



POWERING OUR FUTURE PANEL

- ▶ **PA holds all the power within PJM.** The Commonwealth may want to flex its muscle, **particularly concerning MOPR (Minimum Offer Price Rule)** which allows other states to subsidize inefficient energy at PA's expense.
- ▶ **There is no bubble around PA.** PA emissions will move to Ohio and West Virginia, and then travel back into the state just like Canadian wildfire smoke.
- ▶ Delaware, a RGGI state, has chosen NOT to spend much of the energy tax assessed on their generators.
- ▶ Delaware coal-fired generators, slated to close due to the energy tax, were required to stay online to preserve grid integrity.
- ▶ **There is hope for the future of the Homer City Coal-Powered Generating Station,** as the expensive transmission lines and infrastructure will remain intact following the plant closure.
- ▶ Tax credits are not the same as subsidies. They are incentives to do business in PA.
- ▶ Solar generators WANT U.S.-made panels, but the demand is far higher than the supply or capabilities of American manufacturers.
- ▶ Hydrogen energy generation is promising, but will take at least a decade to enter PA's generator fleet.
- ▶ **We cannot ignore Virginia.** Virginia was once a RGGI state, chose to leave, and is now building advanced gas-powered generators throughout the Commonwealth.

APRIL 27, 2023

EATON ELECTRIC'S EXPERIENCE CENTER

Hosted by Rep. Rob Mercuri

The equipment necessary to transmit energy on our electric grid is made right here in PA. The Committee witnessed how innovative design and advanced manufacturing combine to develop these integral components. The energy beneath our feet and the manufacturers in our communities work in tandem to power our world.



MAY 17, 2023

UPPER BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Hosted by Rep. Craig Staats

Dreams become reality at Upper Bucks County Technical School. Students and faculty shared their accomplishments and hope for the future, all while showcasing their talents and trades. Whether you aspire to cut hair, prepare an excellent meal, machine components for NASA, or maintain classic vehicles UBCTS delivers opportunity for Pennsylvania's students.



MAY 30, 2023

EMERALD STAR HOSE FIRE COMPANY #1

Hosted by Rep. Ryan Mackenzie

Firefighting is more than arriving on scene to deliver aid. Countless manhours are needed to maintain vehicles, equipment, and the firehalls that cover our state. The Committee viewed the facilities of the Emerald Star Hose Fire Company, spoke with volunteer firemen, and witnessed firsthand the needs of our first responders.



IN THE NEWS

FIRST RESPONDERS

THE VALLEY LEDGER

MACKENZIE HOSTS POLICY COMMITTEE HEARING ON CHALLENGES FACED BY EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS

© JUNE 8, 2023 THE VALLEY LEDGER

Pennsylvania ★ Capital-Star

'We can't sit on our hands anymore': Cash-strapped volunteer fire depts. ask lawmakers for help

The House Republican Policy Committee traveled to Lehigh County for a hearing on Tuesday

BY: DANIRAE RENNO - MAY 30, 2023



The Center Square

EMS workers say problems "kicked down the road" caused crisis

By Anthony Hennen | The Center Square | May 30, 2023

Local Business & Member Supported!

LEVITTOWN Now.com

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE LEVITTOWN, PA. AREA.

'Broken' EMS Business Model Risks Safety Net In PA, Officials Say

By Anthony Hennen



Republican Policy Committee Visits Delco, Discusses Solutions to Youth Crime

Posted to [Politics](#) May 09, 2023 by [Linda Stein](#)

OUR STUDENTS, SCHOOLS, AND WORKFORCE



Policy Committee Highlights Hurdles Within School Transportation



OPINION: Career and Technical Education is the School Choice for Tomorrow's Workforce

by [Rep. Shelby Labs](#), [Rep. Craig Staats](#)



Pennsylvania Business Report

Rep. Mercuri holds manufacturing, workforce development hearing

BY LIZ CAREY | MAY 1, 2023 |

HEALTH CARE

The Philadelphia Inquirer

You deserve to know what you pay for hospital care

by David Rowe, For The Inquirer

The Standard-Journal

Connecting the Valley to Print and Digital

Rowe hosts hospital pricing hearing

The Daily Item

More for You

Experts: Hospital pricing transparency a step toward lowering health care costs

By Rick Glinder to/andersondailyitem.com May 8, 2023



BROAD + LIBERTY

Parenting resources and support celebrated by clients of Pregnancy Resource Centers



JUNE 16, 2023

LIV DEMARCO

ENERGY, RGGI, AND OUR ELECTRIC GRID



Pennsylvania Business Report

Hearing examines integrity, reliability of electric grid in Luzerne County



BOOM OR BUST? Lawmakers talk economic strategy as closing of Homer City plant nears

By PATRICK CLOOMAN for The Leader Times June 26, 2023 Updated 11:08 AM EDT

**PITTSBURGH
BUSINESS TIMES**

Power plant allies say Homer City won't be only casualty of RGGI



By Paul J. Oough — Reporter, Pittsburgh Business Times
Jun 23, 2023



PA REP. POLICY COMMITTEE HOLDS ENERGY-RELATED HEARING IN HOMER CITY

© Jun 23, 2023 12:27 PM



Pennsylvania Business Report

Shapiro urged again to see the light and withdraw from RGGI

ENERGY, RGGI, AND OUR ELECTRIC GRID



Pa Republicans Discuss Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as Budget Deadline Approaches

By Brendan Scanland



House Republican lawmakers warn Pennsylvanians about new 'energy tax,' House Democrats disagree

Author: Tyler Hatfield



RGGI costs concerning to House Republicans

by Michael Gorsegner |



Pennsylvania Business Report

Energy tax included in House Dems' budget will quadruple energy costs, Kail says

BY LIZ CAREY | JUNE 7, 2023 | FEATURED



Op-Ed: Realizing Our Energy Potential and Ensuring Our Security

By Rep. Joshua Kail | The Pennsylvania House of Representatives | Apr 3, 2023

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Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Jim Struzzi
(District 62, Indiana)



Deputy Policy Chair
Rep. Parke Wentling
(District 7, Mercer)

Testifiers that joined the Policy Committee have shared insight and ideas which the Legislature may act upon this session. Republicans have heeded the call, and proposed legislation to address the obstacles to opportunities expressed by experts, industry, and our workforce. The following compilation of legislative proposals are supported by Policy Committee testimony, build upon the legislative action items of Q1, and are current as of July 5, 2023.

Inclusion of legislation within this compilation is for general informational purposes only and is not indicative of caucus-wide support.

FIRST RESPONDERS

FUNDING – SUPPORT – RECRUITING/RETENTION – HEALTH/WELLNESS – UPHOLDING THE LAW

FUNDING

Our first responders, both volunteer and career, are in desperate need of funding. Current funding schemes are unpredictable, limited, and cannot be relied upon to meet the needs of our responders and the communities they serve.

- [*HB794 — Ecker — Solicitation of Funds for Volunteer Fire Companies*](#)
- [*HB67 — Roae — EMS Option for Hotel Tax*](#)
- [*HB68 — Roae — \\$5 County Vehicle Fee for EMS*](#)
- [*HB167 — R. Mackenzie — Volunteer EMS & Fire Company Sales Tax*](#)
- [*HB1036, HB1037 — Rigby — Enhancing Funding Capabilities for Emergency Services*](#)
- [*HB479 — Flick — Mileage Reimbursement for Ambulance Services*](#)

SUPPORT

Our first responders must be both told and shown that we support their selfless work. To honor our men and women in uniform House Republicans voted unanimously to pass legislation recognizing the sacrifices made by our first responders.

- [*HB358 — R. Mackenzie — Keystone First Responder Award*](#)

RECRUITING/RETENTION

Recruitment of officers, firefighters, and EMS has fallen dramatically. Retention of existing first responders has become increasingly difficult, with many leaving for opportunities in other states.

- [*HB65 — Roae — Increasing the number of EMTs and Paramedics in Pennsylvania*](#)
- [*HB29 — Struzzi — Making our Communities Safer by Easing Burdens on Borough Police Departments*](#)
- [*HB79 — Owlett — Updating provisions relating to State System of Higher Education campus police officers*](#)
- [*HB1149 — Struzzi — Removing State Police Complement Cap*](#)
- [*HB749 — Bonner — State Police Officers Retirement Credit*](#)
- [*HB1095 — Jozwiak — Addressing Pay Discrepancy Within the Pennsylvania State Police*](#)
- [*HB404 — Watro — Military Medic to Civilian EMT/Paramedic*](#)

HEALTH/WELLNESS

Physical and mental health take a significant toll when life-and-death decisions are made daily. PTSD and PTSI are prevalent among our first responders, and they need further support to continue saving lives and property.

- [*HB1098 — Rigby — State Death Benefits for 911 Dispatchers*](#)
- [*HB89 — Marcell — Health Care Heroes*](#)
- [*HB23 — Struzzi — Expanding Health Benefits for Campus Police Officers*](#)

UPHOLDING THE LAW

Our police must enforce the law, and our legal system must uphold it. Sadly, this is not always the case. We cannot enable criminals to enter a revolving door of justice and continue to pose risk to our communities.

- [*HB1444 — Kutz — Authorizing Body Cameras for Parole*](#)
- [*HB596 — C. Williams — Prosecuting Felons in Possession of Guns in Philadelphia*](#)
- [*HB154 — Ortity — Repealing and Replacing Pennsylvania's Gun Background Check System and Improving the Reporting of PFA's*](#)

EDUCATION

FUNDING — CHOICE — STANDARDS — BUSING — RECRUITING/RETENTION

FUNDING

Our schools and students require responsible funding to ensure a fruitful education. Significant work must be undertaken to address education funding throughout the state.

- *HB890 — Grove — Requiring School Districts to Reduce their Millage Rates as They Retire Debt*
- *HB52 — Owlett — Career and Technical Education Investment Incentive Program*
- *HB1513 — White — Expanding EITC and Scholarships for Students Attending an Economically Disadvantaged School*
- *HB311 — M. Mackenzie — Education Money to Follow the Child*
- *HB1110 — Gaydos — Equity in Education: Compiling Gifted Student Expenditures*
- *HB446 — Gaydos — School Savings in Contracting*

CHOICE

A child's education should not be beholden to their ZIP code. Options for students and families encourage higher classroom participation, greater control over curriculum, and increase a child's ability to have a fulfilling education.

- *HB1507 — Topper — Providing Our Students Flexible Instructional Time in School*
- *HB557 — Zimmerman — Private Academic Schools Act*
- *HB1432 — Owlett — Lifeline Scholarships*
- *HB1370 — Mercuri — Pennsylvania Opportunity Pathways Program*
- *HB1414 — Ryncavage — Geolocation Student Attendance System for Cyber Schools*
- *HB884 — Grove — Innovation Schools*

STANDARDS

Curriculums today are nebulous, our student's performance has fallen significantly due to COVID policies, and families have been sidelined in the education of their children. House Republicans hold our educational institutions in high esteem, and demand that students and classrooms meet rigorous standards.

- *HB887 — Grove — Student Centered Assessment Pilot Program*
- *HB1372 — Marcell — Curriculum Transparency*
- *HB45 — Owlett — Cyber Charter School Attendance Accountability*
- *HB798 — Mercuri — PSAT and AP Expansion*
- *HB216 — Gleim — Protect Women's Sports Act*
- *HB211 — Gleim — Honesty In Teaching Act*
- *HB896 — Topper — Parents Added to the PA State Board of Education*
- *HB1556 — Klunk — Strengthening the Right to Know Law for State-Related Universities*

BUSING

Safe and effective student transportation is key to a child's education. Proposed changes to how our children get to and from school pose significant risk to our communities, and we must ensure that the workforce and equipment necessary to transport our students meets the needs of our communities.

- *HB1306 — Scheuren — School Bus Driver Tax*
- *HR57 — Ecker — Resolution Urging the U.S. Department of Transportation to Ease CDL Regulations*

RECRUITING/RETENTION

Entering the field of teaching is noble, but often difficult and time intensive. Teacher recruitment and retention is of utmost importance to our students, and we must ease the burden on our schools and enable education professionals to meet the needs of our students and families.

- *HB27 — Struzzi — Act 91 Extensions*

ENERGY

PA'S BOUNTY – CHOICE – RGGI

PA'S BOUNTY

PA has immense potential waiting to be released. The Commonwealth is blessed with a bounty of energy and resources that can fuel the world, and House Republicans are working to increase our energy capabilities and encourage the efficient utilization of our bountiful resources.

- *HR67 – Leadbeter – Prioritizing Safe Pipeline Development*
- *HB386 – Heffley – Establishing Anthracite “Hard Coal” as an Official Rock of the Commonwealth*
- *HB81 – Dunbar – Cost & Percent Depletion of Mines, Oil and Gas Wells, and other Natural Deposits*
- *HB55 – Owlett – Non-Surface Drilling on State Lands*

CHOICE

Variability in available energy, and the choice to use what best suits your needs, is key to a reliable and powerful energy economy. As choice in energy is threatened, House Republicans are proactively addressing poor energy policies that place our families and communities at risk.

- *HB1182 – Causer – Appliance Energy Freedom*

RGGI

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and Pennsylvania's forced entry into the multi-state compact, is an affront to our institutions and the interests of PA residents and businesses. The “carbon trading scheme” is solely responsible for the lack of energy development and the closure of our baseload energy generators. House Republicans continue the fight against this initiative to preserve the Commonwealth's power-producing might.

- *HB195 – Struzzi – Eliminating RGGI Regulations*

HEALTH CARE

FUNDING – QUALITY OF CARE – RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

FUNDING

The cost of health care is often overwhelming for patients in need. Furthermore, smaller rural hospitals struggle to remain open and serve their communities. To address these growing financial concerns, legislation has been proposed to assist patients and health care providers in need.

- *HR145 – Schemel – Neurological Injured Infant Fund*
- *HB969 – Gaydos – Prescription Drug Transparency to Reduce Prescription Abandonment*
- *HB555 – Gaydos – Association Health Care Plans*
- *HB53 – Owlett – Medical Assistance/Child Support*
- *HB1288 – Grove – Medical Assistance Eligibility Redetermination and Maintenance Efforts*
- *HB101 – Causer – Distressed Hospital Grant Program*
- *HB936 – Pickett – Burial Assistance Funding for Individuals with Low Incomes*
- *HB1111 – Oberlander – Medical Assistance Coverage for Pasteurized Donor Milk.*

QUALITY OF CARE

Health care must meet the standards of the day. We must ensure that patients have appropriate care, test results are provided in understandable formats, and the most advanced practices are being utilized.

- *HB24 – Struzzi – Collaborative Care Model*
- *HB22 – Struzzi – Behavioral Health Transition Procedure Update*
- *HB1255 – Grove – Medical Assistance Physical Health & Behavioral Health Integration*
- *HB886 – Grove – Direct Primary Care*
- *HB909 – Jozwiak – Amends the Patient Test Results Information Act to Simplify the Notification Process*
- *HB1237 – Jozwiak – Prohibits the Department of Health from Requiring Emergency Use Authorization Vaccines*

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

Care cannot be provided without career professionals at bedsides. The path to becoming a health care professional is challenging, the labor is mentally and physically taxing, and support is needed to maintain excellence in health care.

- [HB89 — Marcell — Health Care Heroes: Mental Health Assistance](#)
- [HB590 — Keefer — Removes Barriers for Nurse Graduates to Become Licensed Registered Nurses](#)

PERMITTING & REGULATORY REFORM

STREAM MAINTENANCE – TRANSPARENCY – REGULATORY REFORM

STREAM MAINTENANCE

Flooding and stream-related damage impact much of Pennsylvania. Addressing these environmental concerns is not easy, as the permitting process and clearances are time intensive and difficult to navigate. To address this common concern House Republicans have put forward legislation to enable local authorities to maintain streams in their communities and protect lives and property.

- [HB936 — Pickett — Emergency Stream Maintenance Permits](#)
- [HB200 — Owlett — 10-year Municipal Stream Maintenance Permits](#)

TRANSPARENCY

Once a permit or regulation is submitted it often exists in state agency purgatory. Timeframes are not abided by, clarity is tough to come by, and the process appears purposefully nebulous. Transparency throughout the permitting and regulatory bureaucracy will right these wrongs and ease the process for business, individuals, and state agencies.

- [HB734 — Fink — Permitting Transparency & Reform](#)
- [HB560 — Zimmerman — Online Permit Tracking System](#)

REGULATORY REFORM

Career bureaucrats are not known for developing cohesive and reasonable regulations. PA's regulatory climate is expensive, cumbersome, and often to the detriment of the state and our industries. Reform is necessary.

- [HB487 — Keefer — PA REINS Act](#)
- [HB888 — Grove — Increases General Assembly Oversight of IRRC](#)
- [HR172 — Wentling — Urging Congress to Eliminate Emissions Testing Regulations](#)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING/RECRUITMENT – EASING COMPLIANCE – MODERNIZATION

DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING/RECRUITMENT

PA has an existing highly capable workforce, but the Commonwealth must attract new residents and continue to prepare the next generation for careers of the future. The state must position itself as a bastion of opportunity and family-supporting careers.

- [HB1387 — Kutz — Realty Transfer Tax Exclusion for First-Time Home Buyers](#)
- [HR129 — Grove — Urges the Biden Administration and FHFA to Rescind Policy that Punishes Financially Responsible Borrowers](#)
- [HB882 — R. Mackenzie — CareerBound Workforce Development Program](#)
- [HB25 — Struzzi — Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Program](#)
- [HB401 — Kauffman — Outpatient Renal Dialysis Recruitment and Retention](#)
- [HB1047 — Delozier — Building Code Official “Trainee” Program](#)
- [HB169 — R. Mackenzie — Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit](#)

EASING LICENSING

Navigating licensing requirements to enter the workforce should not be challenging. The Commonwealth must ease the licensing process to enable people to pursue their chosen career path.

- [*HB57 — Owlett — Professional License Applications — Paper Applications*](#)
- [*HB1364 — Greiner — Authorizing Advisory Opinions from Licensing Boards*](#)

MODERNIZATION

Navigating licensing requirements to enter the workforce should not be challenging. The Commonwealth must ease the licensing process to enable people to pursue their chosen career path.

- [*HB591 — Keefer — Removing Barriers in Cosmetology*](#)
- [*HB1041 — Rigby — Mobile Barbershop & Mobile Salons*](#)
- [*HB327 — Mako — Modernizes the Barber-Teacher Licensing Process*](#)
- [*HB1380 — Grove — Updating the Human Services Code*](#)

BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, AND CAREERS

MANUFACTURING — BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT — SUPPORTING FAMILIES

MANUFACTURING

PA's manufacturing might is hamstrung by licensing issues, poor code enforcement, and restrictive legislation. Efforts to better the Commonwealth's manufacturing climate will bring jobs, opportunity, and encourage innovation in our own backyards.

- [*HB874 — D'Orsie — Establishing a Farm Cider License*](#)
- [*HB955 — Fritz — Update to Breweries/Distilleries Law*](#)
- [*HB102 — Causer — Milk Hauling Legislation*](#)
- [*HB46 — Owlett — Amending the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act*](#)

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurs struggle with PA's tax laws, antiquated business practices, and finding the ideal location for their enterprise. Commonsense changes, inspired by the advocacy of business operators throughout the state, will enable businesses to thrive and generate opportunity within their communities.

- [*HB995 — Lawrence — Keystone Opportunity Dairy Zones*](#)
- [*HB1238 — Greiner — Extension of Pennsylvania Rural Jobs and Investment Tax Credit \(RJTC\)*](#)
- [*HB701 — Kutz — Net Operating Loss for Small Businesses*](#)
- [*HR35 — R. Mackenzie — Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between Pennsylvania and the Chinese Communist Party*](#)
- [*HB889 — Grove — Preemption of Local Labor Mandates*](#)
- [*HB1317 — Struzzi — Helping Disadvantaged Communities*](#)
- [*HB1447 — Kephart — Corporate Net Income Tax*](#)
- [*HB162 — R. Mackenzie — Electric Gross Receipts Tax Exemption*](#)
- [*HB274 — R. Mackenzie — E-Verify for All Public Contractors*](#)
- [*HB885 — Grove — E-Contract Law Update*](#)
- [*HB70 — Roae — Allowing Small Businesses to Stay Open During States of Emergency*](#)

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Families, the foundational block of Pennsylvania, should not bear the burden of taxation or struggle through times of financial hardship without support. To retain families in PA and encourage more residents to call our state home, Pennsylvania must cultivate a climate of growth and opportunity for all who work to sustain their families.

- *HB136 — Gaydos — Elimination of Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax*
- *HB166 — R. Mackenzie — Personal Income Tax Reduction*
- *HB1353 — Labs — Unemployment Compensation Eligibility Clarification*
- *HB160 — R. Mackenzie — Permanent Sales and Use Tax Exemption*
- *HB165 — R. Mackenzie — Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Expansion*
- *HB161 — R. Mackenzie — Sales & Use Tax Holidays for Certain Items*
- *HB717 — R. Mackenzie — Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption*
- *HB895 — Grove — Taxpayer Relief Act Update*
- *HB26 — Struzzi — Helping Grieving Families Through Unnecessary Tax Burdens*





April 25, 2023
Roundtable with
Essential Utilities

**MANUFACTURING OUR WAY
INTO THE FUTURE**



April 27, 2023
Manufacturing
Our Way into the
Future Hearing
& Tour

**EFFECTIVE SCHOOL
TRANSPORTATION FOR OUR
DRIVERS AND STUDENTS**



May 2, 2023
Effective School
Transportation for
Our Drivers and
Students Hearing



May 3, 2023
Roundtable with
Heim Construction

**FOR OUR
FIRST RESPONDERS**



May 30, 2023
For Our First
Responders
Hearing & Tour

**CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION:
A PATHWAY TO OPPORTUNITY**



May 17, 2023
Career & Technical
Education: A
Pathway to
Opportunity
Hearing & Tour

**KEEPING OUR
COMMUNITIES SAFE**



May 8, 2023
Keeping Our
Communities Safe
Hearing

**HOSPITAL PRICING
TRANSPARENCY**

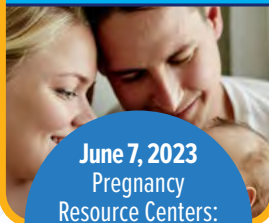


May 4, 2023
Hospital Pricing
Transparency
Hearing



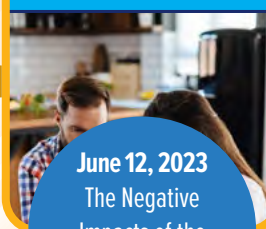
June 6, 2023
Roundtable
with S&B USA
Construction

**PREGNANCY RESOURCE
CENTERS:
HELPING MOTHERS AND FATHERS**



June 7, 2023
Pregnancy
Resource Centers:
Helping Mothers
and Fathers
Hearing

**THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS
OF THE ENERGY TAX**



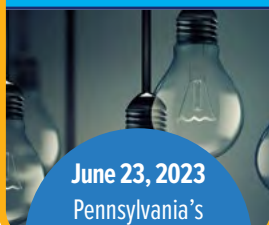
June 12, 2023
The Negative
Impacts of the
Energy Tax
Hearing



ZEROEYES
SAVE TIME. SAVE LIVES

June 13, 2023
Roundtable with
ZeroEyes

**PENNSYLVANIA'S ENERGY POLICY:
BOOM OR BUST**



June 23, 2023
Pennsylvania's
Energy Policy:
Boom or Bust
Hearing



June 20, 2023
Roundtable with
WellSpan Health

**ELECTRIFYING OUR WORLD:
IMPACTS ON GRID INTEGRITY
& RELIABILITY**



June 16, 2023
Electrifying Our
World: Impacts on
Grid Integrity &
Reliability
Hearing

Q2
TIMELINE

Q2—AT A GLANCE

Q2

HEARING TIME

17h, 38m, 50s

NUMBER OF TESTIFIERS

43

**NUMBER OF
DISTRICTS VISITED**

7

NUMBER OF HEARINGS

10

**CAUCUS
PARTICIPATION**

65%

**MILES TRAVELED BY
COMMITTEE**

1,707

YTD

HEARING TIME

39h, 58m, 54s

NUMBER OF TESTIFIERS

95

**NUMBER OF
DISTRICTS VISITED**

12

NUMBER OF HEARINGS

21

**CAUCUS
PARTICIPATION**

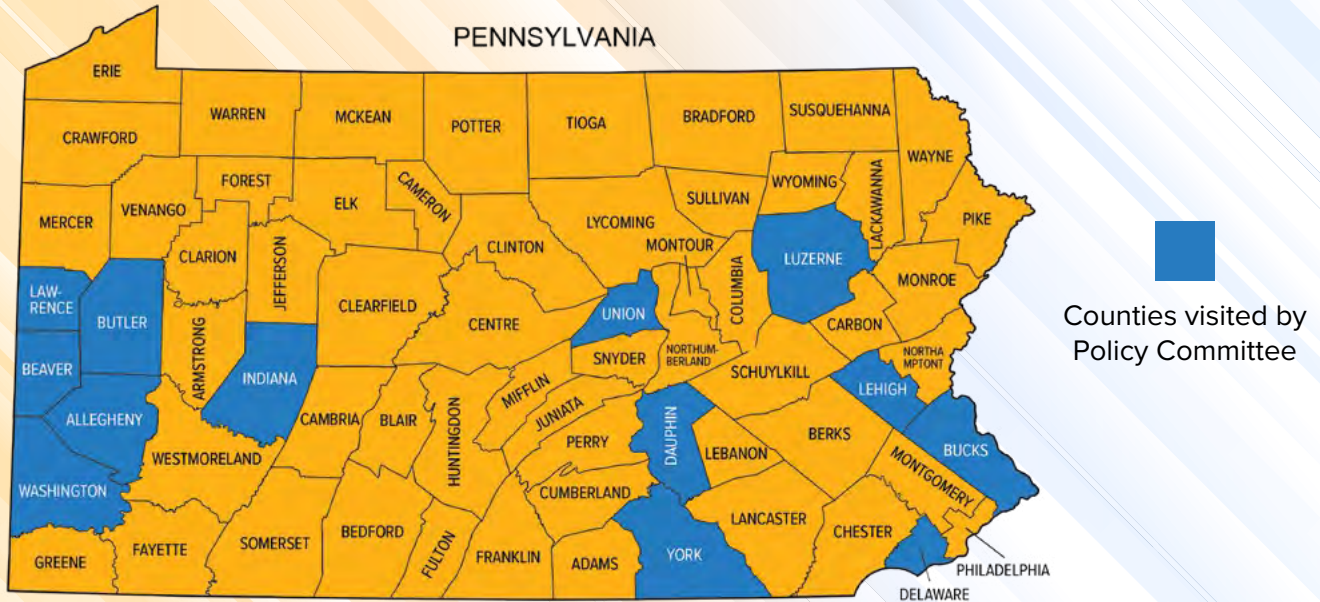
92%

**MILES TRAVELED BY
COMMITTEE**

3,631

YTD—AT A GLANCE

MAP OF COUNTIES VISITED



How many members have participated in Policy Committee events this Session?

92% Have participated in at least one committee event

80% Have participated in at least two committee events

66% Have participated in three or more committee events





STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROB MERCURI

House Republican Policy Committee Deputy Policy Chair



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