



Isabella FITZGERALD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
203RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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FALL 2017

House needs to finish the job on state budget

In June, I voted for a budget that would increase education funding in Philadelphia by \$34 million. While I have worked with my colleagues to find a way to pay for it, House Republican leaders have failed to come up with any clear solutions. Meanwhile, Democrats have presented several solutions to generate new and more reliable streams of revenue our Commonwealth needs.

Speaker Turzai called the House back into session in July, only to send the members home without passing any bills. The Senate returned to Harrisburg at the end of July and passed its own revenue package, which resulted in some good news. In addition to providing more money for Philadelphia public schools, the Senate passed Pennsylvania's first severance tax on natural gas drillers and rejected House Republican efforts to increase premiums on families of kids with severe disabilities.

As of this writing, the House of Representatives is not scheduled to report back to Harrisburg until Sept. 11, but I am ready to get back to work now and put this overdue budget to bed. We need to ensure our children get the funding they need for education and Pennsylvanians who need services continue to receive them. That's what we were elected to do!



I had the pleasure of welcoming students from West Oak Lane Charter School to the state Capitol.

Committees and Caucuses

Aging & Older Adult Services
Children & Youth
Committee on Committees
Local Government
State Government
Urban Affairs
Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

Legislation introduced by Rep. Fitzgerald

H.B. 579 – Would ensure breast density screenings for women. The legislation would extend mandated insurance coverage for ultrasound screening and an MRI if a mammogram indicates dense breast tissue or if a woman is believed to be at increased risk of breast cancer due to family history, or because of her prior personal history of breast cancer, positive genetic testing or other factors as deemed necessary by a physician.

H.B. 1487 – Would require Pennsylvania school districts to implement full-day kindergarten by the start of the 2018-19 school year.

H.B. 1664 – Would protect homeless people's rights to move freely in public spaces and receive equal treatment by all government agencies, employers and health care providers. This legislation would also shield their right to vote and the confidentiality of personal records and information.

Unpaid tolls will result in auto registration suspension

A new law effective Aug. 4 allows the state Transportation Department to suspend the vehicle registration of any Pennsylvania motorist who has outstanding state toll violations or fees totaling \$500 or more, or possesses six or more separate violations.

Unpaid toll violations subject to a registration suspension include those incurred on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, including along the Northeast Extension, or on the tolled bridges that are part of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission.

Once a driver's registration has been suspended, violators must pay all outstanding tolls and fees to the Turnpike Commission plus an additional \$91 fee to PennDOT for registration reinstatement.

With E-ZPass, it has become easier for motorists to avoid paying tolls. Unpaid tolls cost the state millions of dollars per year.

Visit www.paturndpike.com for more information or contact my office for help with any unpaid violations.



Real ID legislation becomes law

In May, Gov. Tom Wolf signed a bill into law that moves Pennsylvania toward clearing interruptions with federal Real ID regulations.

It allows the commonwealth to offer you an optional Real ID-compliant driver license or state identification card to gain access to airports and federal facilities.

This law repeals a 2012 state law that prohibited the state from implementing the federal Real ID Act, which Congress passed in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks to ensure that every state was issuing IDs that were secure from counterfeit and fraud.

Pennsylvania will need to make system, process and infrastructure changes in order to issue Real ID-compliant cards. The state Transportation Department estimates Real ID-compliant driver licenses and identification cards will be available by March 2019.

In June, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security granted Pennsylvania an extension until Oct. 10 to become compliant with federal law.

While there are certainly no guarantees, the federal government may issue the commonwealth another extension that would allow you to continue using your current driver license until 2020 to fly and access federal buildings.

I will be working with PennDOT to keep you informed about the new licenses, what they will cost and when they are available in order to help you make an informed choice about Real ID.

Stop and go legislation passes House

In June, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would address the issue of nuisance establishments that sell alcohol and disrupt our communities.

House Bill 1547, which is currently in the Senate for consideration, would allow the state Liquor Control Board to designate saturated nuisance market areas, where violations would be subject to enhanced penalties, fines and suspensions, and allow the board to remove licenses from those areas.

This legislation differs from the language inserted by some Senate members into the Fiscal Code for the state budget. The Senate approach would step up enforcement through use of Liquor Control Board auditors.

I fully supported H.B. 1547 as it would be a major step in addressing how these stores create concerns in our neighborhoods. I even hosted a public meeting on stop-and-go issues with my colleague Rep. Stephen Kinsey.

Between the public meetings held by some of my other colleagues here in Philadelphia, along with the tireless work to get the legislation where it is now, we are finally moving forward to take action and eliminate the problems with these nuisance establishments.

I remain committed to working with state and local agencies to reverse the negative trend of consequences these businesses are bringing to our communities.

Local student earns Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus scholarship

In June, the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus recognized nine high school seniors and current undergraduate students of color as recipients of the PLBC scholarship program.

Among the recipients was Djavon Dupree, a young lady who lives in our district and who will be attending Temple University.

The scholarship is intended to assist students with their college financial obligation and to foster a relationship between students and PLBC members. Recipients received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend an accredited two- or four-year college or university in Pennsylvania. Exceptions apply for students attending any historically black college or university. Recipients were selected based on their academic success, demonstrated leadership abilities, extracurricular and community participation, and financial need.



I was thrilled to join members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus in presenting Djavon Dupree with a \$1,000 scholarship. Djavon is a resident of our district. Congratulations!



I had the privilege of meeting U.S. Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi during a Women's Roundtable Discussion in Philadelphia in June.

Listening to concerns for people with intellectual disabilities

I joined Rep. Stephen Kinsey in April to host a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing to discuss concerns expressed by our friends, loved ones, neighbors and colleagues with intellectual disabilities.

Officials from Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services, Special People In Northeast Inc., Deaf-Blind Living Well Services, KenCrest Services, Vision for Equality, and Inglis House presented testimony in an effort to give us an idea of how state government can better address concerns of those impacted.

It's our responsibility to help each person, regardless of disability, to reach their maximum level of achievement and independence, given their specific circumstances. We should empower people with disabilities and provide them equal access to opportunities. They need to be treated fairly because they certainly have a lot to teach us and a lot to offer to our communities.

A look around the 203rd



Left: It was great to meet those who attended my shredding event in June. More than 200 people came out and more than 7,300 pounds of documents containing personal information were shredded.

Right: Thanks to Kimberly Lloyd and the Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corp. for securing the site at West Oak Lane Charter School for my shredding event.



Quality, affordable care for our children is very important to me. I had the opportunity to visit some daycare centers in my district that improved the quality of services they provided. They were First Step to Success Family Child Care Home, Your Child's World Learning Center and Little Einsteins Early Learning Center. I also had the chance to read a story to the children and some of them made cards for me.



I read to a great group of students during the Read Aloud Event at Harambee with Freedom School in July.



The hot weather didn't keep people from coming out for my National Night Out event on Aug. 1. Thank you to everyone who participated and attended a great evening to celebrate our community. A big thanks to Masjidullah, the Center for Human Excellence for providing the space for my National Night Out.

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Any problem with state government!

Stay connected to what's happening in Harrisburg and in the community by signing up for my email updates. Go to www.pahouse.com/Replzzy to sign up. You can also follow me on social media!

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New vaccination requirements for Pa. schools

The start of school is just around the corner, and I know how important it is to understand what vaccinations your child needs before going back to class to protect themselves and other students. Please note: Some of the requirements have changed for Pennsylvania schools, both private and public.

The most notable new requirement: Students will have five days, not up to eight months, to prove they have the state-required vaccinations. Those who still lack vaccinations after day five may be required to stay home. However, students who don't have all the needed vaccinations within the first five days can continue attending IF they have a written plan from a doctor outlining the child will get the needed vaccinations.

Students starting in any grade need these vaccinations:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (usually given as DTP or DTaP)
- 4 doses of polio

- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, rubella (usually given as MMR)
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

Students entering 7th grade need these vaccinations:

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap)
- 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)

Students entering 12th grade need one dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccination (meningitis vaccine).

Pennsylvania still allows exemptions for families who don't want their child vaccinated because of medical, religious, or philosophical reasons.

For more information, visit the Department of Health's website at www.health.pa.gov.



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Save the date for these upcoming events!

Unclaimed Property Day Aug. 30, 2017

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. • District Office
Let us search to see if you have unclaimed property and assist you with claim forms.

Story time with Rep. Fitzgerald Sept. 6, 2017

11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. • District Office
Children from local daycares will visit the office for story time while parents and care providers can learn about services the state has to offer.

Shredding Event Sept. 30, 2017

8:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. • West Oak Lane Charter School
7115 Stenton Ave.

Home Ownership • Prosperity • Employment (H.O.P.E.) Oct. 28, 2017

8 a.m.– 1:30 p.m. • West Oak Lane Charter School
7115 Stenton Ave.
Northwest Homebuyers Workshop & Job Fair

Veterans Day Observance Nov. 11, 2017 • (Time and location: TBD)



I joined some of my fellow colleagues in celebrating Family Day at Bayada Home Health Care.



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