



State Representative **Eddie Day Pashinski**

121st Legislative District



Fall 2014

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Pashinski opposes gimmick-filled state budget

The 2014-15 budget was filled with more of the same ill-conceived policies that placed the state in its current fiscal predicament. The administration's inaction on the big issues continues to cost Pennsylvania families. Gov. Tom Corbett and the Republicans have failed to lead. After three years with Republican majorities in both chambers, there's really no excuse for the gimmick-laden budget that passed on partisan lines.

If we would have had a serious discussion about Marcellus Shale and implemented a reasonable extraction tax on our natural resources, we could have generated enough funds to adequately fund our schools.

If we would have had a full discussion on expanding Medicaid, we could have drawn down millions of federal dollars, generated more than 35,000 jobs and facilitated

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Patients before profits – Rep. Pashinski joins local nurses and Rosie the Riveter, a symbol of working women from World War II, on the Wilkes-Barre Hospital lawn to demonstrate in support of fair and safe working conditions for those who care for patients. Short staffing ratios and high nurse turnover rates are dangerous to both workers and patients.

Pashinski resolution celebrates Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day is an important celebration honoring workers who have lost their lives on the job. I am grateful to my colleagues for adopting my House Resolution 813 to continue celebrating the families and communities affected by workplace injury, illness and death.

My resolution also specifically recognizes the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council for its observance and support in honoring workers in Pennsylvania and across the nation. Workers' Memorial Day serves as a reminder to strive for the appropriate oversight and to take every step necessary to ensure safe, hazard-free workplaces.



Rep. Pashinski takes part in the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council's Workers' Memorial Day celebration.

Pashinski urges passage of pay-equity bills

I recently joined state lawmakers and advocates for women's rights in Pennsylvania at a Capitol news conference supporting bipartisan pay-equity legislation.

On average, women in Luzerne County make 68 cents for every dollar a man earns. We need to strengthen the law so that women are not victims of discriminatory pay practices. Equal work expectations should command equal pay, it is that simple.

The bills discussed at the event were H.B. 1890 and S.B. 1212 and are awaiting consideration from the Labor and Industry Committee in their respective chambers.

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Gimmick-filled state budget *(continued from page 1)*

over \$30 billion in economic activity over the next 10 years. Instead, the governor continues to tinker with his “HealthyPA” plan that has not received federal approval. Consequently, there are no federal dollars, no new jobs and hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians without adequate health care.

Our schools are in dire need of funding-formula reform. Again, this administration failed to give ALL Pennsylvania children a fair chance and has forced local tax increases three years in a row.

House Democrats have advocated for these solutions for four budget sessions, but unfortunately our solutions continue to be rejected. The Corbett administration and Republican-led House and Senate prefer to rely on gimmicks and speculative accounting tactics that are fiscally detrimental to our Commonwealth. That is why I could not support their budget.



Pay-equity bills *(continued from page 1)*

The legislation would update the conditions under which employers could pay different wages because of a factor other than sex. These factors would include specific, job-related attributes such as education, training and experience. The bills would also strengthen anti-retaliation protections for employees attempting to bring a pay-equity lawsuit against their employer and those who share information about their pay.

Making these significant changes to the law is the right thing to do. It will not only eliminate a form of discrimination, it will also give a boost to our economy. Women will have increased buying power and the ability to better provide for themselves and their families.

The pay-equity bills are a part of a larger package of bills supported by the bipartisan, bicameral Women’s Health Caucus of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, of which I am a member.

Pashinski resolution designates March 2014 Music in Our Schools Month

I am proud to report the state House unanimously adopted my House Resolution 719 designating March 2014 as Music in our Schools Month in Pennsylvania.

The resolution acknowledges the academic and creative benefits music provides to our students and recognizes the importance of music in schools. Outstanding performances by our Pennsylvania children echoed through the Capitol halls throughout March and displayed the hard work and dedication by music educators and their students.

I have an undeniable passion for music and educating our children. I sincerely believe that the two go hand in hand in helping children develop and learn.

Music in Our Schools Month is a great time to highlight the importance of comprehensive,



sequential music education taught by exemplary music educators for all to enjoy and appreciate.

As a proud member of the Arts and Cultural Caucus in the General Assembly, I work with the caucus

to recognize arts education as essential to the development of all Pennsylvania students.

Music education must be an integral part of Pennsylvania’s overall education system and I am grateful to music educators throughout the Commonwealth.

Pashinski welcomes students to the Capitol



Scranton School for the Deaf



St. Mary’s Elementary School



Dr. David W. Kistler Elementary School

Rep. Pashinski celebrates St. Patrick's Day in the House chamber by playing some traditional Irish songs for legislators and guests.



Rep. Pashinski reads to children as part of the National Education Association's 17th Annual Read Across America Day. The day is celebrated on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 3, and highlights the educational and recreational benefits reading has on children.

House committees discuss grandparents raising grandchildren

As a member of the House Committee on Aging and Older Adult Services, I took part in a hearing to discuss grandparents' rights when raising grandchildren.

Over 81,000 Pennsylvania children live in homes with grandparents who are responsible for their well-being and over 30,000 children live just with their grandparents. Often, grandparents are not prepared financially or emotionally to provide for their grandchildren. When grandparents take on the role of a parent, they are also often faced with custody battles that are costly, time consuming and complicated. Qualified support and guidance is required to help these grandparents navigate the complexities of the system. Each scenario is different and requires varying degrees of support and expertise.

John and Tracy Calomino, Brenda Saba and Beth O'Boyle were among the testifiers who came forward and shared their personal experiences navigating through the legal system and the challenges they face as primary



caregivers for their grandchildren.

These grandparents are doing an amazing service for their families and keeping children out of state custody. We have to improve our system so that we can keep families together and better protect our children from abuse and neglect.

As we work to improve laws for these families, I strongly urge you to visit www.aging.state.pa.us for information on state programs and services that provide support to grandparents raising their grandchildren. Information about the Family Caregiver Support Program is available at www.PCACares.org or by calling 215-765-9040.

Visit my website and click on the video link or visit <http://is.gd/RaisingGrandkids> to hear more from me and the Calomino and Saba families on this important issue.

I have been working on legislation to address some of the concerns expressed by those who testified.



Rep. Pashinski stands in support of organized workers to protect their ability to pay dues through payroll deductions.



Rep. Pashinski takes part in the fifth annual Turkic Cultural Day at the Pennsylvania state Capitol. The day was filled with traditional Turkic music, dancing, art and food.



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Ride-sharing in Pa.

The House Insurance Committee recently hosted a public hearing to gather more information about transportation network companies. Testifying before the committee were representatives from the state Insurance Department, Public Utility Commission, Uber and Lyft (two leading ride-sharing companies) and other interested parties regarding Transportation Networking.

The companies connect passengers with drivers through an online or mobile phone application system. This system of using “casual drivers” for transportation is not unique to Pennsylvania and is growing across the country.

Traditional car-pooling or ride-sharing arrangements with friends, neighbors or coworkers, in which people share driving duties and the cost of gasoline, are not the same as these commercial-type activities.

It was important to hear from all parties involved. While I am for free-market competition, I do think we need to evaluate the new system thoroughly so that passengers and providers are completely protected from harm should an accident or incident occur.



Stay Connected!

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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
- Obtaining state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- 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!