

State Representative ■ 179th Legislative District

# JASON DAWKINS



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## EXPUNGEMENT BILL PASSES THE HOUSE

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I have spent a great deal of time during my first term as a state representative learning about the criminal justice system, and seeking ways we can bring about much-needed reforms. Two months ago, I was proud to cast my vote for a bill that will expand the types of offenses eligible for the expungement process. This bipartisan bill will prevent past mistakes from permanently impacting someone's future employment, housing and education opportunities. The bill passed the House and now returns to the Senate, and I will continue to push for this important change.

## REP. DAWKINS FIGHTS FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

Early in November, I joined advocates from Cheyney University for a rally in support of the nation's oldest historically black institution of higher education. As the legislature has worked together to pass a budget, education funding has been one of my highest priorities. Supporting higher education is a key component of this, along with ensuring we have fair and equitable funding for students at all levels across the commonwealth. I will continue to fight so our students have the resources they need.



## REP. DAWKINS SUPPORTS HOLIDAY TOY DRIVES THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

The holidays are a great time to give back, and that's why I work every year with community organizations throughout my district to provide toys to children and families. This year, I joined the staff at the Frankford and Olney branches of the Free Library to provide toys to children in the afterschool program. My staff and I also partnered with the Frankford CDC to host our own Holiday Toy Drive. With help and support from Councilwoman Maria Quiñones Sánchez, Temple University's Beasley School of Law, the Frankford Boys and Girls Club, and the Second Baptist Church of Frankford, we were able to serve over 200 families, providing them with a hot meal and toys for kids. It's always my pleasure to give back to the community and bring joy to children during the holidays.



## KEEP YOUR FAMILY WARM THIS WINTER

Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is accepting applications for the winter heating season, which runs until April 1.



Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$17,655
2	\$23,895
3	\$30,135
4	\$36,375

**Each Additional Person Add \$6,240**

LIHEAP provides heating funds based on income and family size, as well as emergency grants for those in immediate danger of losing their heat.

The commonwealth also offers a weatherization program for low-income households to help reduce heating bills. Families that make less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline are eligible for this program. For more information, check out the website at <http://bit.ly/MXUufz>.



# PROVIDING THANKSGIVING TURKEYS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

One of the best parts of the holidays is the chance to give back to those in need. That's why this past November I partnered with local schools, churches and nonprofit agencies in my district to identify families that are going through a hard time. We were able to provide hundreds of turkeys and baskets of food to families in need.

## TRANSFERRING NON-RENEWED LIQUOR LICENSES

Legislation is being introduced that would provide members of the community the opportunity to have a say in the transfer of non-renewed liquor licenses.

When the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board finds that a current liquor licensee has been issued multiple violations or has been a nuisance, the PLCB may deny that licensee's renewal application and may permit or require the licensee to sell its license. However, under current law, if such a licensee chooses to transfer the license to new ownership at the same location, the PLCB may only consider the reputation of the new owner when deciding whether to approve the transfer.

The legislation would force the PLCB to reconsider the transferred license's proximity to organizations such as schools, playgrounds and churches, as well as the effect of the license on the welfare, health, peace and morals of the surrounding community. Additionally, our legislation would extend the public-notice period for the transfer of non-renewed licenses from 30 to 45 days. This would give members of the surrounding community a chance to have their say as the PLCB considers continuing to license a location that, in many cases, was the subject of previous complaints and violations.

## FBPA's Second Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

This year the Frankford Business and Professional Association hosted its Second Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Holiday Thriftway. My staff, the staff of the Frankford CDC, and Councilwoman Maria Quiñones Sánchez were happy to attend what is quickly becoming a highlight of the holiday season in Frankford. In addition to the tree lighting, the event provided toys for all children who attended, as well as holiday cookies and other treats.



## Olney and Oxford Circle events inform residents about weatherization program

As the weather gets colder, it's important to make sure your home is ready for winter. That's why I held a series of events last fall to inform residents about the state's Weatherization Assistance Program. I was joined by the Energy Coordinating Agency and PECO to discuss how energy efficiency and weatherization improvements can help keep your utility bills low and your house warm. We were also able to provide attendees with supplies to get ready for cold weather, as well as energy-efficient light bulbs. If you need more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, please contact my office or one of the service providers for Philadelphia:

### PHILADELPHIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP.

1234 Market St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 448-2160

### ENERGY COORDINATING AGENCY

106 W. Clearfield St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19133  
(215) 988-0929



# NORTH FIFTH STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT HOSTS 8TH ANNUAL WINTER FESTIVAL



The 8th Annual Winter Festival was a showcase of what's possible when neighborhood groups and the local business community work together. Over 200 children and their families came to North 5th Street for pictures with Santa, a trolley tour and to participate in the Children's Holiday Gift Walk. Local businesses offered free snacks and toys, and the Olney High School Choir led children and their families in singing holiday carols. I was proud to support the North 5th Street Revitalization Project, and I thank the Olney Business Association and all of the individual business owners who participated. This is a great holiday tradition, and I can't wait for next year's event.

## SENIOR APPRECIATION BREAKFAST AT PETER BRESSI NORTHEAST SENIOR CENTER

Throughout my life, my grandfather has always been one of my biggest mentors. The value that I place on this relationship has given me a profound respect for my elders, and that's why I take every opportunity to honor the contributions of senior citizens in our community. I joined the folks at Peter Bressi Northeast Senior Center for a breakfast honoring our seniors, and got a chance to spend the morning with them. I value the lessons I've learned from our seniors, and that's why I will always fight to make sure that they have the funding, services and protections that they need to thrive during their golden years.



## FRANKFORD HIGH SCHOOL PARADE AND ANNUAL THANKSGIVING GAME

I was honored to be invited by my alma mater, Frankford High School, to march in their Thanksgiving Day Parade and attend their annual Thanksgiving football game. This year the Frankford High and Northeast Catholic High School Alumni Game was played at Memorial Stadium prior to Frankford High's win against Prep Charter. It was a great day, and I was thankful to see these community traditions still going strong.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AWARENESS EVENT

In October we recognized "National Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness Month," and I partnered with Turning Points for Children to host an event that was informative and powerful. We had a speaker from Women Against Abuse, who spoke about the myths that surround domestic violence and provided information about how to best help survivors get connected with needed resources. Mo'Shay Loren also moderated a panel of survivors who shared their stories. One in three women and one in four men will experience physical violence from an intimate partner within their lifetime, and this event showcased the importance of prevention and providing support for victims.







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**MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:**

**Any state government-related matters!**

- 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 of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Issues with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Inquiries about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Issues with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- 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