



State Senator

ART HAYWOOD

PROGRESS REPORT

Summer 2017

Serving the 4th District in Mount Airy, Germantown, Chestnut Hill, West Oak Lane, Cheltenham, Springfield, Jenkintown, Rockledge and Abington

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Dear Neighbor,

This year, more than one million Pennsylvanians were threatened with the loss of healthcare by our national government. The various repeal and replace schemes would have caused these men and women to lose health coverage because of "skyrocketing premiums," and the end of Medicaid expansion and exchanges according to Commissioner Teresa Miller of the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance. The commonwealth cannot afford to pick up the tab from such a catastrophe – estimated at \$4 billion.

Thanks to many advocates in Pennsylvania and around the country, we have avoided that disaster for now. The repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act failed at the federal level because so many people around the district and state made their voices heard. The stories you shared at rallies, the calls you made to your legislators, the letters you sent – all were critical in the success of this fight.

Your passion encouraged me. I joined many of you at several Tuesdays with Toomey, Indivisible and Women's March PA protests in the 4th District, in Harrisburg and beyond, calling for our legislators to protect our health care.

We can – and must – work to fix our health care system, the most expensive in the world. That is why I plan to introduce "Everybody Gets Covered" legislation this fall. With more than 800,000 Pennsylvanians still without health insurance, we need to cover everyone in a way that also starts reducing overall costs. My plan will save an estimated \$17 billion a year according to a study from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. For more details on the plan, check out the Harrisburg: Legislation update inside.

Again, I am proud of all that we have accomplished in the face of very real adversity. I am encouraged by the progress made. Keep the fight going. Thank you.

Dare to Care,

Art Haywood

Senator – 4th Senatorial District

PARTICIPATION IS POWER

Visit the Citizen Advocacy Hub page on my website at
www.senatorhaywood.com/citizen-advocacy-hub



REPORT CARD ON THE 3 R'S

WHAT I SAID:

Raising Support for Public Education:

- ✓ I will fight to increase state funding to fifty percent of the total cost of basic education and support a fair funding formula;
- ✓ I will fight for school funding restorations;
- ✓ I will promote mentoring and tutoring initiatives;
- ✓ I will increase communication and collaboration between education stakeholders and community leaders in the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Raising the Wage:

- ✓ I will be an advocate for raising the minimum wage to decrease poverty and stimulate our economy.

Reducing Gun Violence:

- ✓ I will lead and support efforts to reduce gun violence through commonsense regulation of firearms.

WHAT WE'VE DONE:

- ✓ Sponsored "Reading Revolution" camps at seven summer camps and two elementary schools in Northwest Philadelphia, helping **more than 280 children** avoid losing ground to the Summer Slide;
- ✓ Sponsored a campus visit and financial information session for Martin Luther King High School students at Chestnut Hill College, providing more than **70 students** with information on the financial aid and college admissions processes;
- ✓ Coordinated a public listening session with Senator Andy Dinniman (Minority Chair, Senate Education Committee) to hear from parents, students and college professors on standardized testing and teacher evaluation methods in public schools. Afterward, I met with Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera to convey recommendations from the panelists;
- ✓ Coordinated ongoing support for students at Cheltenham High School with pastors Alyn Waller of Enon Tabernacle and Marshall Mitchell of Salem Baptist Church of Jenkintown.

- ✓ Conducted ongoing social media campaign to raise the minimum wage;
- ✓ Co-sponsored legislation to raise the minimum wage up to \$15 per hour;
- ✓ Delivered letter to each senator with the number of persons in their districts that would get a raise;
- ✓ Voted "no" on state budget—both spending and revenue package—due to increased taxes without raising the minimum wage.

- ✓ Participated in gun violence forum with Ceasefire PA at Temple-Beth Am in Abington;
- ✓ Held youth forum with CeaseFire Philadelphia, the 35th and 14th police precincts and community leaders as we work toward "**Peace in the Northwest**," to redirect young people from violence;
- ✓ Distributed gun locks from the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office at town hall events;
- ✓ Participated in annual **Gun Violence Awareness Day** events alongside Moms Demand Action and other gun violence prevention advocacy groups.

Appointments:

Appointed to Cheyney University Advisory Council, Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) Board, Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Courts

Every Student Can Succeed

In February, I worked with my colleague State Senator Andy Dinniman, minority chair of the Senate Education Committee, to convene panels of students, professors and parents to hear their thoughts on standardized testing and school evaluation. Panelists shared complaints about the frequency of testing, the stress of testing, the many days of test prep and how the results of testing are not connected to the education of each child.

Afterwards, I met with Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera to relay the

comments from the panelists. He agreed to reduce testing and consider all comments as he implements the "Every Student



Senators Art Haywood and Andy Dinniman listen to panelists of parents, students and professors regarding standardized testing and evaluation.

Succeeds" Act (ESSA) for Pennsylvania. In addition, Senator Dinniman drafted legislation that ends Keystone exams and provides alternative student evaluation options. That legislation has now gained broad support in the Senate.

The neighbors who spoke about their experiences with standardized testing and school evaluation played a direct role in influencing legislation and the Department of Education for every public school. Participation is power.

Reading Revolution

This summer, my office supported the "Read by 4th" summer camps in Northwest Philadelphia for the third year in a row. Children have not only avoided the "Summer Slide," they've improved on their reading abilities. This year the camps were held at Dorothy Emanuel, Simons, Belfield, Finley, Pleasant and Lonnie Young Recreation Centers, as well as New Covenant Church's Summer Fit Camp.

In addition to continuing to offer the "Read by 4th" camps as part of my Reading Revolution, we partnered with Senator Vince Hughes to bring "Read to Succeed" programs to McCloskey and Roosevelt Elementary schools in the district. Between the two camp programs, more than 280 children had the opportunity to build on their reading skills this summer.

To bring my Reading Revolution directly to neighborhoods in the 4th District, Mt. Airy residents recommended that we install community bookstands, also known as "Little Libraries," at an "On the Table" conversation in late May. We are pleased to announce our initiative to install bookstands throughout the district. For more information on how you may host a bookstand on your block or donate, please call my office at (215) 242-8171.



Be on the lookout for community bookstands like this one, in your neighborhood.

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On Saturday, August 26, I will host my second annual "Back to School Celebration" at Lonnie Young Recreation Center (1100 E. Cheltenham Avenue) from noon until 4pm. With a helicopter to tour, interactive exhibits from the Academy of Natural Sciences and Elmwood Park Zoo, a cooking demonstration from the Vetri Community Partnership and dozens of vendors with resources for families, the day is sure to be a lot of fun. I hope to see you there!



Harrisburg Update

LEGISLATION

The Pennsylvania State Senate has taken a policy agenda that is extreme. We've advanced legislation that will hurt some of the commonwealth's most vulnerable populations. However, there's another way forward. Three key pieces of my legislation have sparked action:

Fair Share Tax: Along with Senator Hughes, I have sponsored a bill which will increase tax rates on certain forms of passive income such as capital gains and royalties, while lowering the rate for wages and interest. The Fair Share Tax Plan would ensure that Pennsylvanians with incomes of \$300,000 or more pay more towards taxes. Everyone else will pay what they have been, or less. This plan would also result in an estimated \$2 billion for projects like high-speed internet access across the state, higher education funds to reduce student loan debt, fair funding of public education and property tax relief. You can find more information on this plan on the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center website: www.pennbpc.org.

Retirement Savings Plan: 2.1 million hard-working Pennsylvanians do not have workplace retirement savings plans because their employers do not offer one. My bipartisan legislation – cosponsored by Senator Pat Browne – would create an opportunity for these individuals to save in a state-managed savings plan,

regardless of recent changes in federal law. State Treasurer Joe Torsella and Governor Wolf support this solution.

Learn more at www.senatorhaywood.com.

Everybody Gets Covered in Pennsylvania:

We can provide healthcare for all in Pennsylvania and save billions of dollars each year. My legislation would provide for a new state agency that would manage the coverage of everyone with essential healthcare services. Individuals would have the option to obtain supplemental coverage beyond the standard care. Doctors would retain their independence in patient care. The waste from the current billing system would be eliminated at a projected savings of \$17 billion a year. Overall, this legislation will provide quality care to all 12.7 million Pennsylvania citizens while also reducing inefficiencies in healthcare administration and consumer delivery services.

BUDGET

On June 30, just in time for the deadline as mandated by the Pennsylvania Constitution, legislators in Harrisburg passed half a budget – the spending portion. The Commonwealth will spend nearly \$32 billion in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. I voted no on this plan because it failed to address raising the minimum wage and included no clear plan for paying for the spending.

Nearly a month later the Senate passed the funding half of the budget. I voted no on this plan because it also failed to address raising the minimum wage and

included \$1.3 billion in borrowing to cover the spending. As of August, the House had yet to respond to the plan passed by the Senate. Until they do, the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget is not finalized.

What the House will pass is unknown at this time. However, some current pros and cons relevant to the 4th District are:

Pros:

- Increases level funding of Arcadia, LaSalle, Chestnut Hill College and private colleges to assist lower income students;
- Increases home and community-based services by \$13 million;
- Provides \$65 million in new funds to fix historical inequities in funding for Philadelphia public schools;
- Includes the first shale tax, which will deliver approximately \$100 million in new revenue;
- Increases enforcement of "Stop and Go" liquor violations.

Cons:

- Adds taxes on natural gas, electricity and telephone usage for consumers, without an increase to the minimum wage – nearly 200,000 people in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties alone would benefit from raising the minimum wage;
- Cuts funding for the State Health Care Centers by more than half;
- Hardworking Pennsylvanians – not big business – pay for most of the tax increases.

21st Century Cheyney University

Cheyney University, America's oldest African-American university, faces closure. The Middle States Association has threatened to end Cheyney's accreditation unless it can show cause to stay open. Recently, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) announced its decision to keep Cheyney open for the upcoming academic year. However, the school will still need to prove its viability to the Middle States Association this fall.

As a member of the Cheyney Advisory Council, I believe the steps below are necessary to ensure Cheyney remains an integral resource for generations of graduates to come:

■ Appeal to additional underserved populations – specifically, Latinos and immigrants. Today, these groups are seeking access to higher education just as African-Americans have. They face many of the same obstacles that prompted the creation of HBCUs. Broadening Cheyney's focus to address the aspirations and needs of

these communities is critical for its impact in the 21st Century.

■ Relieve \$30 million in debt Cheyney has incurred due to historic underfunding – by a reported \$100 million – from PASSHE.

■ Realign Cheyney's degree programs with in-demand fields of study and offer

distance learning and degree completion opportunities. These changes will also help the university's appeal to future students.

Cheyney University has a challenging road ahead. It needs continued support from its alumni to avoid closure.



Photo Credit: Delaware County Daily Times

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



▲ Senator Haywood is joined by Senator Sharif Street, Diane Martino from PGW, Captain Ernest Ransom (35th Precinct) and representatives from the Sheriff's Office at his town hall at Truth Baptist Church.



▲ Senator Haywood greets guests at the Abington office Open House, held on May 11.



▲ Senator Haywood is joined by his Chief of Staff, Dwight Pedro Lewis, and volunteers John, Je'veon and Jon'avin Freeman at Mt. Airy Day.

Senators Haywood, Street, Bartalotta and Williams listen to testimony during a joint committee hearing in Philadelphia on Governor Wolf's proposed agency consolidation.



▲ Senator Haywood, presenting a check for the Abington Township Master Bike Plan, is joined by Representative Madeleine Dean, Andrew Oles, Abington Township Director of Parks and Recreation; Richard Manfredi, Abington Township Manager; and Tara Wehmeyer, Abington Township Assistant Manager.



▲ Senators Haywood and Costa at the opening of the Trailblazers exhibit in the Capitol Building. These images feature groundbreaking Black Pennsylvanians and are a permanent feature in the East Wing Rotunda.



Senator Haywood is joined by community members at the Dunkin' Donuts in Springfield Township, where they discussed key issues over munchkins and hot chocolate.





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Peace in the Northwest

On June 16, we held a forum to hear directly from our young people on the crime they face in their neighborhoods. The participants, who ranged in age from 17 to 27, made a plea for more guidance and access to opportunities to avoid crime.

Though crime in the city is trending downwards, numerous news reports, curbside memorials and personal experiences make it clear that there are still far too many shootings. According to CeaseFire Philadelphia, homicide is the leading cause of death for 15- to 19-year-olds in Philadelphia.

CeaseFire Philadelphia has a solution: treat violence as we would a disease. Most crime is committed by a small number of people. Providing those individuals with a pathway to a productive life reduces crime.

In collaboration with community leaders, the Philadelphia Police Department and various youth organizations, we are supporting CeaseFire Philadelphia's initiative to redirect youth in the Northwest. With a focus on jobs and mentoring, we hope our collaborative efforts bring the success of CeaseFire Philadelphia to the Northwest.

On The Table Springfield

In mid-July, I hosted an "On the Table" event at the Springfield Library. Participants in this small, focused discussion included a local business owner, a high school student, the director of the library and a community activist, as well as other professionals from the township. After hearing from each on what they felt was needed in their community, it was clear that primary issues are the growing opioid epidemic as well as making Springfield Township more business-friendly.

Following the meeting, each participant agreed on what we could do as individuals, as well as collectively, to bring about the changes we'd like to see. My office has publicized addiction and mental health resources in the district and we hope to develop a larger resource directory with our community partners. In addition to the creation of an overarching business plan for implementation, the "On the Table" discussion in Springfield will hopefully aid continued progress in the township.

I will continue to hold "On the Table" discussions throughout the district. If you're interested in arranging a conversation in your community, please contact my office at (215) 242-8171.

By the Numbers: January – July 2017

14 Hey Everybody!
Update Videos
(follow me on Facebook)

200+ Citizen
Advocates
Trained



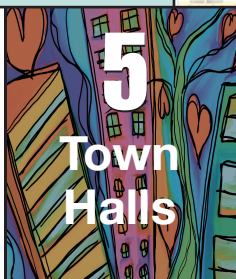
11,232
Miles Traveling to
and from Harrisburg

577,663
People Reached
on Social Media

10
Summer
Interns



8
"Hot Chocolate with
Haywood" events



5
Town
Halls

\$1,180,000

Grants to District