# State Senator CHRISTINE M. TARTAGLIONE

Update to the Residents of the 2nd Senatorial District











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- ∻ Community festivals 🚽
- 🚸 Minimum wage increase proposed
- \* Tartaglione to Head Philadelphia Delegation

### Combatting Drug & Alcohol Addiction

Senate Democrats and Republicans have joined together to sponsor a video contest called **"Talk to Your State Senator."** This statewide video competition is available to ALL students in PA in grades 6-12. Beginning in late September and running through December 10, students can submit an up-to-5-minute video explaining their approach to preventing teens from using drugs and alcohol. DASPOP (Drug & Alcohol Service Providers Organization of PA) has graciously agreed to fund 6 monetary prizes in the form of PA 529 college savings. Further details can be found at:

### www.ACommonwealthCrisis.com.



### <sup>Three</sup> highly successful community festivals

hosted by Sen. Christine Tartaglione and featuring participation by the Philadelphia Police Department were held in September in Norris Square Park, Wissinoming Park and Fox Chase Cancer Center.

"The picnics that I hosted in neighborhoods across the district were a great way to bring communities together. The attendance was outstanding and we were able to distribute hundreds of backpacks filled with school supplies to students."

— Sen. Tartaglione

Tartaglione said that in addition to the backpacks, there was music, dancing and light refreshments. Representatives from the Philadelphia school district, police department and other vendors helped make the gatherings a success.

### The Pennsylvania Senate Presents:



With support from the members of the

#### **Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania**

The opioid overdose epidemic is devastating individuals, families and communities across the country. These are not isolated incidents; addiction affects every community in Pennsylvania and its impact is far reaching. To help raise awareness, the Pennsylvania Senate has created a website, **ACommonwealthCrisis.com**, that includes helpful resources to encourage Pennsylvanias to learn and talk about addiction and substance abuse.

As part of our efforts to raise awareness and improve laws and policies in Pennsylvania, we want to hear from you. We invite Pennsylvania students to submit an original video, no longer than five minutes, addressing the drug addiction crisis to your state senator.

### The contest is open to Pennsylvania students in grades 6-12

The contest will be judged in two categories:

MIDDLE SCHOOL Grades 6 – 8 1st Place – \$2,500 2nd Place – \$1,500 3rd Place – \$1,000 HIGH SCHOOL Grades 9 – 12 1st Place – \$2,500 2nd Place – \$1,500 3rd Place – \$1,000

Money will be awarded through the PA 529 Account program in the PA Department of Treasury and will be deposited into an account in the winner(s) name.

Deadline for entries is December 10, 2017

### Help us combat this crisis! Let your voice be heard!

For more information and contest rules and to submit an entry, visit

www.acommonwealthcrisis.com/talk-to-your-state-senator

# Transit Worker Protection Now!

General Assembly Dawdles, Workers Assaulted

### "SEPTA bus driver taken to hospital after men throw liquid on her"

hese are just a few of the attacks on transit workers that made headlines. The sobering truth is that attacks on public transportation workers are not uncommon. They are numerous, vicious and terrifying. As troubling, the General Assembly



#### "Man charged with assault in punching, beating of SEPTA bus driver"

continues to dawdle and do nothing about the problem.

It's not as if there isn't a proposed solution just waiting for action. For many years, Sen. Tartaglione has introduced proposals to deal with this issue. Last session, it was Senate Bill 269. The session before, Senate Bill 282. The one before that, Senate Bill 236.

In a floor speech, the senator implored her colleagues to act to protect transit workers. The fact is, during the time Tartaglione's proposal was sitting in committee there were more than 100 assaults committed. A bus driver had been shot, another hit by flying glass and another had three teeth knocked from his mouth by a punch in the face.

The legislation would toughen penalties against those who commit offenses against public transportation workers. The idea is to reduce or eliminate assaults and make our public transportation systems safe for both the transit rider and the transit worker.

These attacks were unnecessary and most of them were preventable.

"Bus driver shooting sparks calls for safety"

Had the legislature passed any of these bills over the years, there is a strong likelihood that many of these assaults against transit workers could have been prevented.

If the General Assembly had acted, public transit agencies could have embarked on an aggressive education program that would have outlined the ramifications of assaulting a transit worker. The higher fine and longer prison sentence — the central feature of the Tartaglione bill — would serve notice that transit workers are protected. The increased prison time and fine would make potential assailants think twice.

According to the Amalgamated Transit Union, 30 states have enacted laws with tougher penalties for assaulting transit workers. If Pennsylvania would act, it would be joining with other states in demonstrating its support for transit workers.

Moving assertively to protect transit workers is the right thing to do. Transit workers are men and women who have constant contact with the public, often in difficult, frustrating situations. They work hard and do their jobs well and deserve to be free from assaults.

#### Tartaglione Works for new Philly Firefighter EMTs Law

Legislation to include firemen employed by Pennsylvania and emergency medical services personnel employed by city fire departments in the Heart and Lung Act was signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf. Sen. Tartaglione had introduced a similar measure in 2015. She is pictured here with the governor at the bill signing ceremony.



### Tartaglione:

"An increase in the minimum wage is justified morally and makes sense economically. It is unconscionable that someone working a full 40-hour week at the current minimum wage is in economic peril.

- Sen. Tartaglione

## Minimum Wage Increase

S enator Tartaglione introduced legislation to incrementally raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2021.

Under Tartaglione's proposal (Senate Bill 12), the current \$7.25 minimum wage would have increased to \$12 on July 1, 2017 and incrementally go up until it reaches \$15 in 2021. An inflation index would then be applied to eliminate the need for any future legislative action on the issue.

Tartaglione has been a long-time advocate of raising the wage. She was instrumental in helping to pass the last increase in 2006. Arguing that workers deserve to be treated more fairly, she has introduced legislation over the last several

legislative sessions to hike the rate.

Pennsylvania last raised the minimum wage in 2006. The federal government raised it to the current \$7.25 per hour in 2009. Thirty-one states, five of which surround Pennsylvania, have minimum wages above the federal rate. Nineteen states have passed laws tying minimum wage increases to inflation.

According to the Keystone Research Center, there are approximately 87,000 minimum wage workers in Pennsylvania. A minimum wage worker at 40 hours per week for 52 weeks earns only \$15,090 per year. The poverty rate for

a family of two is \$14,570 per year.

If the minimum wage had been raised with inflation it would be \$11 per hour today. An increase in the minimum wage would lift 1.2 million Pennsylvanians out of poverty. Tartaglione said her legislation would

give municipalities the option of setting an even higher minimum wage. The measure would also strengthen requirements for employers to keep accurate records to ensure that they pay the correct wage to workers.

# Tartaglione: U.C. Temporary Funding Fix

"The \$15 million in temporary funding will result in the rehiring of 200 workers, reduce call times and improve access to the claims system. However, this is a short-term solution and we all need to get back to work ensuring that resources are available to process claims and help those who are unemployed over the long haul.

— Sen. Tartaglione

A<sup>\$15</sup> million transfer to temporarily aid the processing of unemployment compensation claims, remove backlogs and result in the hiring of 200 workers laid off last year was signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf.

Sen. Tartaglione, who serves as Democratic chair of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee, was cited by the governor along with other labor committee leaders for their work in moving the measure through the General Assembly.

The U.C. funding crisis imperiled

the claims system, created delays, closed call centers and prompted the furloughing of 500 call center workers.

"For too long, the system was in flux because of the funding issue and men and women who lost their jobs had to overcome even higher obstacles to access benefits. We cannot let this situation happen again."

— Sen. Tartaglione

### Tartaglione Leads Fight Against Partisan Anti-Labor Bills

Avariety of decidedly partisan and anti-labor measures were considered in the Senate earlier this year. Sen. Christine Tartaglione, who serves as Democratic chair of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee, was harshly critical and highly skeptical of the measures.

"Unfortunately, the Senate considered a wide range of bills that would put working men and women at a disadvantage. We can do better. Instead of limiting rights and hobbling workers, we should be pushing measures that protect workers and lift wages."

Tartaglione was a keynote speaker at a rally held earlier this year by the Teamsters on state Capitol steps.

The variety of anti-worker measures included attacks on Equal Pay (Senate Bill 241), fair share fees (Senate Bill 166, Senate Bill 167), responsible collective bargaining procedures and negotiations (Senate Bill 504, Senate Bill 168, Senate Bill 503) and furloughing of teachers for economic reasons (House Bill 178).

Other anti-worker measures have also been offered, including making Pennsylvania a Right-to-Work state (Senate Bill 650) and raising the Prevailing Wage threshold (Senate Bill 333).



"For too many years, workers have had to endure wage stagnation and job uncertainty," Tartaglione said. "The last thing that is needed is more unease and instability."

Gov. Tom Wolf is a staunch supporter of workers and is willing to oppose

legislative efforts that would hamper collective bargaining.

#### STATE SENATOR CHRISTINE M. TARTAGLIONE

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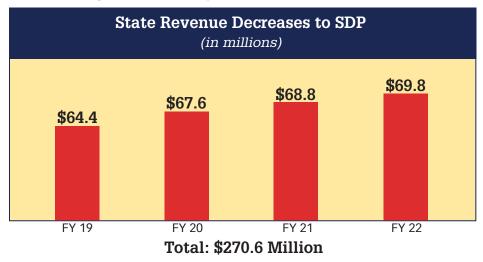
### Tartaglione: Senate Passes Measure to Fix AVI

egislation was approved by the Senate that would fix the Actual Value Initiative (AVI) for Philadelphia and is a vast improvement over the current structure.

"The changes would fix the AVI for Philadelphia, which is important to my district and the entire city. The language would set the market value, cap future increases and prevent the loss of \$270 million in state aid to the School District of Philadelphia over five years."

— Sen. Tartaglione

The AVI fix language would set the maximum market value of property at \$47 billion, then cap future increases based on the total increase for all districts. This would limit the amount of increase and help avoid large spikes.



#### Funding loss to Philadelphia School District without AVI Fix

### Tartaglione Selected to Head Philadelphia Senate Delegation

Senate Labor and Industry Committee. Previously, she worked as an executive in the state treasurer's office and was business representative of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

"Senate Democrats will face a great many tough and controversial issues, for which strong leadership is needed. I hope to keep our delegation together and strong as it works to solve problems and improve lives.

#### — Sen. Tartaglione

Seven Senate Democrats represent Philadelphia in the 50member body.