



SPRING 2018

State Senator CHRISTINE M.  
**TARTAGLIONE**

*Update to the Residents of the 2nd Senatorial District*

## 2nd District Happenings

*Globe Dye & Fox Chase Cancer Center Win RACP Grants*

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## A Message from SENATOR TARTAGLIONE 2nd Senatorial District

*It's always given me a great sense of pride to say I've lived my entire life in Philadelphia. Having represented the 2nd Senatorial District, I've seen the many changes that have occurred in our neighborhoods.*

*As our buildings and infrastructure age, we need to reinvest and rethink our communities. Contained in the pages of this newsletter you will see just a few of the areas in which we've been able to reinvest and come together to improve our neighborhoods.*

*These initiatives are just a small sample of the many good things happening throughout the 2nd district. And they demonstrate that opportunity exists all around us.*

*Christine Tartaglione*

## ◆ Senator Tartaglione leads effort to raise PA's outdated minimum wage

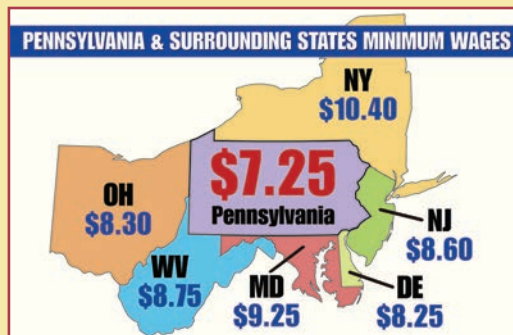
In early February, Senator Tartaglione introduced new legislation that would raise Pennsylvania's long-stagnant minimum wage and help millions of low-wage earners across the state.

Pennsylvania hasn't raised its minimum wage since 2006 and the federal government hasn't raised the national minimum wage since 2009. Tartaglione has been at the forefront of the issue throughout her 24 years in the Senate and she led negotiations in Harrisburg the last time the state raised its minimum wage.

Since then, all six of Pennsylvania's neighboring states have raised their minimum wage above the federal minimum, as have 28 states across the country. But Pennsylvania is still at **\$7.25** an hour. Similarly, tipped workers in Pennsylvania have gone without a minimum wage raise since 1998. They can make as little as **\$2.83** an hour under the law.

At **\$7.25** an hour, a worker who logs 40 hours a week will make just **\$15,080** for the year. That's below the federal poverty level for a two-person household and would qualify the individual to collect supplemental nutrition assistance (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps.

Under Tartaglione's **Senate Bill 1044**, the minimum wage would rise to **\$12** immediately (**\$9** for tipped workers), then increase incrementally to **\$15** (**\$12** for tipped workers) by 2024. There would be an annual cost-of-living adjustment starting in 2025. ■



## ◆ Tartaglione Helps Constituents Get Health Insurance

The number of Americans living without health insurance rose by **3.2 million** people last year, according to a recent Gallup poll. Other scientific polls have repeatedly cited healthcare costs as Americans' No. 1 concern.

In November, Senator Tartaglione helped constituents relieve many of their concerns as she helped them sign up for affordable health insurance during an open house at her district office at Bridge Street and Oxford Avenue.



*Constituents visited Senator Tartaglione's Bridge Street office in November to sign up for affordable health insurance coverage.*

The senator teamed with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging and private insurers to connect constituents with expert facilitators who helped them navigate the enrollment process for the health insurance marketplace and for Medicare.

The event was one of seven held by Senate Democrats across Pennsylvania and helped raise awareness about new policies implemented by the federal government that reduced public access to healthcare. ■

## ◆ Governor Declares Opioid Emergency

In response to the growing crisis of opioid addiction and overdose deaths in Pennsylvania and across the nation, Gov. Tom Wolf on Jan. 10 declared a statewide disaster emergency that is intended to improve tools for families, first responders and others to save lives; speed up and expand access to treatment; and enhance coordination and data collection to bolster state and local response to the crisis.

In 2016, 4,600 Pennsylvanians died from opioid abuse. And the trend worsened last year, although the data are still being tabulated. Senator Tartaglione is working with the governor to respond to this public health crisis and is committed to giving communities impacted by the opioid epidemic a voice in determining what solutions best fit their needs. ■

For more information visit [health.pa.gov](http://health.pa.gov).



## ◆ Legislative Update:

### ■ NON-DISCLOSURE

Senator Tartaglione joined Sen. Judy Schwank of Reading and 14 other colleagues in co-sponsoring legislation to protect victims of sexual harassment or misconduct from being silenced by their tormentors.

**Senate Bill 999** would outlaw the inclusion of non-disclosure provisions within a legal document used to settle a harassment or misconduct complaint. Accused harassers typically use non-disclosure provisions to prevent their accusers from discussing details of their cases, including the identity of their alleged offender.

During a November news conference, Senator Tartaglione said that victims and their advocates have become newly empowered to confront harassers through grassroots campaigns like the #metoo social media movement. ■

### ■ HATE CRIME BILLS

A renewed campaign to expand Pennsylvania's hate crimes law has special meaning for Senator Tartaglione. In addition to adding new legal protections for people based on ancestry, gender and sexual orientation, the legislation would also add

protections for people with disabilities.

There are two pending bills in the General Assembly, one in the Senate and another in the House. Both were introduced last February with bipartisan support, but they each sit in the judiciary committees of their respective chambers. Current law grants protected status based on race, color, religion or national origin. In 2002, the legislature passed a law extending those protections, but the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck it down on a procedural technicality six years later. ■

### ■ UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDING

In December, Senator Tartaglione championed legislation in the Senate that will provide adequate funding to Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation system for the next four years, ensuring that the state's jobless workers will have access to the services they need to make it through difficult financial times.

The legislation provides **\$115.2 million** over four years to the UC system, including **\$84.9 million** to support customer service staffing at the state's unemployment centers and **\$30.3 million** for technological upgrades. The allocation will enable Pennsylvania to avoid another crisis like the one it endured in late 2016 and early '17 when previous funding expired and the state laid off nearly 500 Department of Labor & Industry employees and shut down three of its UC centers. As a result, countless jobless workers experienced lengthy delays as they sought to apply for and collect their benefits.

*"I am pleased that the overwhelming majority of my colleagues recognized the importance and urgency of funding our Unemployment Compensation system appropriately to ensure that workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own can rely on this vital safety net,"*

Senator Tartaglione said after the 43-5 Senate vote.

Tartaglione played a central role in the passage of the bill through the Labor and Industry Committee, on which she is the minority party chair, as well as the Appropriations Committee. Along with her support of the bill, the senator will be watching carefully to ensure that the funding will provide unemployed workers with the level of service they deserve and that service doesn't diminish when the new funding expires in 2021. ■

## ◆ Senator Secures CFA Grants for Boys & Girls Club, Frankford CDC

*Senator Tartaglione asserted her commitment to supporting community organizations by delivering impactful Commonwealth Financing Authority grants to a local youth club and to a non-profit community development corporation.*

Boys and Girls Clubs of Philadelphia received a **\$200,000** check from the senator on November 22 that is helping to pay for major renovations of the Northeast-Frankford Boys and Girls Club. The club is rehabbing a century-old stone former school building that has served as its home since 1938.

The **\$200,000** grant enables the club to complete renovations to the first floor including the creation of a new social recreation room and grand gallery. In the past two years, the club has also created a new literacy center, renovated its gymnasium and transformed its dilapidated basement into a teen center, art studio, learning lounge and tech lounge. Further, the club has created a STEM lab, kids café and tech center. The work on the first floor will finalize the much-needed renovations to the building.

On Jan. 18, Senator Tartaglione presented a **\$100,000** CFA grant to the Frankford



Community Development Corporation to fund its development of a "Pause Park" at Frankford Avenue and Paul Street, next to the CDC's headquarters in the recently rehabilitated Daral Building. Frankford Pause will be a unique outdoor venue serving as a hub of community activity with flexible space for social gatherings, public performances, art displays and casual reflection.



The Commonwealth Financing Authority was established in 2004 as an independent agency of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to administer the state's economic stimulus packages. ■

For information about applying for future CFA grants visit  
[dced.pa.gov/how-to-apply/](https://dced.pa.gov/how-to-apply/)



## ♦ Officer Skerski Memorial Bridge



On December 13, Senator Tartaglione had the privilege of speaking on the Senate floor in support of legislation to dedicate a roadway bridge in honor of slain Philadelphia Police

Officer Gary Skerski. The bill passed unanimously and was signed into law. It will rename the Castor Avenue bridge spanning the Frankford Creek as the Officer Gary Frank Skerski Memorial Bridge.

Officer Skerski was shot and killed in the line of duty on May 8, 2006, while responding to an armed robbery of Pat's Café, a popular local tavern near the bridge site. He was a 16-year veteran of the police force assigned to the 15th district. He was survived by his wife Anne, son Robert, daughter Nicole, parents Chester and Mary, sister Jacqueline and brother Robert. He served primarily as the designated Community Relations Officer for the 15th district. ■

## Senator Tartaglione addresses St. Martin Seniors



*Senator Tartaglione returned to St. Martin of Tours School to inform the senior citizens' group about new legislation and the state budget.*



## ♦ Disability Employment Advocates Gather at Capitol

Senator Tartaglione advanced two of her biggest missions – workforce development and advocating for the disabled – in a single event on Oct. 23 when she hosted her annual Disabilities Employment Awareness Day at the Pennsylvania Capitol.

A dozen public and private-sector providers teamed up to offer guests comprehensive information about a wide array of accessibility products and services, all with the shared goal of helping people with physical and cognitive challenges find and retain meaningful employment. The cause is very personal to Senator Tartaglione, who has spent the last 14 and a half years overcoming the spinal injuries she suffered in a 2003 boating accident.

Presenters included public agencies such as the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; medical providers like MossRehab; academic institutions including Temple University's Institute on Disabilities; and financial resource providers such as the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation. Three service dogs in training – Ajax, Aero and Rugby – also graced the Capitol Rotunda with their enthusiastic presence courtesy of Susquehanna Service Dogs. ■



*People with disabilities and their advocates met for Senator Tartaglione's Disability Employment Awareness Day at the Pennsylvania Capitol to share information about accessibility services and programs.*

## ♦ Lawmakers Say 'No' to Stop-and-Gos



Senator Tartaglione and other members of the Philadelphia delegations in the General Assembly joined with Gov. Tom Wolf in November to take a stand against nuisance shops that sell alcohol in communities across the city and throughout Pennsylvania.

The stores are known as "stop-and-gos" and they come in many forms. Typically, they are small convenience stores, delis or gas stations that hold liquor licenses and sell alcoholic beverages by the bottle or can. Many also sell hard liquor by the shot. Their licenses require that they offer prepared food, seating and restrooms for patrons, but many do not. Many of the businesses attract or provoke loitering, public drinking, underage drinking and more serious crimes. Their liquor licenses are subject to biannual renewal. Often, a business will appear compliant during the renewal process but deteriorate into non-compliance shortly thereafter.

The new provisions added to Pennsylvania's Fiscal Code will allow state liquor enforcers to act immediately on complaints from local authorities, such as police, rather than waiting up to two years for the license renewal. Those complaints would trigger prompt inspections that could result in the immediate suspension of a non-compliant business' liquor license by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. The license would remain suspended until the business complies with the liquor code. The new administrative process also includes provisions for follow-up inspections to ensure that the business remains compliant.

Communities can contribute to the enforcement effort by reporting suspected stop-and-gos to their local police, who in turn would file a complaint with state Liquor Control Enforcement to trigger a site inspection. ■



*Senator Tartaglione teamed with Governor Wolf and other state legislators to strengthen liquor code enforcement laws.*



## ◆ Senior Expos Serve Thousands of Older Constituents



*David L. Cohen (center), senior executive vice president of Comcast Corporation, and Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro joined Senator Tartaglione at her annual Senior Expo at the Mayfair Community Center, where they discussed internet access and online safety initiatives.*

Cyber safety was high on the agenda when Senator Tartaglione hosted her annual Senior Expo at the Mayfair Community Center on October 5. Comcast executives chose the event to announce a new partnership with Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro and the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging to protect seniors from internet scams and other online threats.

Hundreds of older folks and their caregivers attended the event, which was one of three Senior Expos organized by Senator Tartaglione last fall. The others were held at Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School in Juniata Park and at Fox Chase Recreation Center.

At the Mayfair event, Comcast executive David L. Cohen told seniors about the company's Internet Essentials program, which has connected more than four million low-income Americans to the internet since 2011. Shapiro pledged to increase his office's internet safety outreach efforts.

At all three Senior Expos, Senator Tartaglione connected thousands of local residents with a broad spectrum of resources including government services, healthcare, banking and investment, housing and public safety. The senator is planning to hold three more Senior Expos later this year. ■

## ◆ Senator Tartaglione brings \$1.5 million in grants for Globe Dye, Fox Chase Cancer Center

A revitalized textile factory in Frankford and a cancer hospital in Fox Chase will each be able to make major physical improvements in the coming months thanks to a pair of Pennsylvania grants totaling **\$1.5 million** secured by Senator Tartaglione.

Globe Dye Works was awarded a **\$1 million** grant and Fox Chase Cancer Center a **\$500,000** grant as part of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. The Funding will translate to more jobs and services in the 2nd Senatorial District and will generate additional revenue for the city and state.

Globe Dye Works occupies 11 interconnected buildings on a 1.7-acre campus at 4500 Worth Street. There are more than 30 commercial tenants, including 19 who also live in the property.

Meanwhile, Fox Chase Cancer Center, at 333 Cottman Avenue, will expand its Infusion Center with a **\$500,000** RACP grant. The Infusion Center is where Fox Chase patients receive chemotherapy, non-chemotherapy infusions, hydration and blood product transfusions.

As part of an **\$8.2 million** expansion, Fox Chase will double the Infusion Center's floor space to 21,500 square feet and increase its patient capacity from 36 infusion chairs to 60. The larger, less crowded footprint will improve the overall patient experience by delivering it in an aesthetically pleasing setting that promotes privacy, safety and efficiency.

In its existing configuration, the Infusion Center serves about 2,200 patients per month. Administration of chemotherapy is by far the largest service line and revenue generator for the Center, comprising more than half of total outpatient revenues. The current infusion space frequently reaches capacity during peak times. ■



## Mayfair Holmesburg Parade



*Senator Tartaglione helped ring in the holidays and continue a beloved neighborhood tradition by marching in the annual Mayfair Holmesburg Thanksgiving Parade on Frankford Avenue.*



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## State Senator CHRISTINE M. TARTAGLIONE

### ◆ State Resources Available at New Allegheny Office

*"It gives local residents easy access to an array of goods and services. Also, it's bringing hundreds of new jobs to the community. We're excited to play a leading role in the renaissance of a great neighborhood."*

Senator Tartaglione joined the burgeoning community revitalization effort in West Kensington in December when she opened a district office in the new Plaza Allegheny shopping center at 400 W. Allegheny Ave. The senator became one of the first tenants in a bright and beautiful commercial and professional development that also features a supermarket, auto parts retailer, restaurants and medical offices.

The new district office serves the same roles previously handled by the former office at Front and Dauphin streets. The same friendly staff will greet constituents and assist them with services such as driver's license renewals, auto registration, handicapped parking placards, unemployment applications, home heating assistance and property tax/rent rebates. The multi-lingual staff can also help with Spanish-English translations.

Parking is free and ample, while the location is convenient and accessible. More than 60,000 people live within one mile of the office. Senator Tartaglione plans to hold a public Grand Opening celebration in the spring. ■



Senator Tartaglione greeted Plaza Allegheny developers and Save-A-Lot managers on opening day at her new Allegheny Avenue office.

### OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

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