



State Senator ANTHONY HARDY WILLIAMS

Always Hard Working . . . for You

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

Advancing Public Education

Education has long been a strong point of emphasis in Senator Anthony H. Williams' legislative agenda. In 1997, Williams, now a nationally recognized expert on educational issues, played a key role in advancing legislation which allowed for the creation and operation of charter schools in Pennsylvania. He fought to establish the School Reform Commission in Philadelphia and to allow retired teachers to return to the classroom without sacrificing their retirement benefits in times of teacher-shortage. He supported the establishment of the Safe and Secure Schools Program to enhance school safety and the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) to promote private investment in scholarship programs for middle-income families as well as investment in traditional public school enrichment programs and educational improvement organizations throughout the state.

In the current legislative session, Senator Williams again points to education as a centerpiece of his efforts in Harrisburg. To draw particular attention to the

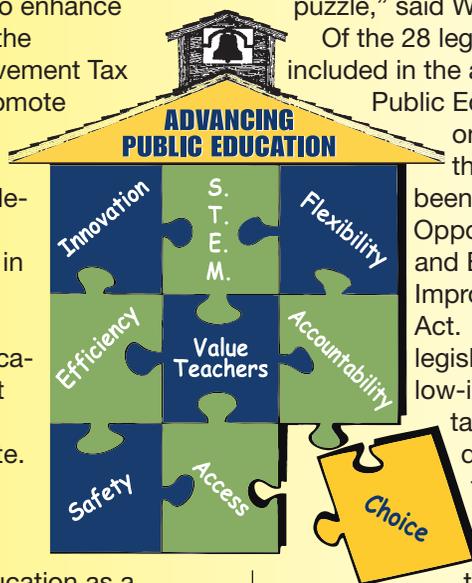
importance of these issues, he has assembled several bills that he has authored, and others that he is supporting, under the heading of "Advancing Public Education." Williams' education agenda is represented by a logo comprised of a jigsaw puzzle displaying the nine main components that he has defined as essential to better serving our children. "It's a sad fact, but much is wrong with education in America and in Pennsylvania. There is no quick-fix, but we owe it to our children – our future – to work to solve this puzzle," said Williams.

Of the 28 legislative proposals included in the agenda for Advancing Public Education, by far the one that has received the most attention has been Senate Bill 1, the Opportunity Scholarship and Educational Improvement Tax Credit Act. This landmark legislation would allow low-income families to take the state tax dollars devoted to their child and apply them to the public or nonpublic school of their choice. It would also help middle-class students by expanding the EITC. Senator

Williams, together with Senate Education Chairman, Senator Jeffrey Piccola, is the proud author of this proposal to expand school choice across Pennsylvania.

Watch for "Upcoming Events" in this newsletter and on the web at www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com, including a series of town hall meetings where you can ask questions about school choice and Senate Bill 1.

Choice is just one piece of the puzzle. "It's not just about vouchers," said Williams. "Please visit my website at www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com to learn more about my plans, including proposals to encourage parents to take an active, positive role in the lives of their children; to promote growth in charter schools while increasing accountability and transparency; to attract the best and brightest into teaching in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and to reward good teachers," Williams continued. "A society that values education must value teachers."



Look Inside:

- Harrisburg Happenings
- Around the 8th District
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
- RX Programs for Seniors

www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com



Harrisburg

Happenings

In addition to his education agenda, Senator Williams continues to offer common sense solutions to our everyday problems.

Highlights:

SB 119: Intergenerational Family Care Act (Grands as Parents)

To establish a pilot program to assist families in which children are being raised by grandparents or other generation-skipping older relatives. It would provide:

- Rental assistance
- Day-care assistance for working heads of households
- Training for state Department of Public Welfare employees
- Caseworkers to offer support and counseling
- Development and improvement of intergenerational housing
- Activity areas for children in intergenerational family homes

SB 120: Illegal Transportation of Firearms

To allow for seizure and forfeiture of a vehicle or vessel used to unlawfully transport firearms. It also allows for a hearing in criminal court to protect against improper forfeiture of property.

SB 126: Credit Checks for Insurance

To forbid the practice of denying or cancelling homeowner's or automobile insurance in whole or in part due to a person's credit history.

SB 127: Fracking Chemicals Disclosure

To require well-operators drilling in the Marcellus Shale to disclose chemical constituents, chemical compounds, quantities of chemicals and the quantity of flowback at each well-site.

SB 128: Employer Credit Checks

To prevent unlawful discrimination practices by prohibiting employer credit checks unless the check is job related or proper notice is given.

To learn more about Senator Williams' legislative agenda, visit www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com

Kinship Caregivers Find Advice and Support at Conference

Senator Williams' Intergenerational Family Care Act Would Assist Caregivers

Caregivers from across the region gathered at the University of the Sciences on Saturday, May 14, 2011 to hear legal, financial, educational and behavioral health information at the Helping Hands Intergenerational Resource and Information Conference for Caregivers presented by the office of Senator Anthony Williams, Turning Points for Children and Grands-As-Parents. The conference was prompted by the growing number of children being raised by grandparents and other older relatives and the need to provide formalized support for their caregivers. "In the 8th District alone, thousands of grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles – even cousins and older siblings – heroically step into the breach," said Williams. "I want to do all that I can to support these heroes among us." In addition to hosting the conference, Senator Williams has authored Senate Bill 119, the Intergenerational Family Care Act. See above in "Harrisburg Happenings" or visit www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com to learn more about SB 119 and this conference.



Prescription Programs Available for Seniors



PACE, PACENET and PACE Plus Medicare are Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, offering low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents age 65 and older. To be eligible for PACE, you must be 65 years of age or older, a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to the date of application, and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit.

To qualify for PACE, a single person must have a total income of \$14,500 or less. A married couple must have a combined total income of \$17,700 or less.

For PACENET, a single person's total income can be between \$14,500 and \$23,500. A couple's combined total income can be between \$17,700 and \$31,500.

For seniors who do not qualify for PACE or PACENET, the **Pennsylvania Patient Assistance Program Clearinghouse (PA PAP)** may be able to help you to apply for prescription assistance through various programs. Pharmaceutical manufacturers sponsor programs that provide certain prescription medications free of charge or for a nominal fee to people who meet specific income qualifications and who do not otherwise have access to necessary long-term medications. Each participating manufacturer has set their own eligibility guidelines, including income limits. On average, most manufacturers observe income criteria relative to 200 percent, or less, of the Federal Poverty Level. For more information, call the PA PAP Clearinghouse at **1-800-955-0989**.



Williams Named Democratic Whip

In January, State Senate Democrats chose Senator Anthony Hardy Williams (D-Philadelphia/Delaware) to serve as Democratic Whip. Having previously served as Democratic

Caucus Chair, Williams now assumes the second highest ranking position in caucus leadership. Williams succeeds Sen. Michael A. O’Pake (D-Berks) who died in December of last year.

“I appreciate this vote of confidence from my Democratic colleagues and I look forward to working with them, as well as with Senate Republicans and Governor Corbett to resolve the serious issues facing our Commonwealth.” – Sen. Williams

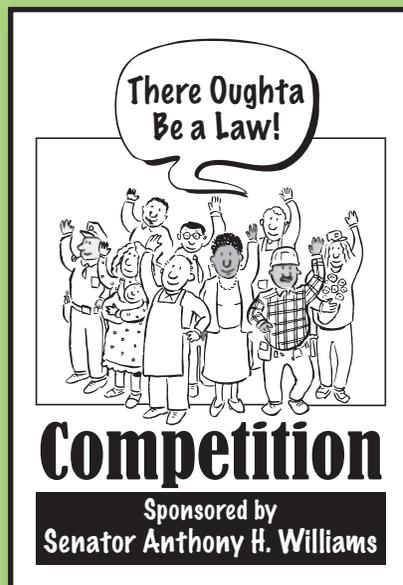
First elected to the Senate in 1998, after having served five two-year terms in the state House of Representatives, Williams represents the 8th Senatorial District, including Southwest Philadelphia and parts of South and West Philadelphia along with twelve suburban communities in Delaware County (Collingdale, Colwyn, Darby Borough, Part of Darby Township, Folcroft, Glenolden, Lansdowne, Norwood, Prospect Park, Ridley Park, Sharon Hill and Yeadon).

There Oughta Be a Law!

“There Oughta Be a Law!” was a cartoon by Al Fagaly and Harry Shorten that was distributed by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate from 1946 until artist Fagaly’s death in 1963. It has also long been a popular catchphrase used to express frustration with the way things are.

With a tip of the hat to these cartoonists¹, Senator Anthony H. Williams is pleased to provide an opportunity for his constituents (and other Pennsylvanians) to seek relief from their frustrations by entering his “There Oughta Be a Law!” competition. If you find yourself saying, “There oughta be a law!” you are invited to submit your idea for a new law by entering online at www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com or you may receive an application by calling or visiting any one of the Senator’s offices. Before year’s end, at least one winner will be selected and his or her idea will be introduced next spring as proposed new law.

Contest winners will also enjoy a visit to the State Capitol with Senator Williams and may be asked to testify on behalf of their bill at a formal senate hearing.



¹Thanks also to California State Senator Joe Simitian, whose staff was kind enough to share the details of his successful “There Ought to Be a Law” program.

When “No New Taxes” Taxes

tax (taks), v.t. to lay a burden on.

With a blind determination to uphold a promise of no new taxes, Governor Corbett would place an unfair burden on the people of Pennsylvania. In his recent budget address, the governor promised no tax on the companies that drill for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale saying, “Let’s make Pennsylvania the Texas of the natural gas boom.” Senator Anthony H. Williams was quick to respond, “Texas taxes.”

“We need an honest and transparent process to construct an industry in Pennsylvania that treats business fairly, treats people fairly and provides appropriate revenues for the Commonwealth. To do less would be to lay a burden on the people of Pennsylvania, all of whom will be impacted by an industry that would deliver natural gas across the country and around the world.”

– Sen. Williams

Convinced that the natural gas trapped within the Marcellus Shale can truly bring an economic boom if the rules of the game are properly constructed, Williams promises to fight for fair wages, fair contracts and leases and a fair share for the people of Pennsylvania.

Around the 8th District and Beyond



Barbershop Tours

Join the senator as he tours local barbershops throughout the 8th District.

The barbershop has been one of the cornerstones of our community for years. It's a place where neighbors and friends come together to trade ideas, stories, and traditions," Williams said. "This is a great time to share your thoughts on how we can better serve our community."

Here he is at Playaz Hair Studio, 5201 Woodland Ave. in Philadelphia.



Taste of the 8th

Join Sen. Williams as he visits one of the many fine eateries in the 8th District.

Here he joins the weeknight crowd at Novita Bistro, 1608 South Street in Philadelphia.

Lansdowne Library

When time allows, don't be surprised to find Senator Williams at your neighborhood school or library.

Here he is reading to children at the Lansdowne Library.



Eating Healthy

Sen. Williams is passionate about wanting to help his constituents to improve their health and eating habits.



Senator Anthony H. Williams partnered with the Philadelphia Housing Authority to co-host a free healthy eating lunchtime program for parents of Bartram Village in Southwest Philadelphia as a pilot program for what he hopes will develop into a broader community effort.

Bartram Village residents were recognized on March 3 for their completion of a five-week healthy eating program, in which they attended workshops every Thursday to learn how to prepare healthy meals for their families and how to shop for healthy food and snacks.



Mobile Constituent Services

At your service. To better serve the community.

Senator Williams has established Mobile Constituent Service Days throughout the 8th Senatorial District. Here we find the senator answering constituents' questions at the Pathmark on Grays Ferry Avenue.

State Senator **Anthony H. Williams**



At Your

Service

ADVOCATING FOR CITIZENS' RIGHTS

We're Here To Serve!

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2901 Island Avenue • Suite 100
Philadelphia, PA 19153

(215) 492-2980 • Fax: (215) 492-2990

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA OFFICE

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Philadelphia, PA 19145

(215) 755-9185 • Fax: (215) 952-3375

DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICE

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Yeadon, PA 19050

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Senate Box 203008
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3008

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WEBSITE

www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com

Services Provided

STATE APPLICATIONS

Vehicle registration • Driver's license
Special tags • Titles • Car plates &
placards for the physically challenged
Higher education financial assistance
Birth certificates

SENIOR CITIZEN'S APPLICATIONS

PACE • Property tax and rent rebates

STATE CAPITOL GROUP TOURS

SOLVING STATE PROBLEMS

State income taxes • State lottery
Consumer protection • PennDOT
Unemployment compensation

Any state agencies that serve the public
Utilities or PUC



Property Tax / Rent Rebate

Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program benefits eligible citizens age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2010 is June 30, 2011.

The funds are available for households that make up to \$35,000 per year and to renters who make up to \$15,000 per year. Applicants may exclude half of their Social Security when calculating their income. This vital program, financed by the Pennsylvania Lottery, provides a maximum rebate of \$650 to eligible applicants.

Residents are not required to pay a fee to apply for the program. They can apply directly with the government for free. Be wary of mailings and unsolicited offers that attempt to charge a fee for information about and assistance in applying for Pennsylvania's Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program. Free applications and assistance are readily available at hundreds of locations throughout the state, including any of Senator Williams' district offices.

Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications are also available online at www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com and by calling 1-888-222-9190. Those who have already applied can track the status of their rebates by visiting www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com and entering their Social Security number, anticipated rebate amount and date of birth. The Web site will provide claim status confirmation, the actual amount of the rebate and the date the rebate is expected to be mailed or direct-deposited.

Attention Homeowners!

If you live in the 8th Senatorial District and are looking to make your home more energy efficient, but...

*You don't qualify for low-income weatherization assistance and...
You can't get an energy improvement bank loan...*

You may be eligible for a free energy audit and up to \$1,600 toward any approved home improvements, with a customer co-pay of only \$200.

Senator Anthony H. Williams has established a pilot program in coordination with the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) called EnergyWorks Plus. "Many homes in our community are older and were not designed to be energy efficient, and homeowners are paying the price in their utility bills. EnergyWorks Plus is a great program to help individuals pay for home improvement projects that keep out extreme temperatures and keep bills in check," said Williams.

For more information, call Ali Robinson
in the senator's district office at 215-492-2980.



www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com



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Upcoming Events

Building Financial Wealth by Improving your Credit Score

Senator Williams, together with State Farm and Drexel University, will conduct a seminar on **"Building Financial Wealth by Improving your Credit Score."**



Please join us at **10 a.m. on Saturday, July 23, 2011 at the Atrium of the Bossone Building, 3rd Floor, 3200 Market Street, Philadelphia.** We will show participants how to improve their credit scores and start saving money.

More than 43 million people in the United States have credit scores

low enough, or credit blemishes severe enough, to make it difficult or impossible to obtain loans and credit cards with reasonable terms. Having a good credit report means it will be easier to get loans and lower interest rates. Lower interest rates usually translate into smaller monthly payments. Good credit may also save you money on auto and homeowner's insurance.

According to Senator Williams, "Newspapers, radio, TV, and the internet are filled with ads for companies

and services that promise to erase accurate negative information in your credit report in exchange for a fee. The scam artists who run these ads not only don't deliver — they can't deliver. Only time, a deliberate effort, and a plan to repay your bills will improve your credit as it's detailed in your credit report. Together with State Farm and Drexel University, we are going to show you how - for **FREE.**"

For more information please call Desaree K. Jones or Jonathan Williams at 215-492-2980.

Job Opportunities at SEPTA!

Senator Williams and SEPTA have teamed up to educate individuals on what SEPTA's expectations are for finding qualified applicants. Not your "average" Career Fair, this will give you the opportunity to have the inside track for employment.

On **Tuesday, June 28, 2011**, at a time and location to be announced (visit Senator Williams' website at: **www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com** for updates), we will have three presenters from SEPTA's Human Resource Department to identify what skills and experiences the company would like to see in applicants. Dan Amspacher,

a Talent Director at SEPTA, will talk about the experience required for different positions within the company. George Spellman will go over the SEPTA culture, history, and standards. A member of the SEPTA Transit Police Department will talk about what it takes to be a Police Officer for SEPTA.

A SEPTA representative will be on hand to explain how to fill out their job application.

For more information, please call Don Cave or Desaree K. Jones at 215-492-2980.

Senior Fair Coming to Delaware County in August!

Senator Williams will host a Senior Fair in August at a yet to be determined location. Planning is underway to include workshops on healthy lifestyles, exercise and nutrition as well as information on social security, prescription programs and senior financial and legal issues.

Contact Ronda Liggins at **610-610-284-7335** or visit **www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com** for more information, as it becomes available.