



Capitol Correspondence

from

State Senator

Daylin Leach



Serving Delaware and Montgomery Counties

Spring 2013

Dear Neighbor,

Another fiscal year is drawing to a close. As I reflect on the social programs that I have championed over the years – from providing adequate education funding to providing a social safety net for our most vulnerable – there is one goal that somehow, almost unbelievably, seems to grow more difficult to accomplish: ensuring that Pennsylvania’s women receive the fair treatment and access to services that they deserve.

I have been working on issues involving women’s health and equality throughout my whole career and am proud to have introduced several pieces of related legislation. Some of the bills have been signed into law: we banned the practice of shackling pregnant prisoners while in labor and we now require certain businesses and government offices to prominently post the National Human Trafficking Hotline number on their premises. And yet, there is still much work left to be done.

For instance, there are still attempts to restrict women’s access to life-saving health care, and that is something that I will not stand by and accept. I have adamantly opposed legislation that would require women seeking reproductive health care to first be subjected to invasive trans-vaginal ultrasounds, and I fought back against plans to defund Planned Parenthood, which would deprive millions of women the access to care they count on.

At a recent press conference, I unveiled Senate Bill 915, which would provide a safe harbor to children exposed to sexual exploitation in Pennsylvania. The legislation would presume that any minor involved in prostitution is a victim of human trafficking and would be treated as such. It would provide a range of specialized services to those victims and would impose monetary penalties on traffickers and those who patronize commercial sex workers. The money collected from the fines would be used to establish a special fund for sexually exploited children, providing for safe houses and victim services around the state.

Additionally, I’ve introduced a paid parental leave bill, Senate Bill 962, which would allow parents of newborn children who meet certain criteria to receive up to 12 weeks of paid leave – something that is not currently offered to families in Pennsylvania under the provisions of the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

I hope that the General Assembly will take these bills into consideration during the upcoming months, as they could help make massive strides for women here in Pennsylvania. In the meantime, I will continue to host my Women’s Lecture Series events around the district and I hope that you will be able to attend an upcoming panel. To sign up for email updates about these and other events, fill out the contact form on my Web site, www.senatorleach.com.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and as always, feel free to contact me with any feedback.

Look Inside:

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May I Help?

STATE APPLICATIONS

Driver's License • Notary Public
Vehicle Registration/Renewal
Birth and Death Certificates

SENIOR CITIZEN'S APPLICATIONS

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Form
PACE/PACENET Form
Reduced Auto Registration Form

VOTER

Registration • Election Calendars
Applications for Absentee Ballots • Voter ID

◆ Human Trafficking Update

As you may know, I have been very involved in the issue of Human Trafficking for several years. Last session the legislature passed important legislation that I introduced requiring businesses and government buildings to post the National Human Trafficking Hotline number in prominent areas. People who see someone that may be trafficked or victims of trafficking can call the hotline and be connected to law enforcement or victim services across the country, available in 124 languages. This is a good first step in the fight against modern day slavery, but we can do more and I am working with my colleagues to do just that.

As Minority Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am a co-sponsor with the Majority Chairman, Sen. Greenleaf, of Senate Bill 75. This comprehensive bill would modernize the Commonwealth's response to human trafficking and it would provide services to human trafficking victims who are too often treated as criminals. The bill would help enable law enforcement officials to end human trafficking in Pennsylvania by allowing them to punish perpetrators with more proportional criminal charges. S.B. 75 was developed based on recommendations from the Joint State Government Commission's Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking. The bill has cleared the Judiciary Committee and is on the floor of the Senate where I am working hard to ensure its passage.

In addition to S.B. 75, I have introduced S.B. 915, a bill that would



Sen. Leach addresses attendees at a press conference to unveil new human trafficking legislation in Harrisburg.

provide a safe harbor to children who have been sexually exploited in Pennsylvania. Too often children who have been trafficked and forced into sex work are further victimized when they are prosecuted for prostitution. The legislation would presume that any minor involved in prostitution is a victim of human trafficking and would be treated as such. It would provide a range of specialized services to those victims and would impose monetary penalties on traffickers and those who patronize commercial sex workers. The money collected from the fines would be used to establish a special fund for sexually exploited children, providing for safe houses and victim services around the state. Every effort should be made to divert sexually exploited children away from prosecution and toward appropriate social services.

Please join me in fighting for those in our society who are unable to fight for themselves.

Go Green!

Sign up for paperless newsletters and updates by visiting
www.senatorleach.com

◆ Paid Family Leave Act

Having a child is one of the most rewarding and important experiences a couple can share. Bringing a new baby home is a labor intensive effort that demands time and patience from parents. However, it is becoming increasingly necessary that both parents work outside of the home in order to maintain financial stability for their family. Many parents cannot take unpaid leave to stay at home with a new baby. With that in mind, I am introducing legislation to mandate paid family leave for the parents of newborn babies, newly-adopted children and foster children. The bill is called the Paid Family Leave Act and would allow mothers and fathers who work more than 20 hours per week at companies with at least 50 employees to take up to 12 weeks of fully paid leave.

Currently, the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) allows workers who meet certain criteria to take 12 weeks of unpaid leave. This law was a major step in the right direction, but it's not sufficient for most working families. The United States remains the only industrialized nation in the world that does not provide paid family leave. In every other major country, as well as in leading U.S. corporations that have voluntarily decided to offer paid leave, the evidence shows that providing paid leave produces positive outcomes for children, parents and employers. Paid leave policies keep people working, reduce dependence on public assistance and prevent the slide into poverty. Mandated paid leave policies have also been shown to reduce infant mortality rates and improve the health of new mothers and children. It is time for Pennsylvania to become the first state in the nation to truly embrace family values and require paid family leave.



◆ Librarians of the Year

Recently, I was honored to recognize two outstanding local librarians at my 5th annual Librarians of the Year celebration held at the American Reading Company in King of Prussia.

The honorees included Bonnie Davis of Penn Wynne Library, named the 2013 Public Librarian of the Year award (award given posthumously) and Sue Dahlstrom of Wayne Elementary School, named the 2013 School Librarian of the Year.

Bonnie Davis served as the head librarian at Penn Wynne for more than 20 years. Sue Dahlstrom served as the Radnor Township School District's representative to the Board of Radnor Library in addition to her work with Wayne Elementary School. She is a member of the PA School Librarians Association and the PA Young Reader's Choice Awards Program.

Sen. Leach names Sue Dahlstrom the 2013 School Librarian of the Year at the fifth annual Librarians of the Year Awards.



Below: Sen. Daylin Leach posthumously honors librarian Bonnie Davis at the fifth annual Librarians of the Year Awards at American Reading Company. Her husband Clifton Davis, son Justin, daughter-in-law Natasha and grandchildren Amelia and Tessa accept the award on her behalf.



Featured Nonprofit Organization

◆ ElderNet: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

ElderNet provides free volunteer and social work programs to help older and disabled adults live independently and safely in their homes. ElderNet's services improve access to medical care, ease isolation, and offer practical help with shopping, paperwork, and home repairs.

If you or someone you know lives in Lower Merion Township or Narberth Borough and could benefit from ElderNet's help, please visit <http://www.eldernetonline.org>.





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Upcoming Events

5th Annual

DOG PARK DAY

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22
11 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

**Haverford Reserve Dog Park
9000 Parkview Drive • Haverford, PA**

I'd like to invite you and your four-legged friends to Dog Park Day at the Haverford Reserve Dog Park on Saturday, June 22nd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event will feature treats for both humans and animals. Guests are encouraged to bring along items to donate to Finding Shelter, an animal shelter located in Norristown. Accepted donations include leashes, collars, blankets, towels, treats and toys.

Attendees must provide proof of vaccination – all dogs must have current Rabies, DHPP and Bordetella vaccines. All dogs over 6 months old must be spayed or neutered. For more information and to RSVP, please call (610) 768-4200.

COME TO THE FAIR! COME TO THE ZOO!

STATE SENATOR DAYLIN LEACH
With Co-Host
Mercy Suburban Hospital

Kids' Fair
An Expo at the ZOO

Free Spin Art
Face Painters
Free Food
State, Federal & Local Agencies
Free Admission
Team Mascots
Free Fingerprinting

Free to children and their families of the 17th Senatorial District

August 1, 2013 • 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Elmwood Park Zoo
1661 Harding Blvd. • Norristown, PA

RSVP by July 26: 610-768-4200 or E-mail: scharles@pasenate.com

RSVP early with your name, address and number of children and adults attending.
The Kids' Fair is limited to 1500 people.

I'll be hosting my 5th annual Kids' Fair on Thursday, August 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Elmwood Park Zoo, and I'd like you to attend!

The Kids' Fair, in conjunction with Mercy Suburban Hospital, will feature face painting, games, free food, mascots and animals for the kids; and information about federal, state and local agency services for adults.

RSVP by July 26th at 610-768-4200 or email scharles@pasenate.com.