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Below is a summary of key public policy issues impacting the Pittsburgh region's nonprofit sector.

FEDERAL NEWS

["Senate passes resolution allowing Duckworth to bring baby on floor," The Hill, 4/18/18](#)

["GOP presses for stiff work requirements for food stamps," The Hill, 4/18/18](#)

["House passes series of bills to improve IRS," The Hill, 4/18/18](#)

["More than 40 Dem House challengers outraising GOP incumbents," The Hill, 4/18/18](#)

["Senate blocks bill that opponents say weakens water pollution rules," The Hill, 4/18/18](#)

["House panel advances bills to guard energy grid from cyberattacks," The Hill, 4/18/18](#)

["Trump's EPA quietly revamps rules for air pollution," The Hill, 4/18/18](#)

["Congress Urged To Cut Medicare Payments To Many Stand-Alone ERs," Kaiser Health News, 4/17/18](#)

PA STATE POLICY NEWS



United Way
of Pennsylvania

Gubernatorial Candidate Survey

Conducted by:
The United Way of Pennsylvania

The goal of this survey is to inform voters about where candidates stand on the following issues in an impartial and nonpartisan manner:

- State Budget
- Financial Stability
- Education
- Community Strengthening
- Health

[Click Here to Learn More About PA Gubernatorial Candidates](#)

House passes Medicaid work requirement bill

The state House of Representatives Tuesday afternoon [voted 115-80](#) to send to the Senate another [attempt to require some abled-bodied Medicaid recipients to engage in work-related activity](#) for their taxpayer-funded health insurance. The chamber resumed debate that was suspended on Monday, with several more legislators speaking about the proposal, which is similar to another work requirement bill vetoed by Gov. Tom Wolf this past October. Should the bill get to Wolf's desk, which seems likely given Senate Republicans supported the last work requirement effort, the governor has promised to veto it. As they did last week during a committee meeting about the bill, most House Democrats during the debate on Monday and Tuesday railed against the bill, calling it unconscionable to require anyone to work for their health benefits, and claiming it could cost hundreds of millions of dollars to monitor compliance with the work requirement. Asserting that getting a job could go a long way to helping individuals eliminate their need for welfare, Republicans countered with state Department of Human Services statistics showing nearly 500,000 non-disabled adults receiving Medicaid report no income – meaning they don't work – with that population representing more than half of the total population of non-disabled adult Medicaid recipients. Of that non-working population, GOP legislators noted only a portion would be subject to the proposed work-related activity requirements as the legislation contains an extensive list of exempted individuals: full-time high school students; recipients of temporary or permanent long-term disability benefits; anyone nineteen years of age or younger or sixty-five years of age or older; pregnant women; Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients; those in a mental health institution or correctional institution; anyone experiencing a crisis, serious medical condition or temporary condition that prevents the individual from seeking employment, including domestic violence or substance use disorder; and primary caregivers to a dependent who is under six years of age or is permanently disabled.

Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome

U.S. Rep. Dent announces plan to resign before end of his current term in office

It appears Pennsylvania could have another special election for a congressional seat. We already knew Republican U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent wasn't going to seek re-election, but he announced Tuesday he will resign from Congress in May. Pennsylvania just had a special election in the soon-to-be-defunct 17th Congressional District (a new 17th District was drawn by the state Supreme Court, as part of an entirely new congressional district map for Pennsylvania), and Dent's planned resignation means a second special election could be in the offing as early as mid-summer (Gov. Tom Wolf has 10 days from the date of the resignation to announce a special election date that must be at least 60 days from the date the governor announces the special election), with the winner of the election serving out the remaining few months of Dent's term in office serving the 15th Congressional District. The special election could also serve as a preview for the November general election (note, the state Supreme Court redrew the Lehigh Valley district as well as renumbered it - it's now the 7th District).

Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome

PA Republican Party files Right-to-Know requests about potential communications between Wolf administration, state Supreme Court on congressional map

The Republican Party of Pennsylvania on Monday announced it has filed Right-to-Know requests with the Office of the Governor and the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts to, according to the GOP, "determine the level of collusion, if any, between the Wolf administration, Democrat Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices, their privately retained experts, and/or any collusion between the Office of the Governor and the National Democratic Redistricting Committee and its associated political action committee.

Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome

Gov. Wolf signs 'Tierne's Law' which seeks to help better protect victims of domestic abuse

Gov. Tom Wolf on Monday signed into law legislation to clarify that Magisterial District Judges may, in cases of domestic violence, use a risk assessment tool to determine whether a defendant poses a danger to a victim when determining bail. The measure is also known as "Tierne's Law," for Tierne Ewing, a Washington County woman who was kidnapped and murdered in 2016 by her estranged husband after he was granted bail, following his arrest for domestic violence and other offenses, instead of having his bail raised or revoked as suggested by the prosecutor due to the husband's violent history of abuse. "We all know the tragic story that led us to take a hard look at our laws, and make this change," Wolf said. "We mourn Tierne's loss with her family, and while we can never fix what they've had to go through, Tierne's law will help us prevent senseless and horrible situations like this one from happening to more Pennsylvania families, and will hold perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse accountable for their heinous crimes." "Far too many domestic violence victims suffered terrible consequences even after the crimes were committed, simply because judges did not have the information they needed to keep the most dangerous offenders behind bars," said bill sponsor Sen. Camera Bartolotta, R-Washington. "I am extremely thankful that we have taken a critical step to ensure judges can make the best decision possible when deciding whether to set bail for offenders." Bill supporters say the law will help ensure magistrate judges use a risk assessment tool to determine not just a flight risk but a lethality risk that will ultimately assist in protecting victims of domestic violence by making sure their abusers stay behind bars if they pose a risk of committing more violence.

Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome

PA House approves Down syndrome abortion bill

“I believe in the dignity of every human being,” House Speaker Mike Turzai, R-Allegheny, told his legislative colleagues prior to a final House vote on [legislation](#) that seeks to prohibit abortions due to an unborn child being diagnosed as having Down syndrome. “None of us are born perfect, and we all have something beautiful to contribute,” said Turzai, prime sponsor of the bill. “Pennsylvania is a loving, compassionate community, and we want to extend welcome and support to Down syndrome families. They need to know they’re not alone.” Following extensive floor debate, the chamber [voted 139-56](#) to approve the bill, with 24 Democrats joining 115 Republicans in sending the bill to the state Senate. Senate Republican spokeswoman Jenn Kocher said the bill will be thoroughly reviewed through the committee process. Gov. Tom Wolf has promised to veto the bill should it get to his desk, which, given the outcome in the House, seems likely if it comes up for a vote in the Senate.

During Monday’s House debate, critics of the legislation once again argued it violates the existing constitutional guarantee that a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion, that it interferes with the doctor/patient treatment relationship, that the state doesn’t provide enough funding to offer services and supports to individuals with Down syndrome and their families, that it has had no public vetting during hearings and that it’s going to be next to impossible to enforce as women currently aren’t required to provide any reasoning for seeking an abortion. The legislation would add the Down syndrome provision to the state’s current Abortion Control Act, which only applies penalties for violation of the act’s provisions to the doctor performing an abortion, not the pregnant woman or any other health professional involved in the procedure.

· *Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome*

[Workers' Comp drug formulary bill heads to governor's desk – and likely veto - after successful reconsideration vote in PA House](#)

The phrase “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again” was illustrated by the state House of Representatives early Monday evening as the chamber approved a bill that came up short of winning approval two months ago. On February 6, the House posted [a 98-98 vote](#) for a [Workers' Compensation drug formulary bill](#), but supporters of the legislation filed a reconsideration motion following the vote. The House on Monday [voted 98-96](#) to approve that reconsideration motion when it was brought up for a vote, and then, after some debate, the chamber [voted 101-92](#) to send the legislation to the governor. The bill would require the state Department of Labor and Industry to adopt an evidence-based drug formulary for Pennsylvania’s Workers’ Compensation program. A drug formulary is a list of drugs covered by an insurance plan. Supporters note drug formularies are commonplace in health insurance and establish evidence-based standards for the medication that can be prescribed to a patient. They also claim it will help combat the opioid crisis, arguing opioids have been prescribed to injured Pennsylvania workers far more than in other states, and with higher dosage amounts, making it all the more likely workers fall prey to addiction and overdose. However, the bill isn’t expected to receive a warm reception from Gov. Tom Wolf, who has indicated his opposition to, according to his office, the state interfering with the relationship between a doctor and patient, which the Wolf administration and other critics maintain the legislation would do. Wolf has come under fire for his receipt of \$1 million in campaign funding from a political action committee that gets a large share of its money from doctors and lawyers who own pharmacies opposed to the formulary bill as it could end a controversial practice of pharmacies billing insurers for unproven pain creams, some of which can cost \$4,000 or more per tube.

· *Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome*

[School trauma kit bill outlined at Judiciary hearing](#)

During the House Judiciary Committee’s resumed public safety and gun

hearings, a Bucks County lawmaker urged his colleagues to consider his idea to equip schools with trauma kits. Rep. Frank Farry, R-Bucks, said he plans to introduce a bill to create a state emergency preparedness grant program to provide schools with kits containing such items as tourniquets and special bandages and training to use them in order to provide first aid in emergencies. Under the proposal, the state Health Department would determine the protocols for training willing school staff and recommend where the trauma kits should be placed in schools, according to a co-sponsorship memo.

· *Source: Capitolwire: "School trauma kit bill outlined at Judiciary hearing" by Robert Swift*

LEGISLATION

- HB 2227: Amends Titles 18 & 42 re firearms
- HB 2260: Amends Health Care Facilities Act re ID tags
- HB 2261: Act re PIT Property Tax Reduction Fund
- HB 2262: Amends Human Services Code re personal care
- HB 2263: Amends Liquor Code re PLCB's flexible pricing
- HB 2265: Amends PA Municipalities Planning Code
- HB 2268: Amends Title 18 re tobacco in schools
- HB 2269: Amends Tax Reform Code re building rehab.
- HB 2271: Act re tax exempt properties
- HB 2272: Amends Chiropractic Practice Act re personnel
- HB 2273: Amends Small Business Incubators Act
- HB 2274: Amends Title 35 re Fire Safety Advisory Cmte
- HB 2275: Amends Title 18 re firearms
- HB 2276: Amends Municipalities Financial Recovery Act
- HB 2277: Amends Title 46 re committee subpoena powers
- HB 2278: Amends Public School Code re preamble display
- HB 2280: Amends Human Relations Act re protections
- HB 2281: Act re biosolid material
- HB 2282: Amends Human Relations Act re interns
- HB 2283: Amends Human Relations Act re discrimination
- HB 2284: Amends Whistleblower Law re complaints
- HB 2285: Amends Title 65 re discrimination/harassment
- HB 2286: Amends Human Relations Act re complaints
- HB 2287: Amends Public School Code re crisis training
- SB 1132: Amends Title 44 re Alternative Dispute
- SB 1133: Amends Title 42 re Grand Jury Reforms
- SB 1129: Amends Title 23 re adoption
- SB 1130: Amends Tuition Account Programs re savings
- SB 1134: Amends Title 18 re sexual extortion
- SB 1001: Act re public health emergency declaration
- SB 1131: Act re landslide insurance & assistance
- SB 1135: Act re surgical patient safety
- SB 1136: Amends Public School Code re police officers
- SB 1139: Amends Title 18 re youth shelter workers
- SB 1141: Amends Title 42 re firearm violence protection



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