



## Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



### News and Action Summary for June 1, 2012

Check out the Actions, Events, Opportunities and Resources, and News Posts below—just click on the links under each category to get to the information. We've placed the most critical issues under Important Actions and Issues. To learn about how to keep informed between these updates, go to <http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=9416>.

As usual, we understand that there is a lot of information here and in the links provided for further information. **Please know that you aren't expected to act on everything! Just choose the issues that are most important to you and take action.** Sometimes you will be directed to action pages of other organizations—**don't worry!** These are organizations that we work with regularly and who share a common interest. Please consider contacting your legislators to thank them when they support your position as well, or to express your disappointment when they don't. We don't follow up with them often enough. They need our feedback to understand how we feel. Go to our Take Action page ([http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index\\_files/Page630.htm](http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index_files/Page630.htm)) to find links to contact information for your legislators.

Our website is updated regularly—please visit to find updated links, resources, etc. at <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org>. It is a work in progress, and issue pages continue to be created as time permits. If there is something you would really like to see that isn't there, please contact us at [s.strauss@pachurches.org](mailto:s.strauss@pachurches.org).

**And finally—If you appreciate this ministry, we would very much appreciate your support; you can learn how by clicking [here](#).**

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### URGENT ACTIONS

If you don't have time for any other actions, please consider taking action on these issues!

#### **Hold Your Representatives Accountable for Their Vote to Cut Nutrition Assistance**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10907>

Holding elected officials accountable for their votes is a key step to register our approval or disapproval as constituents. When members of Congress vote to cut nutrition assistance for 22 million children, it's time to hold them accountable.

#### **Call Your State Senator to Support Special Education Reform This Week**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10911>

Due to strong advocate support, special education reforms to benefit children with disabilities passed the Pennsylvania Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, May 22. The next step for SB 1115 is a vote in the full State Senate on June 4.

#### **Support Public Education in PA Budget**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10958>

Opportunities for student learning have been seriously eroded in school districts across the state as a result of the dramatic decrease in state funding for schools. Many of these cuts in state funding have had a dramatically

disproportionate impact on the poorer districts, directly undermining the purpose of a state funding system that is intended to provide fair and equitable opportunities for learning to every student.

## **NEW ACTIONS**

### **Support Permanently Extend Protections for Renters at Foreclosure**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10885>

Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) has introduced the Permanently Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (H.R. 3619), that would make 2009's Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA) permanent law. The law ensures that most tenants can stay in their homes for the remainder of their leases or for at least 90 days post-foreclosure.

### **Sign the Better Budget Petition for Pennsylvania**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10952>

Every day, Pennsylvanians are asking why the Governor is choosing to cut funding for schools and investments in our communities, while giving tax dodgers a free pass. Send a message. Sign the better budget petition.

### **Help Support Paid Family Leave**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10922>

In the coming weeks, the Senate will consider putting \$5 million toward a new State Paid Leave Fund, which President Obama has proposed in his last three budgets. The Fund would help states that want to start paid leave insurance programs for workers and their families.

### **Support the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10927>

Thousands of pregnant women everyday are forced to choose between losing their jobs (or taking unpaid leave) and endangering their pregnancies, when just a few small workplace accommodations are usually all that's needed. Because of a gap opened between discrimination laws and disability laws by court decisions, some employers are refusing to accommodate even simple requests that help workers maintain a healthy pregnancy.

### **Support Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10963>

The Violence Against Women Act offers critical protections for immigrants and other survivors of domestic violence. The current law passed in 1994 and has been reauthorized twice since. Since abusers often exploit undocumented victims' lack of immigration status, the law allows survivors to leave their abusers without suffering immigration consequences and ultimately to petition for status on their own. The House version would change this.

### **Please Help End Human Trafficking in Pennsylvania**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10932>

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery, which overwhelmingly impacts women and girls. It is the fastest growing crime in the world and is a crisis taking place right here in Pennsylvania.

### **Act Now to Save American Wind Power**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10937>

The federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) is an effective tool to encourage development of wind power, a proven renewable energy technology. However, the PTC is set to expire at the end of 2012, and it is crucial that it be extended immediately. Failure to extend the PTC will lead to significant job losses around the country and roll back progress that we have made as a nation to diversify the U.S. electricity portfolio and improve air quality.

**Support Penalties for Illegal Gun Possession**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10942>

At the urging of prosecutors, police, mayors, and thousands of activists, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed HB 2331 (190 to 7), a bipartisan proposal to establish serious penalties for felons and other criminals who carry guns illegally in Pennsylvania.

**Urge the Senate to Preserve and Restore Juvenile Justice Funding**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10988>

As early as June 5, the U.S. Senate will take up S. 2323, its version of the Commerce, Justice Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill which, among other things, provides federal funding to support juvenile justice reforms. While far from perfect, S. 2323 begins to reverse the downward trend in juvenile justice funding.

**OTHER ACTIONS**

**Please visit our “Take Action” page** at [http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index\\_files/Page630.htm](http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index_files/Page630.htm) for the **most up-to-date listing of all current actions** you can take by category. **Categories include:** New Actions; Children and Families; Economy and Economic Justice; Education; Environment; Global Issues; Government Reform; Health Care; Housing; Human Rights; Hunger; Immigration; Peacemaking; Torture; Trade; Women.

You can also check out our **Weblog Take Action page** at <http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?cat=10>.

**Only the most urgent and newly posted actions will appear on**

[http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index\\_files/Page630.htm](http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index_files/Page630.htm). All other ongoing actions will be posted by category (with appropriate links) on this same page.

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**Important and Time Sensitive News!****So Much Happening: Here’s How You Can Keep Informed Between Updates**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=9416>

**PA General Assembly Is Advancing a Budget that Leaves Money on the Table**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10947>

**Payday Loans Are Bad for Consumers**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10978>

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**EVENTS**

**For a full listing of events**, go to the Events Calendar at [http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?page\\_id=92](http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?page_id=92).

**Events in the coming weeks:****Birth Certificate Clinic—June 6, Philadelphia**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10983>

**Save Our Schools Rally—June 13, Harrisburg**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10998>

**Pennsylvania Citizens' Hearing on EPA's Carbon Standard—June 13, Pittsburgh**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11010>

**Gas Truth Discussion Series: Dr. Tony Ingraffea—June 14, Harrisburg**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10916>

**Opening Doors: The Nation's Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and End Homelessness—June 20, Harrisburg**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=10993>

Please check [http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?page\\_id=92](http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?page_id=92) for information on new events posted between news updates.

**Newly posted events:** [http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index\\_files/Page411.htm](http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index_files/Page411.htm)

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**OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO LEARN AND ACT**

We have a **current listing of opportunities and resources** to participate in national conference calls, calls for comments on policies or legislation, and activities that individuals/congregations can engage in aside from Actions.

For summaries of **the most recently posted resources**, go to <http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?cat=2161>.

For the most recent **job, internship and fellowship postings**, go to <http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?cat=2295>.

For the most recent **information about grants, competitions, and places where you can plug in and become active**, go to <http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?cat=2296>.

For a **listing of Council-related resources** go to the "Resources" link at [http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index\\_files/Page498.htm](http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index_files/Page498.htm).

For **links to organizations that address many of the Council's advocacy issues**, visit "Related Links" at [http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index\\_files/Page560.htm](http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/index_files/Page560.htm). This list is updated continually. Please report broken links to [s.strauss@pachurches.org](mailto:s.strauss@pachurches.org).

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**NEWS POSTS**

Please visit our **weblog** (<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/>) for the latest news and information. For previous News Summaries, click on the "News Summaries" link on the right side of the page.

Subscribe to our weblog via **RSS** ([What is RSS?](#)) or **e-mail**.

For the most recently added **news posts**, go to <http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?cat=2297>.

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**SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S ADVOCACY WORK**

**Find us on Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Pennsylvania-Council-of-Churches-Advocacy/133182573363816>.

**Follow us on Twitter** at <http://twitter.com/slstrauss>.

If you received this message from a friend, **sign up for Pennsylvania Council of Churches Advocacy e-mails** at <http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5415/t/5044/signUp.jsp?key=794>.

**Financial support for the Council's Advocacy Ministry is always welcome!** Go to our online support page at <http://www.pachurches.org/Donations/donations.htm> and enter "Advocacy Ministry Support" under "Comments."

And finally...**PLEASE FORWARD THIS E-MAIL!**