



Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



News and Action Summary for June 8, 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) 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.

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

URGENT ACTIONS

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

Support Stronger Standards for Carbon Emissions—Action Needed Now!

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11103>

As stewards of God's Earth, we are called to protect and serve Creation and ensure that our choices reflect the needs of the most vulnerable. Today, our carbon dioxide emissions, from our increasing use of energy, are at unprecedented levels and threatening the health of Creation and our communities. Send a note to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) telling them you support stronger standards for carbon emissions from power.

Help Restore Funding for Early Childhood and K-12 Education

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11049>

Next week, the Pennsylvania House will consider the Senate's budget proposal which includes some important restorations to early childhood and basic education funding. The House has proposed amendments that would build on the Senate budget by restoring funds for Keystone STARS and the Accountability Block Grant. We need to help them get a majority of votes in favor of restoring funds for Keystone STARS and the Accountability Block Grant.

Special Education Funding Bill Passes in the PA Senate—Urge Your Representative to Support

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11150>

On June 4, the Pennsylvania Senate passed SB 1115 by a nearly unanimous vote (46-1).

It's a great victory, and it brings Pennsylvania one step closer to making historic progress for children with disabilities. The House is expected to vote on the bill in the next week.

Senate Farm Bill Immediate Action Needed This Week: Urge Your Senators to Co-Sponsor Gillibrand Amendment to Restore SNAP Cuts

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11118>

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) has announced that she will introduce an amendment to the Farm Bill that restores, over 10 years, the \$4.5 billion cut to SNAP and invests \$500 million in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack program. She has circulated a "Dear Colleague Letter" in the Senate asking for cosponsors.

Urge Your PA Representative to Protect PA's Most Vulnerable in Budget Debate

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11084>

Now is the time to reach out to your state representative and urge protection of PA's most vulnerable through adequate funding levels for nutrition and related assistance programs.

Support Full Funding for Human Services in Pennsylvania

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11089>

Please join Campaign for What Works and call or email your representative NOW to let them know you support full funding for human services. The restoration of 10% to the budget by the Senate was a good start. Let the House know that still isn't enough.

Protect Pennsylvania from Illegal Gun Violence—Help Stop Fast Track Legislation

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11098>

Late Monday night, CeaseFirePA sounded the alarm that the Judiciary Committee had plans to run a secret bill to advance the NRA's goal of a special set of legal rules to help gun-extremists use PA courts to attack cities and towns that have taken a stand against straw-purchasers.

NEW ACTIONS**Support a Fair Farm Bill**

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11108>

This is a critical moment for our food. The Farm Bill is a massive, far-reaching bill that touches almost every aspect of our food, from research funding to agricultural policy to farm subsidies. It is only renewed about once every 5 years. We need to make sure the 2012 Farm Bill moves our food system in the right direction.

OTHER ACTIONS

Please visit our "Take Action" page at 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. All other ongoing actions will be posted by category (with appropriate links) on this same page.

[Important and Time Sensitive News!](#)

So Much Happening: Here's How You Can Keep Informed Between Updates

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

The Importance of Being in School: A Report on Absenteeism in America's Public Schools

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11044>

Senate Committee Farm Bill Cuts SNAP Fruit and Vegetable Purchases by \$862 Million

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11113>

EVENTS

For a full listing of events, go to the Events Calendar at http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?page_id=92.

Events in the coming weeks:

Grassroots Organizing for Immigrant Rights Training—June 9, Lancaster

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11094>

Grassroots Organizer Training for Immigration—June 10, Philadelphia

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11123>

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>

Immigration Lobby Day—June 20, Harrisburg

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11127>

National Week of Action on Torture—June 22-29

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11059>

Come & Share a Special Evening with Single Payer Healthcare Activists—June 22, Yardley

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11040>

Rally Against U.S.-Sponsored Torture: Say No to Torture—June 26, Harrisburg

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11146>

Learn About Solitary Confinement and Its Harmful Effects—June 26, Aston

<http://pachurchesadvocacy.org/weblog/?p=11142>

Please check 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

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.

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. This list is updated continually. Please report broken links to s.strauss@pachurches.org.

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>.

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!**