



## Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



### News and Action Summary for January 27, 2023

#### **Empowering people of faith to make a difference for the common good!**

This week we have seen something novel happen in Pennsylvania—legislators seeking citizen input on their work. While two of the sessions described will have happened by the time you read this, there is a form available for you to share your thoughts. So...you are invited to [Tell Speaker Rozzi Your Ideas About Healing Divides, Creating Fair Rules.](#)

Sadly, this week we've witnessed what has become an all too common occurrence, and even more sadly, something unique to our country—more mass shootings. We pray for the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones and for all who live in fear that they may be the next targets. And we acknowledge that our prayers alone are not enough—we continue to work for sensible gun policy and legislation that reduces or ends the sale of weapons of war and that makes it more difficult for guns to end up in the hands of those who may be a danger to themselves or others.



**We hope you will support this ministry with a generous gift, or even better a monthly gift. You can help us by going to <https://pachurches.org/shop/> where you will find our address and links to make your donation. If you want to support advocacy, scroll down the page to find the links for Public Witness Ministry.**

Here's some "News You Can Use":

- [SNAP Emergency Allotments Will End in February](#)
- [Home Energy Assistance Program Open](#)

Many actions are available, and you can learn more in the articles below.

If you are interested in any programs that would help you to gain greater understanding and ability to be an effective advocate, contact Sandy Strauss at [s.strauss@pachurches.org](mailto:s.strauss@pachurches.org).

To learn about how to keep informed between these updates, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org>. 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 do something!** 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 <https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/getLocal4.jsp> to find a summary of your federal and state legislators with basic contact information.

Our [website](#) is updated regularly. 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).

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## **URGENT ACTIONS**

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

[Tell Congress to Expand the Child Tax Credit Now](#)

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## **NEW ACTIONS**

[Tell Governor Shapiro to Work to Build a Cleaner, Greener Pennsylvania](#)—NEW

[Tell the EPA to Set Stronger Standards for Soot Pollution](#)—NEW

[Tell Sysco to Eliminate Single-Use Plastic Packaging](#)—NEW

[Urge Interior Secretary and US Fish and Wildlife Service to End Delays and Protect Endangered Wolves](#)—NEW

[Sign Petition to Protect Medicare, Demand End to Private Insurers' Interference](#)—NEW

[Urge Florida and Texas Governors to Expand Medicaid or Direct Residents to ACA Marketplace to Prevent Catastrophe](#)—NEW

[Help Shape Bureau of Prisons Rule on Inmate Financial Responsibility Program](#)—till March 10—NEW

[Urge Congress to Pass Amendment Overturning Citizens United](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Pass the CLEAN Act and Commit to More Accountability in Government](#)—NEW

[Urge Our Members of Congress to Sign Letter Demanding Cancellation of Asylum Bans](#)—NEW

[Thank Governor Shapiro for Committing to Address Gun Violence](#)—NEW

[Thank Congress for Investments in Child Care and Early Education!](#)—NEW

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## **ONGOING ACTIONS**

[Tell Your PA Lawmakers to Stop Attempt to Rewrite PA Constitution](#)

[Tell Congress to Cut the Pentagon Budget and Support Vulnerable Persons First](#)

[Tell the President to Demand a Clean Debt Ceiling Increase with No Cuts to Social Security or Medicare](#)

[Tell the President No Tax Breaks to Wealthy Corporations Without Investments in Children and Families](#)

[Tell the Governor to Grow Access to High Quality Pre-K, Child Care, and More](#)

[Urge Your US Representative to Co-Sponsor the Environmental Justice for All Act](#)

[Tell the EPA to Reduce Pollution from the Gas Industry](#)—deadline February 13

[Tell the US Senate to Reject House Bill That Would Defund the IRS](#)

[STREAM Act Passed the Senate—Tell the House to Pass It As Well](#)

[Act Now to Oppose Administration's New Asylum Bans](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass Citizenship Legislation for DREAMers Now](#)

[Tell Congress to Expand Insulin Copay to All Americans](#)

[Tell Congress to Save Lives by Capping the Price of Insulin](#)

[Urge New PA House Speaker to Prioritize Gun Safety Laws](#)

[Tell Our Senators to Vote for Assault Weapons Ban](#)

[Sign Now to Tell Congress to Pass the DISCLOSE Act and Overturn Citizens United](#)

[Urge the President to Take Major Action to Protect Voting Rights and Our Democracy](#)  
[Tell Congress to Pass the Equality Act](#)

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**IMPORTANT AND TIME SENSITIVE NEWS!**

[So Much Happening: Here's How You Can Keep Informed Between Updates](#)

[Summary of All News Posts Since Previous Update](#)

[A Little-Known HUD Program Could Help Lift Renters Out of Poverty](#)

[As Other States See Pay Hikes, PA Minimum Wage Stuck at \\$7.25](#)

[Mass Incarceration Trends Since 1925—50 Year Surge Since 1970s](#)

[Tongass National Forest in Alaska Is Now Safe from Logging](#)

[Creation Justice Ministries 2023 Lenten Resource](#)

[Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning Is Possible—Resources Available](#)

[Housing Alliance of PA Seeks Research and Education Manager](#)

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**EVENTS**

**For a full monthly calendar of events**, see the Events page at <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/>.

**For a listing with descriptions of events**, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/list/>.

**For general information about our calendar, links to ongoing events, and how to submit events**, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/about-our-calendar/>.

**Ongoing/upcoming events:**

[Just Creation Conference: Shalom for Our Common Home](#)—March 16-18, Decatur, GA

[Living the Golden Rule: Faith Climate Action Week 2023](#)—April 14-23, 2023—Organizer's Kit now available

[Caring for Creation with PA IPL](#)—First Fridays, October 2022-June 2023

[Moral Mondays—Sign Up for Notifications](#)

[Freedom Church of the Poor](#)—Sundays 6-7:30

**Events in the coming weeks:**

[Within Our Reach: New Ways to Save Money, Our Communities, and the Planet](#)—January 28

[Refugia Faith: An Evening with Debra Rienstra](#)—February 16

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**OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO LEARN AND ACT**

For postings since the previous Summary...

[Resources](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Jobs, internships and fellowships](#)

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**NEWS POSTS**

Visit our [weblog](#) for the latest news and information. For previous News Summaries, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/news-summary/news-summary-archive/>. Also, check out specific issue-related posts by clicking on links on the right side of the page.

Subscribe to our weblog via e-mail (see link at bottom of [home page](#)).

**[Summary of most recent News Posts.](#)**

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**Follow us on Instagram** at <https://www.instagram.com/pachurchadvocacy/>.

**Subscribe to our YouTube channel** at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCunqnFIOcrIn\\_o715zhlTIA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCunqnFIOcrIn_o715zhlTIA).

If you received this message from a friend, **sign up for Pennsylvania Council of Churches Advocacy e-mails** at [http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup\\_page\\_KEY=531](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=531).

**Financial support for the Council's Advocacy Ministry is always welcome!** Go to our online support page at <https://www.pachurches.org/shop/> and look for "Public Advocacy Donation."

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

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