



Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



News and Action Summary for February 10, 2023

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

After nearly nine years, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court finally found [PA's School Funding System Found Unconstitutional—Read the Decision](#). What this means is that Pennsylvania's two-tiered public school funding system, divided by wealth, cannot continue because education is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Pennsylvania constitution. We celebrate this groundbreaking decision and look forward to ensuring that Pennsylvania provide adequate and equitable funding to support every student in Pennsylvania to reach their greatest potential.

We continue to note and celebrate **Black History Month**, and we urge you to [Honor Black History Month—Act to Demand Justice and Reparations](#).



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.

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.

URGENT ACTIONS

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

[Send a Valentine E-Postcard to Governor Shapiro to Say Pennsylvania is Worth Protecting](#)

[Sign Valentine's Open Letter to Tell Elected Leaders to Commit to Solving the Child Care Crisis](#)—NEW

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

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

NEW ACTIONS

[Tell Congress to Tackle the Affordable Housing Crisis and Protect Renters](#)—NEW

[Tell PA Lawmakers to Fix PA's Unconstitutional School Funding System](#)—NEW

[Tell Your PA Legislators to Make Funding Our Public Schools a Priority](#)—NEW

[Tell the EPA to Regulate Neonic-Coated Seeds as Pesticides](#)—NEW

[Tell National Park Service—No Bear Baiting or Shooting Hibernating Bears in Alaska National Preserves](#)—NEW

[Call on Speaker Rozzi to Prioritize Gun Violence Prevention](#)—NEW

[Tell the PA Legislature to Adopt Proposed New Rules](#)—NEW

[Act Now to Oppose Proposed 30% National Sales Tax](#)—NEW

[Tell Your Representative to Act to Reduce Nuclear Risk and Prevent Nuclear War](#)—NEW

ONGOING ACTIONS

[Honor Black History Month—Act to Demand Justice and Reparations](#)

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

[Tell Speaker Rozzi to Work to Reform Pennsylvania's Flawed Constitutional Amendment Process](#)

[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](#)

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

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

[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](#)

[Urge Your State Representative to Cosponsor Extreme Risk Protection Order Legislation](#)

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

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

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

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

[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](#)

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](#)
[Group Continues Calls for Better Legislative Rules in PA](#)
['No Time to Waste': Alarm as Antarctic Ice Hits Lowest January Level Ever Recorded](#)
['Grim' Report Warns 40% of US Animals at Risk of Extinction](#)

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:

[Farm Bill Roundtable](#)—February 13, Ebensburg
[Farm Bill Roundtable](#)—February 13, State College
[Journeying Through Active Hope with the Four Elements](#)—February 13
[Leading with Love: Building Community-Science Partnership](#)—February 14
[What Can PA Hope to Achieve or Make Progress on Climate Issues This Year?](#)—February 15
[Informational Webinar on Soot Pollution](#)—February 15
[Refugia Faith: An Evening with Debra Rienstra](#)—February 16
[BLAC Petrochemicals Listening Session](#)—February 17
[How Can Pittsburgh Move from Environmental Racism to Environmental Justice?](#)—February 19
[Planning the Energy Future of Your Congregation](#)—February 21
[Seeking Asylum: Virtual Screening](#)—February 21

OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO LEARN AND ACT

For postings since the previous Summary...

[Resources](#)
[Opportunities](#)

[Jobs, internships and fellowships](#)

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.](#)

SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S ADVOCACY WORK

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PACHurchesAdvocacy>.

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

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

Subscribe to our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCunqnFIOcrIn_o715zhITIA.

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.

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!**

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