



Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



News and Action Summary for February 17, 2023

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with our junior senator, John Fetterman, as he checks into Walter Reed Medical Center for treatment of clinical depression. This is a brave act in light of concerns that have been raised over his health, and he should be commended for doing what he needs to do to take care of himself so that he can fully serve the people who elected him. Our prayers are also with our senior senator, Bob Casey, as he recovers from surgery to address prostate cancer. We wish them both a rapid and full recovery.



We are just a little shy of two years from the 2024 Presidential Election and it looks like things are beginning to heat up as former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley has thrown her hat in the ring, and speculation is hot that the President will announce his reelection bid soon...

We continue to note and celebrate **Black History Month**, and we urge you to [Honor Black History Month—Act to Demand Justice and Reparations](#). You can also [Sign Faith Leader Letter Asking President Biden to Act on 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!

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

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

NEW ACTIONS

[Sign Faith Leader Letter Asking President Biden to Act on Reparations](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Pass Paid Family and Medical Leave Now](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Continue Supporting Resources for Maternal Mental Health](#)—NEW

[Sign Petition to Governor and Legislative Leaders to Protect Our Shared Environment](#)—NEW

[Tell the President to Stop the Willow Project Before It Spoils the Arctic Forever](#)—NEW

[Tell Amazon No More Plastic Packaging](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act Now](#)—NEW

[Tell PA Elected Officials to Fix Harrisburg with New Rules Package](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Stop 30% Sales Tax in Misnamed Fair Tax Act](#)—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 Congress to Tackle the Affordable Housing Crisis and Protect Renters](#)

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

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

[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](#)

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

[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](#)

[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](#)

[Era of 'Free' Covid Vaccines, Test Kits, and Treatments Is Ending. Who Will Pay the Tab Now?](#)

[Screen Current Revolution for Your Congregation During Faith Climate Action Week](#)

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:

[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

[What the H*** Is Up with Harrisburg?](#)—February 21

[March for Our Lives PA Advocacy](#)—March 23, Harrisburg

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_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.

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!