



Serving the 7th Senatorial District

SUMMER 2017

# State Senator **VINCENT HUGHES** *Reports to the People*

## *Fighting Back* with Policy & Purpose

As concerns grow about the direction of our state and country, Sen. Hughes continues to take the lead to defend our rights and protect critical programs and services.

Together, we can fight back against regressive policies that seek to hurt and divide us.



# *Fighting Back* by Organizing, Uniting and T

## Senator Vincent Hughes' COMMUNITY FORUM

March 1, 2017  
Montgomery County Community College

### Participants

#### Anti-Defamation League

E-mail: philadelphia.adl.org  
Twitter: @ADLPhiladelphia  
Philadelphia.adl.org

#### CeaseFirePA

215-923-3151  
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Twitter: @CeaseFirePA  
www.ceasefirepa.org

#### Center for Literacy

215-474-1235  
Twitter: @Center4Literacy  
www.centerforliteracy.org

#### Education Law Center

215-238-6970  
Twitter: @edlawcenterpa  
www.elc-pa.org

#### Education Voters of PA

215-564-2299  
Twitter: @EdVotersPA  
educationvoterspa.org

#### Esperanza Health Center

215-221-6633  
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www.esperanzahealthcenter.org

#### Equality PA

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Twitter: @EqualityPA  
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#### Fair Districts PA

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Twitter: @FairDistrictsPA  
www.fairdistrictspa.com

#### Indivisible PA - Buxmont

Twitter: @IndivisibleBxmt  
www.indivisiblepa-buxmont.com

#### Moms Demand Action

Twitter: @MomsDemand  
momsdemandaction.org

#### Mothers in Charge

215-228-1718  
E-mail: info@mothersincharge.org  
Twitter: @PhillyMIC  
www.mothersincharge.org

#### NAACP PA State Conference

484-636-9808  
Twitter: @PAStateNAACP  
pastatenaacp.org

#### PennEnvironment

1-800-401-6511  
Twitter: @PennEnvironment  
www.pennenvironment.org

#### Pennsylvania Budget

#### & Policy Center

215-694-4783  
Twitter: @PBPC  
pennbpc.org

#### Pennsylvania Human

Relations Commission  
717-787-4410  
Twitter: @PA\_HumRelComm  
www.phrc.pa.gov

#### Pennsylvania Prison Society

215-564-4775  
Twitter: @Prison\_Society  
www.prisonsociety.org

#### Pennsylvania Health Access Network

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E-mail: info@pahealthaccess.org  
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pahealthaccess.org

#### Philadelphia Anti-Violence Coalition

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www.philaantiviolencecoalition.org

#### Philadelphia CeaseFire

215-204-3321  
Twitter: @PhilaCeaseFire  
www.philaceasefire.com

#### Philly Women Rally

Twitter: @phillywomenrally  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/phillywomenrally

#### Planned Parenthood to Southeastern Pennsylvania

215-351-5500  
E-mail: @PPSPTweets  
www.plannedparenthood.org/plannedparenthood-southeastern-pennsylvania

#### Public Citizens for Children and Youth

215-563-5848  
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Twitter: @PCCYTeam  
www.pccy.org

#### The Arc-Philadelphia Chapter

215-229-4550  
E-mail: contact@arcpddc.org  
Twitter: @ArcPhilly  
arcphiladelphia.org

#### United Voices of Philadelphia

Twitter: @YuKyungSun

#### Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Twitter: @CSEInstitute  
cseinstitute.org

#### Witnesses to Hunger

Twitter: @Witnesses\_Natl  
witnessestohunger.org

#### Women's Law Project

E-mail: info@womenslawproject.org  
Twitter: @WomensLawProj  
www.womenslawproject.org



Sen. Hughes provides an  
on regressive measures making their way th  
Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg dur  
"Anger to Action" community  
at Montgomery County Community C

Tell Congress & the White House to help us, not!

Congress: 202-224-3121

White House: 202-456-1414

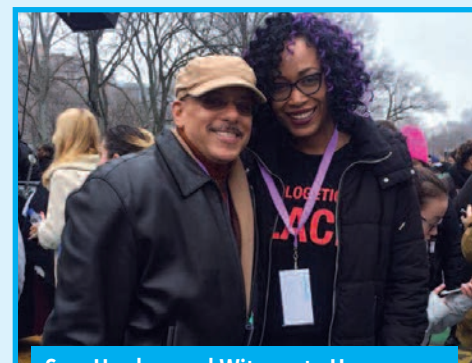


ne of our greatest freedoms is the right to exercise free speech. In the past few months, citizens have raised their collective voices about equality and quality of life issues that seem to be under attack.

I continue to take the lead to defend our rights and protect critical programs and services by highlighting glaring problems, securing important investments, protecting programs that work, and leading conversations about how we can work together.

I was directly involved in organizing and participating in the march to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, D.C. and the Women's March on Philadelphia.

I also hosted an "Anger to Action" community forum at Montgomery County Community College. Two dozen state and local organizations and hundreds of citizens participated in the event. We had a lively discussion about the regressive policies coming out of Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. and how citizens can get more involved in their communities.



Sen. Hughes and Witness to Hunger Program Manager Michelle B. Taylor were among thousands of people who participated in the Philadelphia Women's March on Philadelphia.



# Turning *'Anger into Action'*



Rev. Al Sharpton joins Sen. Hughes, Rev. Donald Moore and other local organizers in January at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church to discuss their participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March in Washington, D.C.



Sen. Hughes speaks at a rally at Temple University Hospital in support of the Affordable Care Act.



Sen. Hughes and Sen. Judy Schwank (far left) meet with a group of women at the Women's March on Philadelphia.

Share your concerns about the health care "repeal and replace" efforts:

Congress: **202-224-3121**

White House: **202-456-1414**



Philadelphians join in at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March in Washington, D.C.

## Souls to the Polls



Sen. Hughes and his wife Sheryl Lee Ralph speak at a "Souls to the Polls" event.

My wife Sheryl Lee Ralph and I believe that voting is empowerment. It allows us to have a direct voice in our democracy. It's a right that our ancestors fought for, so we must not take that right for granted. Getting in the voting booth and selecting our elected officials is a direct way to fight for our rights.

Last fall, we traveled throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania to remind folks about the importance of voting. In five weeks, we visited 19 churches as part of a "Souls to the Polls" effort to get out the vote.

We encourage voters to pay attention to what elected officials say on the local, state and national levels and vote in every election. Register to vote at [votespa.com](http://votespa.com).



# Fighting Back by Revitalizing Neighborhoods



Investments in affordable housing for families and seniors provide stability and revitalizes neighborhoods. Yet, President Trump's budget plan calls for cutting \$6 billion from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We must take matters into our own hands at the state and local levels to ensure that affordable housing is attainable.

Jeffrey Brown, of Brown's Super Foods receives a \$3 million state grant to reopen a supermarket in Wynnefield Heights as a Fresh Grocer.



Sen. Hughes joins Gov. Wolf and the PHA to break ground on a new apartment building in Strawberry Mansion.

Grand opening of Wynne Senior Residences in Parkside, which received \$1.2 million in state support through the PennHOMES program.



# Fighting Back by Protecting Our Environment & Our Children

The lead crisis in Flint, Michigan has increased the national conversation about lead in our communities. PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center recently gave Pennsylvania a grade of "F" when it comes to preventing lead in drinking water in Pennsylvania's schools.

We can't rely on the federal government for help. Both President Trump and his U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Scott Pruitt want to slash funding to the EPA and ease pollution restrictions.

We must fight back here in Pennsylvania. I have introduced legislation (Senate Bill 405) to create a \$500 million state superfund that schools and daycare centers could utilize to defray costs associated with removing lead.



City Councilman Curtis Jones, Sen. Hughes and Jerome Shabazz, executive director of the Overbrook Environmental Education Center, ([oeecintern.wixsite.com/overbrook](http://oeecintern.wixsite.com/overbrook)) announce \$125,000 in state grants to combat lead poisoning.

At a City Hall press conference, Sen. Hughes discusses the need to prevent further lead contamination in our drinking water. Pennsylvania is failing in its efforts to protect school children from lead contamination.



Share your concerns about these issues:

Congress: 202-224-3121

White House: 202-456-1414



# Fighting Back by Addressing Education Inequity

The fight for equal education funding in Pennsylvania has been going on for almost 50 years.

Despite recent efforts to address spending inequities among “rich” and “poor” school districts, recent reports by POWER (*Philadelphia Organized to Witness Empower and Rebuild*) ([powerinterfaith.org](http://powerinterfaith.org)) and the Education Law Center ([www.elc-pa.org](http://www.elc-pa.org)) show that education funding is still being distributed unfairly with a distinct racial bias. Couple this with President Trump’s education budget cuts and inequities will worsen.

Pennsylvania ranks 46th in state spending on education, and most of our state dollars are funneled to school districts in an unfair manner. Poorer school districts — and,

specifically, school districts with a higher minority student population — lose valuable state support that they desperately need.



State Rep. Stephen Kinsey, Superintendent William Hite, Jr., state Rep. Maria Donatucci and Sen. Hughes announce a \$357,000 investment into Philadelphia public schools as a result of a new state law regulating rideshare companies. It’s estimated to bring in an average of \$4 million a year.



Sen. Hughes speaks at a Capitol press conference in Harrisburg about Pennsylvania’s school funding inequities, which he and fellow speakers described as “education apartheid.”



Sen. Hughes looks at data from Upper Dublin High School’s meteorology lab (above) and the outdated textbooks at Overbrook High School (left) during a tour of the two schools. The tours highlighted glaring inequities in school funding.

# Fighting Back by Protecting Critical Health Care

The current attempts in Congress to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare) are controversial and alarming. The new Republican-led plan, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), will hurt millions of Americans and turn back the clock on the achievements of the landmark Obamacare, all while doling out generous tax cuts to the rich.

These changes will have a direct and devastating impact on Pennsylvania.

A repeal of Obamacare puts 1 million Pennsylvanians at risk of losing their health coverage. It’s estimated that a repeal will result in a \$2 billion budget deficit by 2020.

Sen. Hughes joins fellow Senate colleagues and Wolf administration officials to describe the disastrous impact of a repeal of the Affordable Care Act.



Sen. Hughes urges individuals to sign up for Obamacare during a City Hall press conference.

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White House: 202-456-1414



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**VINCENT HUGHES**

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