

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON FISCAL STABILITY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, February 27, 2017
1:20 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILMAN DEREK S. GREEN
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILWOMAN HELEN GYM
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN AL TAUBENBERGER

RESOLUTION 170038 - Resolution authorizing the
Committee on Fiscal Stability and
Intergovernmental Cooperation to hold hearings
to examine the potential impact of the
presidential election and the impending state
budget process on the City of Philadelphia's
financial condition.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
3 morning -- I'm sorry. Good afternoon.
4 We're going to get started now. We have
5 a number of witnesses, and some have to
6 leave shortly. Thank you. I'll read the
7 script and then I'll have a brief couple
8 of comments, and if any other members
9 have any opening comments, I will
10 recognize them.

11 This is a public hearing on the
12 Committee of Fiscal Stability and
13 Intergovernmental Cooperation regarding
14 Resolution No. 170038.

15 Mr. Stitt, please read the
16 title of the resolution.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No.
18 170038, authorizing the Committee on
19 Fiscal Stability and Intergovernmental
20 Cooperation to hold hearings to examine
21 the potential impact of the presidential
22 election and the impending state budget
23 process on the City of Philadelphia's
24 financial condition.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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2 Thank you.

3 Today we begin the public
4 hearing of the Committee of Fiscal
5 Stability and Intergovernmental
6 Cooperation to consider the resolution
7 read by the Clerk that constitutes an
8 examination of the potential impact of
9 the presidential election and impending
10 state budget process on the City's
11 overall fiscal health in Fiscal 2017 and
12 2018.

13 We will hear testimony today
14 from the Administration and a number of
15 other witnesses.

16 Real briefly before we start, I
17 would just like to say that we have these
18 fiscal stability hearings on a periodic
19 basis to get a snapshot on where we are
20 from a fiscal perspective. Ordinarily it
21 is something that we can impact and
22 something that's within our power as the
23 legislative and executive branch. At
24 this particular time, there may be an
25 environment where, frankly, we have no

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jurisdiction or ability to impact some of
the revenue based on certain state and
federal actions that have been proposed.

So it's important as we move to our
budget process that we get a snapshot of
where we may end up being as a result of
the executive branch in the federal
government and the legislative and
potentially hopefully not executive
branch on the state level.

So what we've asked is a number
of individuals, and we're going to start
out with my good friend and our good
friend, Congressman Boyle, to talk about
the potential of certain federal -- I
don't mean to call them threats, but from
our perspective, they do appear to be
threats and in some instances they do
appear to be real, but we need to have a
sense of that to figure out whatever
contingencies that we may have to do as
we start our budget process at the end of
this month -- sorry; at the end of March
or whatever actions we need to take, both

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2 from a constitutional, legal and advocacy
3 role.

4 So I want to thank you all very
5 much. We're going to get started with
6 our first witness, and we have our good
7 friend, U.S. Representative Brendan
8 Boyle, PA 13.

9 Good afternoon.

10 CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Good
11 afternoon.

12 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: How
13 are you?

14 CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Pretty
15 good. Well, thank you, Mr. President.
16 It's great to be here for the first time
17 to testify in Council. As someone born
18 and raised and lives in the City, it's a
19 wonderful opportunity to address all of
20 you and especially to see a number of
21 old-time friends here again.

22 I also have to say what a
23 pleasure it is to actually be testifying
24 for a legislative body in which the
25 make-up is 14 democrats to 3 republicans.

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2 Having served in Harrisburg and
3 Washington, I have no idea what that's
4 like. So I am especially glad to be
5 here.

6 I wish that the topic was a
7 happier one, but it isn't. It is no
8 exaggeration to say that in pure dollars
9 and cents, this is the gravest threat the
10 City of Philadelphia has faced from the
11 federal government.

12 Now, I understand that Council
13 has my entire testimony, so I'm not going
14 to read through it. What I'm instead
15 going to do is try to bounce around and
16 highlight some of the many major areas in
17 which the City of Philadelphia could be
18 impacted by President Trump as well as
19 republican majority in Congress.

20 I will also tell you that in
21 preparing this testimony, literally the
22 biggest challenge that I had was in what
23 areas to focus, because we could be here
24 all day if I listed every single area
25 that could potentially be cut.

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So let me begin with the big picture.

For the past six years, we've relied on President Obama and a democratic U.S. Senate to protect these critical programs, like Medicaid, nutrition assistance, affordable housing, education grants, transit grants, et cetera. But now with President Trump in office vowing to approve many of the GOP proposals, including the infamous Paul Ryan budget, republicans have a real opportunity to put their money or our money where their mouth is.

Cities with a disproportionately high working-class and poor population like Philadelphia stand to be the hardest hit in the country, especially the most vulnerable in our society - the sick, the homeless, foster children, low-income mothers and children, victims of domestic violence, et cetera.

City and state budgets, already overburdened, will be left to pick up the

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tab or handle the consequences if they don't. For instance, Philadelphia would lose funding it uses to prop up its affordable housing infrastructure, remediate lead paint in older homes, clean up polluted land and drinking water, and millions more in STD prevention programs and after-school programs, as well as bed for homeless shelters and child protective services.

So let me highlight several of the major areas that I'm talking about, and then I don't want to go on too long because I know members will have questions.

The first as it relates to the potential of ACA repeal. President Trump and congressional republicans have vowed to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, which would result in higher costs of care and higher uninsured rates for Philadelphia. More than 220,000 Philadelphians will lose their health insurance if the ACA is repealed

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without replacement. That's 1.1 million state residents that would also lose coverage within a few years. And the rate of uninsured children would literally double.

If the ACA is repealed, also at least 130,000 jobs will be lost in the Commonwealth. A full repeal of the ACA would cost our state \$350 billion over the next decade. Through Medicaid expansion, 166,000 previously uninsured Philadelphians now have affordable healthcare. That too would be gone, as would the insurance for the more than 59,000 previously uninsured Philadelphians who now have affordable healthcare through the exchanges.

So that's number one, the ACA repeal.

Number two, the Medicaid cuts. Eighteen percent of Pennsylvanians are covered by Medicaid. What that means for Philadelphia is that in 2016, 166,000 Philadelphians became eligible for

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Medicaid under the ACA Medicaid expansion. Now, republicans in Congress have proposed a block grant system for Medicaid, which would result in losses in care for the most vulnerable in Philadelphia, as well as increased future expenses for other safety net programs. Under this block grant system by the federal government, the state must recover -- or must cover the remaining costs. With declining federal appropriations, this will surely be the case, and it will sure to worsen over time. So the only choice both state and localities would face is whether to increase taxes or simply let those remain uninsured. And, again, similar to the ACA, those who would be most affected would be society's most vulnerable, especially children.

The third area is Medicare privatization. Many people are probably not aware that Congress has already in previous Congresses voted to de facto

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privatize Medicare. It was in the Paul Ryan budget. Donald Trump did not talk about it a great deal during the presidential campaign, but now that he is in office and with full republican control of the House and Senate, I think it's safe to say that Medicare privatization will again be passed by this Congress.

So here's what that means for us as Philadelphians. In Philadelphia, the standardized cost per Medicare beneficiary is \$10,531, with a total cost of \$1.55 billion. It services over 120,000 residents of our city. The total cost of all Medicare in Pennsylvania is 13.2 billion.

So Speaker Ryan has proposed what he calls a premium support plan, a/k/a a voucher system. The way that would work is states and localities would get a certain amount of money, a block grant, but, again, that would not be enough to cover the cost that a

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beneficiary is currently receiving
through Medicare. Further over time that
gap would widen. So what would already
be a problem initially would grow to be
even worse.

Fourth -- and, again, you'll
see I'm going to get into some areas that
haven't really been talked about --
that's NIH health research funding. Our
meds and eds are a big part of our local
economy. The republican budget, much
like the one that the Heritage Foundation
came up with beforehand, has questioned
whether the federal government should be
funding any scientific or medical
research at all. That would have a
direct impact on CHOP, on the University
of Pennsylvania, on a number of -- I
don't mean to just single out two. We
have a number of fine medical and
educational institutions that are some of
the largest employers in Philadelphia.
So even something like the National
Institutes of Health that may not seem to

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directly impact Philadelphia in fact do.

Fifth, nutrition assistance.

The Ryan budget proposes a \$23 billion cut to the SNAP program, which will continue a cycle of poverty in Philadelphia and prevent the poorest Philadelphians from being able to afford the basic necessities.

Children make up 40 percent of SNAP participants. 1.8 million, or 13.4 percent of all Pennsylvanians, rely on the SNAP program. For Philadelphia, that's about 375,000 people who are benefiting to the tune of \$50 million per month. That would be gone and affected by this Ryan budget.

Sixth -- and keep in mind I'm not going through all of them, by the way. Sixth is the housing and safety net programs. The republican plan -- and this was recently confirmed as of a couple hours ago if you've seen the media reports -- it would -- they have vowed to eliminate 16 billion from the Social

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Services Block Grant, which would result in less funding for Meals on Wheels, childcare subsidies, and shelters in Philadelphia. One hundred thousand formerly homeless people, including veterans, would be removed from their current housing and emergency shelter programs, putting them at risk to returning to the streets.

There's already an affordable housing crisis in Philadelphia. These cuts would only prolong them and make a current problem even worse.

And I could go on here, but I just want to highlight two other areas. Seventh is the federal transportation funding. This would affect us in terms of roads and bridges, in terms of TIGER grants, in terms of funding for mass transit and also Amtrak. Be aware that the Heritage Foundation roadmap of the budget included zero dollars for Amtrak funding, zero. We sit smack dab in the Northeast corridor, which ironically is

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profitable today. As soon as I'm done
testifying here, I will be rushing over
to 30th Street Station to catch an Amtrak
to go down to Washington, DC to be voting
on the floor later today. To eliminate
funding for Amtrak would have a
devastating impact on our local economy
and the City's budget.

In terms of TIGER grants
specifically, here's some of the things
that TIGER grants have funded: bike,
pedestrian, and transit projects through
about 50 grants per year distributed
directly to local and transit agencies.
The state has benefited from over 235
million TIGER grants since 2010.

The Roosevelt Boulevard
Multimodal study, very important to me.
As we know, Roosevelt Boulevard
historically has been one of the most
dangerous, if not the dangerous, roadway
in the country. Right now we're
benefiting from a 2 and a half million
dollar grant from the federal government

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to study what we can do to improve safety
on Roosevelt Boulevard. That would be
eliminated.

The safe bicycle and pedestrian
access that inner Philadelphia
neighborhoods are benefiting from by
reclaiming old industrial roadway
corridors to make them pedestrian and
traffic friendly, that would be
eliminated.

The SEPTA-CSX passenger and
freight line separation, which is
designed to improve safety and efficiency
and alleviate congestion -- that's \$10
million -- that would be eliminated. The
SEPTA substation replacement to the tune
of \$12.8 million and the Philadelphia
traffic signal modernization.

Eighth, and finally, the
federal education funding. And I just
want to highlight one specific area, and
that's Title I funding. Nine million
low-income students across the country
would lose \$15 billion in Title I funding

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annually. For Philadelphia, we currently receive roughly \$170 million in Title I funding. That's over \$2,000 per impoverished child.

Five million children and students with disabilities would lose over \$12 billion used every year to ensure they receive a quality education. And the \$700 million that's used by states to support more than 5 million English language learners currently in public schools, which in Philadelphia represent about 10 percent of all of our students, that would be cut.

So I can go on and on. Didn't even talk about security programs, didn't talk about the loss with respect to federal education funding as it relates to student loans, didn't talk about something that I care deeply about, the amount of money going to help victims of domestic violence, a program that's very important to me that I push for at the state level to cut our backlog of DNA

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rape kits. Rape victims who were subjected to one of the most horrible crimes then agreed to a rape kit, only to have that rape kit sit on the shelf somewhere for months and years untested. Those are the kind of things that we are talking about being at risk here through the Trump Administration.

So with that, I'm happy to stop there. You have my full testimony, and happy to answer any questions you have.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Congressman. You know, sometimes they say ignorance is bliss, and I almost wish I didn't hear your testimony, because I would have a different --

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: A lot of people feel that way after they've heard me speak.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This is scary stuff, but thank you so much. I just got a couple of quick ones, and I see the board is lit up. Members are

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2 equally as impressed by your testimony.

3 So you've outlined a series of
4 initiatives by the republican Congress
5 and the Trump Administration and I know
6 that you have a lot more. Do you -- and
7 I know we don't want to talk about too
8 much in here, because this is televised
9 and it will be reported on, but I guess
10 we need to have a sense -- and this will
11 be discussed during a period of time --
12 about what initiatives we should focus
13 our time on early on and more
14 aggressively, because we only have so
15 many resources on the local level.

16 Is there any particular area or
17 category that is more imminent in terms
18 of like the possibility that it will be
19 passed and enacted or should we get
20 together and look at -- the ACA obviously
21 is one of the larger ones, but if you can
22 kind of give us a sense of what's likely
23 to happen sooner than later.

24 CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: I tried to
25 narrow down the list, so I highlighted on

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the seven most dire and what I see is the most urgent. If you remember, I started off number one with the ACA repeal. I put that as number one because I do think that that is front and center right now on the agenda in Washington, even though the whole repeal and replace mantra is a bit of a misnomer, because we've had 65 votes on repeal, we haven't had one vote yet on what replace would look like.

Part of the reason why you haven't seen a vote yet this Congress on repeal and replace is because there's a wide variety of views within republican members in terms of what replace would look like.

So I would say focusing first and foremost on the devastating effect and the disproportionately devastating effect that that would have on Philadelphians, the fact that we have such a high percentage of our population that have benefited from the ACA, that have benefited from the exchanges, that have benefited from Medicaid expansion.

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Knowing what the agenda is in Washington and just what a hot-pressed issue that is now, that's probably the first area I would focus, but I would also say as one of only three Philadelphia residents who is representing us in Congress, I think that federal, local cooperation and working together is more important than ever, because as I work on these issues at the macro level and looking at them in terms of the entire country, obviously I pay attention most to how it affects us here at home.

So I certainly would be more than happy, our friendship, Mr. President, pretty much every member of Council, as I see things and as my staff becomes aware of pressing votes or matters, making sure that you have that information, so then that way can act accordingly.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you so much.

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2 The education funding cuts also
3 seem to be a pretty substantial risk
4 proposed by the newly elected President.
5 Since education funding historically is a
6 bipartisan issue, could you offer more
7 details on how you believe republicans
8 are reacting to President Trump's need to
9 cut the federal government's role in
10 education, starting with the selection of
11 his Education Secretary? Can you give me
12 a sense of -- I mean, normally we all
13 like education, right, republicans,
14 independents, green party, democrats.

15 CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Well, you
16 mentioned the new Education Secretary.
17 I've noticed that in the first week under
18 her tenure, the U.S. Department of
19 Education has sent out two press releases
20 with misspellings in the title. So let
21 me suggest to the new Secretary of
22 Education before she continues
23 criticizing teachers, she might want to
24 activate the spell check button on her
25 press releases.

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I would say that historically when it comes to public education, especially K through 12, this has largely been the focus of public, state, and local governments, public education has been. Increasingly the federal government has played a role in education beginning with the Johnson Administration in the '60s and then when President Carter created the Department of Education in the 1970s.

Fortunately, the federal Secretary of Education does not have too many tools at her disposal to choose how we decide at the state and local level what we do with our education dollars. Frankly, what happens in Philadelphia is impacted much more by Harrisburg than Washington, DC when it comes to education.

However, there are a few areas, such as Title I funding, such as funding for those kids with special needs, that are potentially at risk. So I would say

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that while it's certainly an area to be concerned about, if I were ranking kind of the priority, I would say continuing the focus on Harrisburg when it comes to education over Washington would probably make sense.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you. I'm sure the Governor's Chief of Staff is happy to hear you say that. He will be here to testify about the Harrisburg agenda as it relates to education.

We have a number of members, so I have a couple more questions, but I'll come back. We'll start out by recognizing Councilman Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council President.

Congressman Boyle, it's a pleasure to have you here.

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: I just had a few questions just reflecting on the testimony and some of the commentary made

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2 by the President as he decided to run for
3 office.

4 A lot of statements were made
5 by the President about infrastructure and
6 jobs, and you made a recitation of a
7 number of issues, in particular TIGER
8 grant program, and a lot of those dollars
9 help for infrastructure projects. And I
10 guess my question is although some of the
11 budget information, some of the
12 statements made by the President, as you
13 stated, were supported by the Heritage
14 Foundation, but you have a number of
15 members of your body that are from
16 conservative districts that need jobs for
17 their constituents and those jobs become
18 infrastructure projects.

19 How will this play out
20 between -- from your perspective, play
21 out between what he proposed on the
22 campaign trail, some of the proposals
23 from the Heritage Foundation, but then
24 realistically how do we get some of the
25 infrastructure jobs when we're going to

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eliminate things from the budget like the
TIGER program? And I've heard some ideas
in reference to tax credits or P3's, but
those alone will not create
infrastructure jobs.

So do you think members of
Congress will support some of these
initiatives or push back a little bit,
from your perspective?

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Well,
you've actually highlighted one of the
really interesting areas where there
seems to be strong disagreement between
President Trump and Speaker Ryan,
Heritage Foundation, more typical
republican approach when it comes to
government spending on our nation's
infrastructure.

So President Trump during the
campaign in many ways talked exactly like
a democrat when it comes to the need for
government to invest in our
infrastructure, in our roads and bridges
and mass transit and inner city transit,

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and he has even kept that up while in the White House. At the same time, however, while that's been going on, Paul Ryan and others have continued work on a budget that wouldn't do anything like that.

I noticed that when the republican members have had their retreat here in Philadelphia and President Trump came and spoke to them, I was watching the speech, and I believe the only line that got no applause in his speech was when he talked about the need to spend money on infrastructure.

Now, this is where, frankly, we on the democratic side of the aisle are willing to be bipartisan, where we have said -- we have been strong supporters of spending what is necessary on our badly neglected infrastructure, something that affects older cities and older states more than any other parts of the country. We on the democratic side would be willing to vote for a major substantial transportation and infrastructure

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reinvestment plan. I hope that the Trump approach is still -- that he and his White House are still interested in that.

Getting that through this republican Congress would take sort of a weird math of every democratic member, some more pragmatic republican members who have been supportive in the past, some of whom are from suburban Philadelphia, combined with President Trump's willingness to sign it. But whether or not that's going to be a major part of the agenda remains to be seen. He'll be addressing -- the President will be addressing Congress tomorrow night, and I'm probably more curious about what he says about infrastructure than any other area.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Greenlee.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank

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2 you, Mr. President.

3 Good afternoon. And you
4 touched on this, but just I guess in a
5 general sense, obviously the concerns you
6 raised are focused on Philadelphia, but
7 when it comes to ACA, Medicare and a lot
8 of things, it affects not just other
9 counties in Pennsylvania but all over the
10 country, obviously a lot represented by
11 folks from the other side of the aisle.

12 Are you getting any feeling
13 down there, given these town halls and
14 all that, there is concern about a lot of
15 these programs from the republican side
16 that the concern of the public is getting
17 through to them?

18 CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: You know, I
19 think that that is correct, that you're
20 starting to see some of that. The fact
21 that there's now been hesitancy on their
22 side to move forward with repeal and
23 replace I think is a direct result of all
24 of the advocacy and activism that we've
25 seen recently, which has really been

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quite extraordinary.

I held a town hall meeting just yesterday right outside Philadelphia and we had about 100 or so people RSVP and over 300 showed up. It was standing-room only.

So what is going on right now all throughout the country is quite remarkable, even in districts that you wouldn't exactly think that this would be going on, in Utah and some other places.

I think that if you see that continue, there's no question that more republican members will get cold feet. I also think that just human nature being what it is, when people who benefited from the Affordable Care Act, which are 29.8 million people nationally, when they heard repeal and replace, they might not have taken it very seriously. In fact, we know that a certain percentage of them voted for President Trump. But now that it is actually seriously at risk, you see people galvanize in a way that they

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weren't before when it was just a
hypothetical risk.

So I think that your
observation is correct, and I wouldn't be
surprised if that continues.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: At least
that's somewhat promising. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman
Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
Council President.

And welcome to the Chambers of
City Council, Congressman. It's great to
see you here. We appreciate you taking
your time out before you go down there in
the belly of the beast and fight for
Philadelphia every single day. So I
thank you. And on a personal note, I'm
proud that you represent Northeast
Philadelphia, which I'm humbled to see
your good works of DC hopefully coming

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back with some rewards.

You know, it is disturbing to hear some of the things that might be threatened because these executive orders and directives are so broad, so broad. And I know it's our responsibility as a city to be prepared for "what if," because that's a responsible thing for us to do. Title I alone is scary when you have the President talking about job creating -- creating jobs and he's directly going to impact the people we want to try to educate and be prepared for those jobs, whether it's infrastructure or energy. We may not have that opportunity when he's doing it. And the list can go on and on, job training, our seniors, the programs that our seniors are involved in. And what gets me is a certain part of our country would say and legislators in DC and in our state would say, Well, they're entitlements. They're entitlements, until your mother or your aunt or your

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grandmother is looking for some
assistance because they're on a fixed
income, because they live paycheck to
paycheck and/or a hot water heater blows.
But guess what? A hot water heater or
furnace gives out and they don't have any
money and their children have moved on or
whatever the situation is and, guess
what, let me turn to the City or the
federal government, but guess what, the
present cutout are block grants.

So these things are very, very
disturbing to the one and a half million
people that we represent in our City of
Philadelphia and cutting out our job
training. I mean, that's just -- it's
counterproductive. And the stroke of the
pen is so broad that you raise an
interesting point. What can we do? What
can we do as a city? What can we do as a
legislative body? What can we do as a
state to help you? And you mentioned
Harrisburg, and Harrisburg has -- the
concern that I have with Harrisburg and

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the City, there's a lot of conflicts,
right, conflicting directions on where we
go and what we should be fighting for.
Bills get introduced to further
sensationalize the death by a thousand
lashes, because I think with not knowing
or having any kind of clarity on what's
going to be cut, how are we to react? Or
do we respond?

I mean, that's one question. I
mean, do we just sit and wait and respond
to what is going to be one of the many
cutbacks that we could potentially have?

So it's troubling in my eyes.
I'm glad you mentioned -- one of the
great partnerships that we have with you
is the Roosevelt Boulevard through a \$2
and a half million grant. Well, the City
matched that \$2 and a half million, so
it's \$5 million, using our public dollars
smartly for public safety, and we're
proud and thankful that you helped
champion that.

You had mentioned several times

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the Heritage Foundation blueprint, but
that slashes the budget for our cops, and
we have raised the need for
community-oriented policing programs,
which I think Philadelphia has benefited
from, and one of our concerns should be
that, that budget cut.

So how do we better have a
community relationship with our
communities and policing programs that
are funded by the federal government?

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Well, thank
you, Councilman Henon, also for all the
good work you do for the Northeast as
well as the entire City.

You brought up Harrisburg.
Having served there for six years and
having served with Cherelle, I think
she'll agree with me when I say this,
that the one thing you could get
bipartisan agreement from from all of our
colleagues from the rest of the state was
whatever bad happened, it was
Philadelphia's fault. If it rained and

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2 poured in Harrisburg, that must be
3 someone in Philadelphia who caused that
4 rain.

5 So having served there six
6 years and, of course, my brother Kevin
7 serves there now, we'll be the first to
8 tell you that blaming Philadelphia is a
9 popular game there. So I'm aware of the
10 challenges that we face in Harrisburg.

11 In terms of the federal
12 government, though, I'm very glad that
13 you brought up an area that I just
14 briefly mentioned but kind of didn't go
15 too much into in great detail. Just to
16 talk about some of the law enforcement
17 monies that are at risk here, one is the
18 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance
19 Grant program. So that funds a variety
20 of state and local law enforcement
21 expenses, including crime prevention
22 education.

23 So just last year, in 2016,
24 \$275 million was allocated to the states.
25 For Pennsylvania, that was almost \$7

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million. For the City, we in the City benefited to the tune of \$1.6 million out of that grant, and it was over \$9 million over the last five years. So that is the kind of money that we're talking about at stake.

You talked about police officers. There's also the COPS program, Community Oriented Policing Services. These are funds that are aimed at initiatives to build trust between communities and law enforcement agencies, something that we know is absolutely critical when it comes to law enforcement.

Well, there are currently over 2,000 active grants nationwide totalling \$1.4 billion. Pennsylvania received over \$700,000 out of this money. Philadelphia disproportionately benefited from those funds.

So when we look at the Heritage Foundation budget, we would talk about the elimination, outright elimination, of

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the COPS program, the elimination of the violence against women grants that have to do with funding for those victims of domestic violence, with reducing the backlog of DNA rape kits, like I mentioned before. It would also eliminate funding for the Legal Services Corporation, which provides help for criminal defendants.

So that is the money that we're talking about in terms of criminal justice. As far as what we can do about it, I believe that your voices are incredibly important; that being able to take what essentially is in Washington, DC and at the federal level and translating that into what the impact would be for the City, what the impact would be for the neighborhood, how that would affect everywhere from Southwest Philly to Northeast Philly to everywhere in between, I think that you play and can play a critical role in the advocacy of this and in making sure that these bad

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things don't happen.

I would also say that one of the really positive trends to happen over the last 10, 20 years is the way this entire area, city and suburbs, are working together in a way that didn't previously happen. There are many people who live in Montgomery County, who live in Delaware County, who live in Bucks County, Chester County, South Jersey, et cetera, who get it, who while they might not be Philadelphia residents, maybe they work in Philadelphia, maybe they come in to the Avenue of the Arts or to see a sports game and they care about our city, and they might be living in areas with a representative that might be voting for some of these things. So being able to reach them as well and show how they would be impacted by these cuts I think is something that can be done at the City level and I think is important.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Well, thank you.

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Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

We didn't start our budget process yet, so I don't have the clock up here. So I just kind of ask, because we have a long list, and can I ask the members if we can get directly to the question and kind of move along, because I know the state representative from the Governor's Office has to get -- and I know, Congressman, you have to --

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: I have a train.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Yeah, you got a train. I didn't want to say it.

But the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Now, I am not going to take personally that the President gave that time caveat right before he was to call me to ask my questions.

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2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I
3 didn't even realize your name was next.

4 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: No. I'm
5 joshing with you, Mr. President.

6 Congressman and former State
7 Rep, it is indeed an honor and a
8 privilege to see you again.

9 I want you to stroll back to
10 your tenure in the Pennsylvania House,
11 because I think Councilman Green and
12 Councilman Greenlee touched on this and
13 you started to answer this. Maybe at the
14 executive level where this is uncharted
15 territory for our nation but the idea of
16 a democrat functioning in a majority
17 caucus where you are severely in the
18 minority is not something new in the
19 legislative process. You've done that
20 when we were severely in a minority in
21 the House, in a minority in the Senate,
22 and we found a way to reach compromise.
23 I mean, it's so intense now that when I'm
24 talking about it, I don't call it
25 compromise. I say "the C word," because

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I don't want anyone, particularly on the other side of the aisle when you get a chance to see them, to feel fearful, right, about even being seen communicating with you.

Tell us politically, Congressman, what is that like? You would traditionally go to find the ultra conservative republican, an issue like infrastructure, an issue like ag where you think that you can find some common ground and maybe work together on the issue. Is that compromise and working sort of the middle of the aisle, is that even possible in this environment?

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Thank you. The good news is it is still possible. It just happens less today than even when I was first in the State House eight years ago. But there are still a number of things that I'm working on today with members from across the aisle, especially here locally, some of the local republican colleagues who are friends of

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mine and we have different overlapping suburban areas that we represent and have worked very hard to represent them together. And it's actually been beneficial to have a democrat and republican going there and pushing for things, especially as it relates to the former Horsham base where we have some remediation issues. So that can still happen.

I'm also proud of the fact that even though I left the State House a few years ago, I am still friends and texting buddies with a number of colleagues, both democrats and republicans, who will be comparing notes about the different levels of craziness that we're both involved in in Harrisburg and Washington.

So my personal style, as you know, has been to reach across the aisle. I think that government works best when we approach it that way. We don't have a majoritarian system. What the Founding Fathers gave us is a system that requires

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2 compromise.

3 But I will say it has become
4 more difficult over time, especially
5 frankly on the republican side ever since
6 2010 and the Tea Party, because if you
7 are a republican member and you're
8 willing to work with a democratic member,
9 you face a real risk of being primaried,
10 and that is -- especially since most of
11 the members today come from districts
12 that are overwhelmingly democratic or
13 republican, they are more concerned about
14 the potential of a primary than they are
15 about trying to reach across the aisle.

16 COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Finally,
17 let me just say, Congressman, thanks
18 again, but I need to say a special thanks
19 for Page 5 of your testimony where you
20 gave a shout-out to your old home ground
21 and, that is, the North 5th Street in
22 Olney, and I thank you for mentioning the
23 issue, because although you talked about
24 sort of ACA, you talked about education,
25 Title I, the issue for us is Community

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Development Block Grant funding is extremely important and it helps keep commercial corridors like North 5th Street, and if we find a way to relax our local City regs, it can benefit other neighborhoods too.

So along with Community Development Block Grant funding, we also ask that you keep your eyes open for Congress's sort of direction that they are walking into in rolling back consumer protection that we gained under the CFPB. Particularly you know I worked on the issue of predatory lending as a staffer with Councilwoman Marian Tasco. So we ask that you keep us informed and keep hammering home the five-county coalition sort of strategy. It's the only way in Harrisburg and Washington I believe that we can be successful.

Thank you, Congressman.

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Well, thank you, and I would say I had the opportunity just a couple months ago to

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walk up and down North 5th Street and see the incredibly positive work that is being done in the North 5th Street revitalization. That would not have happened without the money that came from that grant. So making sure that we fight to preserve is something that's very personal and important to me.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Gym.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yes. Thank you very much.

And, Congressman, I just wanted to thank you again and to add to the chorus of folks who are saying how grateful we are for you to be in these Chambers here to give us the information that you're doing and of course to fight for Philadelphia and the whole region and in fact for the country's moral future, if we could say so as well.

Betsy DeVos had probably the

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most humiliating confirmation hearing ever for a cabinet secretary. She was the first cabinet member to ever have to have a tie-breaking vote by the Vice President in order to get through. One of the issues that had to do with that was largely because there were Senators who crossed over to vote against her, in part because so many people had come out on this issue.

And one of my questions really is is that I do fully recognize that there are some limitations to the education funding stream. A lot of it does primarily rely on Harrisburg, but we are particularly concerned with Title I, Title III funding. Betsy DeVos has been on record as gleefully saying that she once told Bernie Sanders that there's no such thing as a free lunch, forgetting that in fact there is, because we have the most expansive free breakfast and lunch program in the country and that it is vital to our children's lives,

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futures, to their nutrition and health,
that they do continue to receive a
vibrant free breakfast and lunch program.

And, you know, one of the
questions I have is is that because -- do
you feel that the outpouring that came
out -- and I know you said certainly from
the outpouring that came out, but on the
other end of it, the fact that so many
people were very conscious about the
vulnerabilities of particular cabinet
members, does that provide them with more
scrutiny? Do you feel like people should
engage with the hearings ahead of
hearings or any kinds of questionable
things? We should be even more
aggressive with our Representatives?
Will they be conscious of the
vulnerabilities of particular cabinet
members that showed a difficult path?
And obviously I'm talking specifically
about education.

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: So the
point you made is exactly accurate.

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Actually, I think Senator Lisa Murkowski, who was one of the two republicans who voted against the Secretary of Education, specifically and explicitly cited the overwhelming number of phone calls she received to her office as the reason why she was voting no.

So as I mentioned at my town hall yesterday and I'll reiterate today, people have a much greater impact than I think they even realize, and all of the activity that we're seeing right now, the phone calls, the personal visits, the e-mails, all of that does matter and it does have an impact. And give the Tea Party credit. It had an impact eight years ago when they did it.

There is no question that those who just deeply opposed what President Obama and then a democratic Congress was attempting to do, again, give them credit. They organized. They got active. They had marches, and they were able to be, I would say, fairly

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successful in slowing down and then eventually stopping the entire Obama agenda, even though he had won by 10 million votes, 7 percent of the popular vote.

So that is what I would say to people today who are wondering, well, I'm very concerned about this, but what can I do about it, does my voice really matter.

As far as the individual deficiencies that a particular cabinet member may have, I wouldn't read -- now that confirmation hearings are over, I wouldn't read too much into that potentially slowing down the administration pushing hard in one direction, because they can always use someone else as the front person. There could always be someone different on Capitol Hill who is the major advocate for a reform. If Betsy DeVos proves too controversial, you could see her stepping in the background, let's say, and someone else taking a lead on some of their

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2 issues.

3 So I actually -- I wouldn't --
4 now that confirmation is over, I
5 wouldn't -- I think we can take heart in
6 the fact that people's voices can make an
7 impact, but at the same time, I wouldn't
8 think that just because a certain cabinet
9 member is unpopular and deficient in one
10 area that that will in any way slow down
11 this administration for pushing for a
12 change or a policy that they want.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Well, thank
14 you very much, and I know that the public
15 at least here in Philadelphia and also I
16 do think nationwide really woke up to the
17 confirmation hearings that were largely
18 televised and really could shape the path
19 about someone that they deemed to be
20 deeply unqualified. And it is
21 unfortunate that someone did end up
22 picking up Betsy DeVos' agenda, which was
23 Jeff Sessions, who decided that one of
24 the primary things he needed to do as an
25 Attorney General is to limit the rights

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of where children have to go to the
bathroom, and that's a big issue as well.

But thank you very much for all
of that and your work. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman
Domb.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
Council President.

And good afternoon, Congressman
Boyle. Thank you. I'm coming from a
different perspective. No one wins a
fight. Nobody wins a fight. I don't
know anyone who has won a fight. And in
that light, whatever happened in November
happened. Put it behind us. But in that
light, is there an opportunity for
Philadelphia to take a lead role -- you
know, my father before he passed away
said to me, When life gives you lemons,
make lemonade.

Is there an opportunity for
Philadelphia, with our Mayor, our Council

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2 President and others in our government,
3 to meet with the President to try to find
4 some compromises that we all can work
5 together with and move forward in a
6 positive way? Because all this
7 negativity is terrible, not just for us
8 but all the citizens of the City and the
9 country. It's just not productive.

10 CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Well, I
11 think the best area where we could make
12 lemonade out of lemons is when it comes
13 to infrastructure. And let me highlight
14 one area specifically. I was just in
15 Japan and had the opportunity to ride the
16 Bullet Train. Some of you know that I'm
17 very passionate about bringing high-speed
18 rail to our country.

19 Japan has had high-speed rail
20 for just over 50 years. Europe has it as
21 well, China. The United States of
22 America, the number one country in the
23 world, does not have one mile of
24 high-speed rail.

25 There's a group right now that

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is trying to bring the next generation of high-speed travel, the Maglev, to Philadelphia and specifically to the Northeast corridor. That would benefit from New York through Washington, DC, but as the City that is almost exactly smack dab in the middle of the Northeast corridor, it would benefit our area more than any other. We'd be talking about getting to New York City in 37 minutes. We'd be talking about getting to Washington, DC in about 45 minutes. I mean, absolutely remarkable.

These are things that Donald Trump has talked about. And I know we had -- myself and a number of my colleagues, both democrats and republicans, there were eight of us, we had the opportunity to meet with the Japanese Prime Minister Abe. He specifically brought up the Maglev to President Trump, and President Trump was very excited about it.

So I think that when it comes

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to infrastructure and transportation,
specifically high-speed rail, that is an
opportunity for us to work together.

Now, we have to balance -- or
we have to battle the Heritage
Foundation. More doctrinaire republican
approach would go the exact opposite
direction, and that's completely
eliminating funding for Amtrak and
eliminating funding in these areas.

But I really do think the best
area for potential compromise and an area
that would benefit Philadelphia
specifically is as it relates to
infrastructure and transportation.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: I guess what
I'm suggesting in addition to that is
that somehow we get our Mayor, our
Council President, and others get a
meeting with the President to go over the
issues that we're confronted with as a
city so that he can maybe at least
understand and we have some compromise
and we move forward. Is that

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something -- what would be the best way
to get a meeting like that organized?

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: The best
way to meet? Well, have you tried
Tweeting him? Because he does pay
attention to that, from what I've seen.
But I'm certainly -- I would -- if
there's an interest here in facilitating
a meeting -- by the way, I should have
pointed out earlier that my staff is
here. Let me just introduce them. My
Legislative Director, Helena
Mastrogianis; my Communications Director,
Sean Tobin; and District Director, Scott
Heppard. And when I talked earlier about
making sure that we have strong
cooperation and communication from City
Council here to the representatives who
are fighting for our city in Washington,
DC, certainly anything we can do, whether
it's a meeting request or to let you know
kind of what is coming up and how
Philadelphia could be impacted, I want to
make sure that we all have that

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2 information as much as possible.

3 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you.

4 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

5 Thank you, Councilman.

6 I think before he would grant
7 that meeting, he'd do some research and
8 he would see some of the speeches I made
9 during the course of the campaign and
10 immediately cancel any opportunity to
11 meet with me. So that's unlikely.

12 CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: We both
13 might be in that same boat. But I would
14 say, you know, I hope that he can be a
15 professional, because there are always
16 the stories of Tip O'Neill giving a
17 speech on the House floor rallying
18 against President Reagan and then heading
19 down to the White House that afternoon
20 and negotiating something where they
21 could agree. So hopefully President
22 Trump will take that approach.

23 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
24 right. I won't hold my breath on that
25 one.

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But thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman
Squilla.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you,
Mr. President.

And thank you, Congressman.
Appreciate it. I know you got to run, so
I'm going to be real quick.

When we talked about
infrastructure earlier, maybe there's a
great opportunity if we're going to work
with the President to find a way talking
about infrastructure and using schools as
an ability to -- knowing our schools are
very old, can that be part of
infrastructure in a way that then he
could help fund our schools through
infrastructure changes and have an
opportunity for him to look like a hero
to the schools? Is that something
that --

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Absolutely.
And I had the opportunity to meet with
the Sheet Metal Association. These are

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contractors, small businesses and big businesses, that work with unionized sheet metal workers who are very interested in this area, and some of their membership are republicans, some are democrat, some are non-political. But we look at the wonderful opportunity to retrofit old schools, for example, to increase the environmental efficiency and the energy efficiency and to take the savings from that and pour it back into the school, or even do some sort of public-private hybrid partnership when it comes to retrofitting.

The opportunity to construct brand new schools, which would be a great infrastructure project, would put people back to work and also would benefit the kids who would then be learning in those schools.

So when I say "infrastructure," roads, bridges, transit, yes, that's part of it, but that is only one part of it. I mean infrastructure in the much more

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broad sense.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you.

And I think it's a great opportunity to show how we could, and I think everybody would support that.

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Correct.

COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thanks.

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Likewise

here.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Taubenberger.

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: And actually, Congressman, thank you very much. I will be equally brief. But on a bipartisan note, long ago and far away when you won the democratic primary from Northeast Philadelphia, I texted you and said it is a great day for Northeast Philadelphia.

And, Council President, I stand by my words.

Because I may be a republican,

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2 but I'm a Philadelphian first.

3 And I did like what you said in
4 regards to infrastructure, and I do see
5 opportunity there. I just recently wrote
6 an op-ed for the Northeast Times. I
7 think this is a place where we can really
8 grow our economy, make our economy more
9 modern, and what I really like is what
10 you mentioned about trains and
11 infrastructure.

12 Is it possible with your staff
13 that you could provide Council President
14 and us some information on that
15 high-speed rail train in Japan? I mean,
16 the more we know about -- and maybe some
17 suggestions from staff where we could do
18 what we could do to help that along on a
19 local level. I think it's very
20 important. I know exactly where we're
21 situated right in the middle, and I want
22 to commend you for this and help us
23 along. I guess what I'm asking is for
24 your cooperation, which I know what the
25 answer is going to be.

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CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Well, first of all, thank you, Al, and, yes, I've always appreciated the very gracious congrats message I got from you on election night, and I would be happy to work together on that, because this is an area -- you might tell when I start talking about it, I am incredibly excited about the possibility of high-speed rail and what that would do for our local economy, what it would do for the American economy, what it would do for the environment. It's just a complete win-win. And I can tell you that I looked at my State House experience as the model for what I think has to happen at the national level. And Cherelle will remember this, that when we finally got the first major transportation bill done in 25 years in the state, you had the head of the Chamber of Commerce and the head of the Philadelphia building and trades going in together to lobby members. So there you had business, you

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had labor working together.

When we got that bill passed, you had democrats who were strongly for it like myself, you had some democrats who were against it, you had republicans who were strongly for it, and then you had republicans more Tea Party aligned who were strongly against it, and that was truly a bipartisan effort. I think it would take exactly the same sort of effort at the federal level to get this done, and I'm a hundred percent committed to that. I look at it as one of the great legacies that any of us could leave if we could finally in this country build an infrastructure for the 21st century.

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: I would look forward to working with you on that initiative.

And, Council President, as you know, I was part of a delegation that went to Germany, Frankfurt, our sister city. And to see the fact that they have a high-speed rail, they call it the ICE

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train, Inter-City Mobile Express, and it is just fantastic and it connects cities that they never thought possible. We could do the same thing here.

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: And in Germany, their high-speed rail today tops out at 300 kilometers per hour. That's about 180 miles, 185 miles per hour. That is incredible. So when we're talking about this, we're not talking about inventing some new technology. It exists.

COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: It's also very, very affordable as well for the average citizens. The price between Bosel and Frankfurt, Germany is about 30 euros, which is about \$34, \$35. You can't get on our high speed, the Acela Express, you can't even afford to get on there, and it's not that fast in the end anyway.

Thank you, Congressman

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you.

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2 That is clearly something that
3 we need to look at very aggressively. I
4 know that, Congressman, you mentioned
5 earlier there's a team of individuals. I
6 saw the presentation about the Maglev
7 that they were looking at, Rendell and
8 some of the other individuals.

9 Congressman, I want to thank
10 you so much for your being here today.
11 We clearly will look forward to having
12 further conversation.

13 Real quick, in our team in
14 pulling together the hearing, it was
15 understood -- and you actually referenced
16 it in your testimony -- that there would
17 be the need to have further cooperation
18 and working together and indicated --
19 what did you call it, Mr. Stitt? The
20 rapid deployment force or rapid
21 deployment team, rapid response team. It
22 sounds like it's some sort of a war
23 strategy, but I guess to some degree we
24 are in fact in a war.

25 So if you can give us at some

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point the person who would be the one
that would be able to respond on a rapid
basis, because we can't have a hearing
every time something happens in
Harrisburg or Washington, it would be
helpful, and we'll make sure that we have
the appropriate people, and I'm sure the
Administration would do likewise. So
thank you so much.

CONGRESSMAN BOYLE: Well,
absolutely. I will definitely do that,
be happy to. And I really commend you,
Councilman Clarke. When you had
personally reached out to me about this
hearing, I was excited about it. I
thought it was a great idea. So I credit
you, and I thank the good work that
members of Council are doing. Running
the fifth biggest city in the country,
which constantly has challenges, is not
easy. So as just one Philadelphian, I
say thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you, Congressman. Thank you so

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much for being here and thank you for the
work you do in the City of Washington.

Next we will have the Chief of
Staff for Governor Tom Wolf, Mike
Brunelle. I had an opportunity to meet
Mr. Brunelle prior to him becoming the
Chief of Staff. So I'd like to
congratulate you, sir, on your new post
and look forward to working with you.

(Witness approached witness
table.)

MR. BRUNELLE: Thank you.
Thank you, President Clarke, and as well
as everyone on City Council for having us
here today. The Governor is sorry that
he could not be here.

As you know, Pennsylvania has
faced chronic budget shortfalls since the
Great Recession began in 2008, and for
nearly a decade, what we would do is
paper over these issues with one-time
solutions that were not sustainable. By
the final year of the previous
administration, we had \$2 billion of such

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one-time fixes that left our budget structurally out of balance, and this is the fiscal challenge that Governor Wolf faced when he took office.

Despite this, though, the Governor has been committed to finding a financial means to restore the deep cuts to education that the City of Philadelphia has faced from the state as well as across the Commonwealth. And while these efforts have been significant in moving the Commonwealth in the right direction, he understands that more work needs to be done.

The current-year budget took some significant steps forward with some recurring revenue, but that being said, it was only about half of what we needed to permanently fix our budget problem. What no one anticipated was what happened this fall when revenue collections for the current fiscal year fell. That shortfall is now anticipated to be 640 million this fiscal year, annualizing to

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\$1.2 billion next year and combined
giving us a \$3 billion deficit.

So when we began conversations
with the Governor on how to fix this
challenge, he had two clear imperatives
and goals. One, we were not going to cut
our way across the board out of this
problem. We were not going to slash aid
to communities like Philadelphia. We
were not going to cut education funding.

And the second was, we are not
going to reduce services for seniors,
those who are struggling with addiction,
and our most vulnerable.

He also told us that he wanted
to make sure that we were rebuilding and
protecting the middle class, lifting up
working families, and also strengthening
our investment and core job programs
across the Commonwealth. And so with
those as our guideposts came the
Governor's budget address and proposal
back in February.

We identified \$2.1 billion in

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General Fund savings in the budget that he put forward and to avoid what we know was not -- there wasn't an appetite for, and that's a broad-based tax increase. But it also allowed us to increase funds to educate our children and protect services for seniors as well as the most vulnerable. And overall we think that the investments that the Governor is making is going to lead to better schools for our kids, more resources into the classroom, more money for human services and some of the folks that have been struggling, and it's going to help us better educate the public about combatting the opioid abuse and heroin problem that we face, while also putting money into critical manufacturing and other programs.

So really how do we get there with the 2 billion in savings? We focused on making sure that we were closing loopholes and we were also making those corporations that aren't paying

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their fair share pay their fair share, in addition to the savings that we found.

The Governor's proposal has a common sense tax on natural gas companies. It closes loopholes for insurers that are changing their incorporation to avoid paying taxes, and it eliminates other special tax interest loopholes that the people of Pennsylvania don't have but some corporations do. And at the same time, it reduces our corporate net income tax rate to something that is more in line and more competitive with other states, while rebuilding our Rainy Day Fund, which is a paltry \$264,000 now to \$500 million by 2020.

So the Governor thinks that that was the right approach. It was a new way and a different way of doing Pennsylvania budgeting that didn't cut money from education or core services, but also took a hard look and made tough decisions on where we were.

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Now, while this budget does reduce spending and does find efficiencies in savings, it also increases our investments to education. Thus far, the Governor, over \$600 million under his leadership has gone to schools across the Commonwealth. Now with his current proposal, it will be over 100 million to Philadelphia alone. And in this budget, he is asking for \$100 million more for K through 12, \$25 million for special ed, and a \$75 million increase in pre-K and Head Start. He's also asking for an additional \$8.9 million for the 14 universities of our state system.

These increases combined would lead to \$27 million more for the School District of Philadelphia, 23.1 million in basic education, and 4 million in special ed funding. And Philadelphia would be eligible to receive a portion of the 8,400 new seats that would be available for high-quality early childhood

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2 education.

3 Additionally -- and I heard a
4 comment when the Congressman was
5 testifying. We have \$2 million for
6 alternative breakfast delivery models,
7 which could leverage \$20 million in
8 federal funds to make sure that our kids
9 eat breakfast, the most important meal of
10 the day, before they go to learn at
11 school.

12 Additionally, we also, as I
13 said, are investing in workforce
14 development. We have more money put into
15 job training and apprenticeships as well
16 as manufacturing. But one of the key
17 components that the Governor is very
18 proud of is the increase in the minimum
19 wage to \$12 an hour at the state level
20 given his proposal. Looking at that, we
21 believe that would bring in roughly \$95
22 million annually in increased revenue,
23 without raising tax rates. And also it
24 would reduce the number of individuals
25 that are right now rightfully --

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unfortunately relying on TANF and other state aid to make ends meet. This would be indexed and it would, we hope, make a significant step forward in trying to lift people out of poverty so they don't have to work two jobs just to put food on the table for their kids.

Additionally, on the human services side, I talked a little bit about some of the investment there. We will serve nearly 2,000 additional eligible individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism and expand childcare services to an additional 1,800 children in this budget. We will have \$20.4 million, our initial investment. We'll build on that for the heroin and opioid crisis and also have \$10 million to increase access to naloxone for first responders. And we are pulling down \$26.5 million from the federal government to make sure that we are investing in treatment to fight the heroin crisis.

So as I mentioned on the front

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end, this year's budget does take a new look at Pennsylvania's government in the face of chronic budget deficits. Our plan does have more than \$2 billion in savings, and it does avoid broad-based tax increases. While we are reducing spending and finding efficiencies, we are enhancing the delivery of services, providing funding for schools, and also making sure that we're taking care of our seniors, the disabled, while maintaining public safety, transportation, and other essential programs upon which working families and the middle class depend.

This budget does, we believe and the Governor believes, truly represent a new way forward for Pennsylvania and a different approach for Pennsylvania's families.

And I'd be happy to take any questions that folks may have. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, sir. Council President will be back

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2 in a minute, but let me just ask, how do
3 the actions of the federal government
4 impact the Governor's proposed budget?

5 MR. BRUNELLE: They certainly
6 have the potential to impact it greatly.
7 If --

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I'm
9 assuming not positively, right?

10 MR. BRUNELLE: Yeah, in a
11 negative way. I mean, if you take a
12 look, if they were to block grant
13 Medicaid, if you're talking about
14 repealing the Affordable Care Act, we are
15 looking at \$3 billion annually plus that
16 our state budget would not be able to
17 account for, and really the choice then
18 is which taxes and revenue raises are you
19 going to go after or are you going to
20 make sure that -- are you just going to
21 leave 700-and-some-odd thousand people
22 who have now expanded access to Medicaid
23 out in the cold without any services?
24 Are you going to reduce services for
25 those that are currently dependent on it?

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2 It could significantly impact our budget
3 situation and make it grow, our deficit
4 grow, by at least double.

5 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

6 Obviously not good news, but kind of what
7 we expected, I guess.

8 How would a cut or change in
9 Medicaid impact counties, would you say?

10 MR. BRUNELLE: I think, again,
11 you'd see increased caseloads, less money
12 going to the City or to the county. I
13 think that that's going to force a choice
14 on people, are you going to raise local
15 taxes or is the state going to find new
16 ways to replace that funding.

17 I think in the current
18 political climate, it would be
19 catastrophic if that were to happen and
20 it really would leave Pennsylvania and
21 Philadelphians, in particular taxpayers,
22 to pick up the tab, and I'm -- we're not
23 sure that there's enough money to do that
24 given the current state of affairs in
25 Pennsylvania and across the country.

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2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: That was
3 going to be a follow-up, do you have any
4 contingency plans, but if there's --

5 MR. BRUNELLE: No. We are
6 working with our delegation to try to
7 think about ways in which we can try to
8 mitigate this, and we'll work with
9 republicans and democrats in the House
10 and in the Senate to try to address it.
11 However, a \$6 billion deficit, it's
12 really difficult to find the revenue
13 necessary to try to balance that, and I
14 think states across the country but
15 really Pennsylvanians need to know what
16 kind of impact this would have on people
17 here in the Commonwealth.

18 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: And
19 lastly real quick, and I know a couple
20 other members have questions. Kind of in
21 conjunction with what I asked Congressman
22 Boyle, and a couple other people touched
23 on it too, do you get the feeling that --
24 because those cuts are not just going to
25 hurt Philadelphia. They're going to hurt

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2 citizens all over. And is there a
3 feeling that in the Legislature, just
4 like I asked Congressman Boyle for the
5 Congress, in the Legislature are there
6 people who are understanding that even if
7 they might be sitting on the other side
8 of the aisle, that their constituents are
9 being heard too? It's not just a
10 Philadelphia or a city thing.

11 MR. BRUNELLE: I think there's
12 a recognition that what Washington does
13 could hurt everybody regardless of
14 republican, democrat or where they
15 represent, and the hope really is is that
16 we can avoid that type of calamity at the
17 federal level. But at the state level, I
18 think that's what this Governor's budget
19 was about. It was actually about being
20 bipartisan, without hurting essential
21 services.

22 We've received positive
23 feedback on this proposal -- obviously
24 there will be an iterative process -- but
25 from republicans and democrats, and we

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hope that folks will contact the members of the congressional delegation on the republican side too and say, Hey, this is the real impact that you're going to have on people's lives, so we can avoid it.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Got you.

Yeah. Thank you very much.

Councilman Green.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,

Councilman Greenlee.

Thank you for your time and being here and offering some information regarding at the state level some of the impacts we will see if some of these initiatives that have been proposed come to fruition in DC.

I'm curious from the Governor's perspective what type of efforts he's had in conversation with other governors. I know the President hosted a number of governors in the White House just very recently, and a number of governors, especially those even in red states who have accepted dollars under the

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Affordable Care Act through medicated expansion, have stated there will be very significant impacts to their state. I'm thinking of Governor Kasich in Ohio and other Midwestern states and other states throughout the nation.

Has there been conversations between Governor Wolf and other governors, especially either through the National Governors Association or just other organizations to say we need to kind of work together to lobby our federal delegation about the impact this will have in our states?

MR. BRUNELLE: Thank you for the question, Councilman. That's actually very timely, because he was -- the Governor is in Washington right now at the National Governors Association meetings, and this is one of the topics that has come up. I know that he has spoken with various governors across the country, democrats and republicans, about the impacts that these policies could

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have. I think that we are willing to work with whomever in other states and also republicans and democrats in Pennsylvania to send that message to congressional delegation, not only our own, which the Governor has already sent various correspondences about how some of these proposals could impact people that we all care about, but also working with others, be it in the Midwest, New England. Governor Baker I know he's had conversations with, with various folks, republicans and democrats. And it's something that I think many people are worried about that are state executives, because they will obviously have significant impacts on them as well. And we've been in touch, we've been in contact, and it's something the Governor is going to continue to do.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: And this afternoon we're talking about the impact that federal policies and legislation will have here in the City of

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Philadelphia and also in the
Commonwealth. We've had a very robust
conversation regarding sanctuary cities,
and I'm curious from where you are in
Harrisburg, if members of the General
Assembly from outside of some of the
more -- outside of Philadelphia have an
understanding of the impact that SB10
would have on their counties. One, by
opening them up to litigation possibly
from the perspective of voluntarily
holding someone who may or may not be
someone that should be detained, which
may open them to litigation, like in the
Lehigh County case where Lehigh County
was found liable for holding someone
after filing a voluntary retainer from
ICE and how if SB10 is passed or
initiatives like that will impact their
counties.

Do you get a sense that members
of the House and Senate in Harrisburg
have that perspective?

MR. BRUNELLE: I believe some

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do. I think that the Governor's perspective is very similar and in alignment with what you just touched upon, which is this is really unconstitutional in a lot of ways. And additionally what needs to happen is the federal government needs to address comprehensive immigration reform and do their jobs responsibly.

On the bill that you're talking about, I mean, taking money away from law enforcement, taking money away from state aid to school districts, that is very concerning to this Governor. He was opposed to the legislation previously in the last session, and I think that there are others that do understand that as well.

I do -- I am not sure, I cannot predict if the bill will pass and what the numbers will be, but the Governor is very concerned about the constitutionality of the bill, as well as some of the impacts and just does believe

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fundamentally that the federal government
should do what is long overdue and
address comprehensive immigration reform.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Last
question. We are going through the
budget process very shortly as well as in
Harrisburg and there is litigation that's
before the Supreme Court regarding fair
funding, and I noticed in your testimony
you talked about the increase, I believe,
of about \$100 million that the Governor
has put forth to provide additional
education funding. Do you have any
perspective -- I know you can't predict
the outcome of that case, but are there
steps to take action at the state level
from the executive branch if that
litigation turns out in a way where the
funding formula goes back to what
happened during the Governor Rendell
days, how that would impact the
Commonwealth and any idea as to how you
may proceed going forward with more
funding?

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2 MR. BRUNELLE: I think that
3 we're having conversations right now
4 about what potential impacts various
5 legal challenges would have on the
6 Commonwealth's finances and on schools.

7 I think the Governor believes
8 that we've taken a good step forward with
9 the over 600 million we've been able to
10 work together to get to restore the
11 previous administration's cuts and a fair
12 funding formula now, as well as taking a
13 look at how we can expand resources for
14 special ed, et cetera.

15 I think he believes it is a
16 long-term process. While 614 and what
17 would be close to \$750 million if the
18 Legislature does adopt this budget over
19 three years is historic, we still have
20 more to do to make sure that all of our
21 children receive an adequate education.
22 He's been committed to that since he took
23 office. And we're currently looking at
24 those impacts.

25 Given the current line from our

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general counsel, I won't comment specifically on anything that might be before the Supreme Court, but we are looking at contingencies, and we do believe we need to finally address adequacy, and he's trying to do that.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes Councilwoman Parker.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Thank you, Mr. President.

And good afternoon. Thank you so much for being here. I want you to know and let Governor Wolf know that we're praying for him. We really are in this environment.

MR. BRUNELLE: I will.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Because it's not an easy job.

Let me ask you the same question in the context of the way

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Congressman Boyle responded, repeal of ACA, even the funding of public education, all of these issues, not democratic or republican, impacting urban areas as well as rural communities. Have we seen any kind of advocacy coming from rural Pennsylvania signaling to us that it is just as concerned? And I want to be very careful about my framing. I'm not talking about simply the moral aspect of Pennsylvanians not having access to healthcare but the economic impact, because the Governor, along with D's I know -- I haven't heard it from republicans -- they have economically quantified the impact it will have in the Commonwealth. Is that message, that framing resonating?

MR. BRUNELLE: I think it is with some folks, I think it is with some hospitals, and I think it is with some insurers and some of the non-profits that help provide services. I mean, rural health is a very important thing to the

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Governor as well as expanded access to healthcare and to Medicaid, et cetera. And what we would see under block granting and under some of the cuts that the Congressman was talking about could -- well, it could lead to closed hospitals, lack of access in rural areas.

It could lead to some of our most important non-profits that deliver services not having the resources to continue to do so in suburban, rural or in cities. And I think that that is something that we hope that members of the congressional delegation and the President will understand.

The President was successful with rural, the folks in the last election. Some of the things that he's talking about would have a great impact on their lives and on some of our largest businesses. And so we are hopeful that folks will work together in Washington to avoid that, but it is something that the Governor is concerned about not only from

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a budgetary standpoint but to your point,
from a jobs standpoint and an economic
development standpoint. Some of these
hospitals and insurers and non-profits
and providers are the largest, I think,
vessels for job creation and where people
work in some parts of the Commonwealth,
and I'm sure that's true across the
country. So we hope that common sense
will prevail.

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER: Let me
just say I want to echo that and I want
to just turn our attention to two issues
that are now receiving a lot of
attention. One is sort of criminal
justice reform, along with the issue of
the opioid crisis. And when the cost of
corrections in the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania began to be representative
of a much larger portion of our General
Fund budget and began taking away revenue
that could have been invested in other
areas that were of concern to other
legislators -- I'm not talking about

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those who traditionally advocate in that area -- all of a sudden, it became an economic challenge. It's like the opioid crisis. When it was a city issue, an urban issue, a person of color issue, it was viewed as a criminal challenge. Now it is appropriately viewed, in my opinion, as an addiction, a mental health and from that perspective.

And so my hope is that we find some common ground with our conservative colleagues and we remove the labels. Although I know it's pretty unsafe now depending on what caucus you're in to say you're working on the other side of the aisle. But don't get weary. Continue to press on it, because hopefully cooler heads will prevail.

MR. BRUNELLE: Much appreciated, and I think the Governor is very committed to criminal justice reform and to also making sure that we're tackling this opioid crisis. It is something that touches every county, all

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67 in the Commonwealth, and people and families regardless of your background or where you live, and it's something that he believes that by working together we can lead the nation on tackling, but only if we have a comprehensive approach, one that treats it as the public health crisis that it is, while also looking at supporting law enforcement to overturn overdoses and also making sure that we're putting the proper dollars into a diversification of treatment so we can turn this around.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Council President.

Welcome. Thank you for being here. As you can imagine, the line of questioning and the severity of our concerns run deep and it touches on so many different areas of a citizen's life

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2 and has a devastating impact if what the
3 federal government wants to do -- let me
4 strike that and say what the executive
5 orders would like to do and what their
6 intent is. And we've talked a lot about
7 how the federal budget decisions are
8 poised to impact Philadelphia, and I'm
9 curious about from your perspective and
10 the perspective of the Governor's Office
11 how the State Legislature seems to be
12 targeting Philadelphia.

13 They're similar questions I've
14 raised and has been risen to Congressman
15 Boyle. What can we be doing to address
16 some of the budget impact of policies in
17 both the PA House and Senate?

18 MR. BRUNELLE: I mean, I think
19 just continuing to talk about how it
20 would have a negative consequence on the
21 people that are living in Philadelphia
22 and that raise families and work here. I
23 also think putting a face on it. I mean,
24 every dollar that we decide that we're
25 not going to spend on schools here,

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that's somebody's life. That's a kid that we're not teaching and providing an opportunity to. And I think the same can be said for healthcare or opioids or any of these pieces where we're not ensuring that everybody is getting their fair share.

And I also think and will say, Councilman, that the Governor does not agree with any attempts to try to usurp local municipalities' decisions to make policy for themselves, and I think that we've seen some of those things in Harrisburg as well.

And so I think continuing to advocate and talk about the impacts of some of the things that you've done proactively and how it's helped the City of Philadelphia and people across the spectrum, as well as continuing to let us know when you have challenges and whatnot. And the Governor is happy to make sure that we're doing everything we can to help the City and every county in

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2 the Commonwealth.

3 COUNCILMAN HENON: That is so
4 refreshing to hear, when we get the
5 runaround from other bodies, and I
6 appreciate that. Thank you for your
7 time. Thank you for your answer.

8 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
9 Thank you, Councilman.

10 The Chair recognizes Councilman
11 Green.

12 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
13 Council President.

14 I want to follow a little bit
15 on the line of Councilman Henon's
16 questions. I know the Governor received
17 a letter from the Mayor and from this
18 body regarding requesting a waiver
19 regarding our local medical marijuana
20 legislation that we passed on December
21 8th. The Governor stated for the record
22 that they're reviewing that legislation.
23 I would hope that he as well as
24 Dr. Murphy and Mr. Collins will look
25 favorably on our request. However, I

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2 will ask about a few other items.

3 I know the Governor was also
4 here with the Mayor for a press
5 conference and opposing the recent
6 abortion legislation that was passed in
7 the Senate, and I just wanted to get the
8 perspective on the administration whether
9 they were opposed to some of those other
10 initiatives that Councilman Henon was
11 talking about. In particular looking at
12 SB10 as well as SB128 dealing with sick
13 pay and SB241 which deals with the wage
14 equity bill, both legislation that was
15 spearheaded out of this body by
16 Councilman Greenlee. I wanted to know,
17 has the Governor taken a position on
18 these bills and would he be vetoing them?

19 MR. BRUNELLE: I know that the
20 Governor has taken a position on them and
21 he opposes them. The Governor supports
22 equal pay. The Governor supports when
23 you're sick not having to worry about
24 whether you can put food on the table or
25 whether you're going to be able to heat

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your home. The Governor also believes firmly in a local municipality's right to pass their own laws that benefit the folks that they represent and does not believe that the state government should be getting in the business of telling municipalities what they should and should not do.

So he's supportive on both of those issues. He opposes that legislation, and he thinks fundamentally that we should not be in the business of doing that. When local communities and governments pass their own laws, that they're in alignment with what the people that they represent want and need, and he understands the importance of both of those issues.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Last question. I have a son who is in the School District and I have a mother who taught in the School District for about 30 years, and so I have a very strong affiliation and support for the School

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District, and I'm concerned regarding another piece of legislation. I believe it's SB76 that would eliminate property taxes and switch it with a sales tax. I know it was very tight in the last session. However, it seems to be having more momentum now, and I'm concerned that would really put a very significant pressure here on the City of Philadelphia if that were to occur, as well as people in the City of Philadelphia in reference to education funding. I'm assuming the administration was following that legislation. At this point, have they taken a position regarding that legislation?

MR. BRUNELLE: The Governor has very serious concerns with Senate Bill 76, not only the way that the relief is distributed but also some of the increases in taxes on food and clothing. There's also no component to help a renter in that current iteration of the legislation.

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He clearly supports reducing and eliminating property taxes, if it's done right and it's done fair. He has very serious concerns with Senate Bill 76 and will continue to work with the General Assembly to find an alternative than what the current structure is. He's had productive and fruitful conversations with democrats and republicans, and he's made clear the concerns that he has and specifically his opposition to some of the taxes that would be levied as well as how the money would be driven out. And additionally I think that there's also a very big concern with the lack of assistance for people that don't own homes and that are renting and would be paying more.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.

Thank you, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

Mr. Brunelle, I just had a couple of quick questions. One is, the

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Governor's proposed budget includes a little more than \$2 billion in General Fund cuts and revenue enhancements. From time to time we have done cuts or suspension of decreases. Is this a one-time funding scenario or revenue reduction or is this like sustainable in terms of your ability to annualize these particular cuts?

MR. BRUNELLE: Thank you for the question, Mr. President. I think -- I know that if we were to pass this budget, if the General Assembly were to pass the Governor's budget in full, we would not have a structural deficit. We would not -- this would be a real solution to a chronic problem that we've been facing. We would have a surplus next year, and over the course of time we would also have additional annualized savings and revenue enhancements that would put us on a strong fiscal footing, and it would mean that we wouldn't have to govern from crisis to crisis year to

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year. And as I mentioned, it would also put \$500 million in a Rainy Day Fund that has less than \$265,000 in it right now.

So the Governor does believe that this is a balanced approach in a new way, and he hopes that his budget will get a fair shot and that instead of wholesale change to the very meticulous work that he did in looking through all of state government to find savings that don't impact people and education and seniors and the opioid crisis, that we can come to an agreement, because he thinks this is a real way to fix our structural problem.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So let me make sure I understand your response. If the Governor is successful in getting the entire package, then, yes, this is a short-term fix?

MR. BRUNELLE: This is not a short-term fix.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: So you believe that the reductions -- my

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question was that the consolidations and the cuts will be long term. My question was, is it a one-time annualized --

MR. BRUNELLE: So it is -- well, what I mean is, yes, these are cuts that would happen one time. If you look at some of the things in there, we're looking at complement and vacant positions. We're taking a look at some of early retirement options. We are talking a look at all places in the state government where we can reduce spending and looking at leases that the Commonwealth has that we're not getting a good deal on, consolidation of property, yes on the health and human -- new health and health services agency. That would be a permanent fix. We're looking at service delivery and coordination, and savings are realized through federalization of some positions as well as looking where we may be able to enhance the spending that we're currently doing on services. And we have increases

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in there for intellectual disabilities
and others.

I believe this would be a
permanent fix. This would not require --
so does the Governor. This would not
require additional cuts in the future.
When annualized, along with the revenue,
this would put Pennsylvania finally on a
strong financial footing, where we're
looking at services and kids and seniors
and the opioid crisis without what I
would argue would be counterproductive
cuts that occurred during the previous
administration where there was more block
granting, there was the billion dollars
that wasn't accounted for for education
funding, and that key investments weren't
being made over the course of those four
years. We think this solves our
structural issue without the need for
further cuts in the future.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All
right. Okay. One last question and I
believe that will wrap it up. I don't

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see anybody else teed up.

Deficits come and go and then people take different approaches when you raise taxes and sometimes you make significant cuts in the case of consolidation. One of the things that I like to talk about and other members of Council, we talk about growing the revenue base, not necessarily by raising taxes, by creating more opportunities, and I'm concerned when I continue to hear the State of Pennsylvania is one of the slowest jobs growth states in the country. Is there a real strategy that particularly can be bipartisan? Because we know you can't do anything without the other side of the table. Is there a strategy that will address that as opposed to essentially coming up with various taxing schemes and grow the revenue pie, something that everybody can get along with, somebody can get a consensus around? Do we have such a strategy?

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MR. BRUNELLE: I think the Governor thinks that investment in manufacturing, targeting our tax dollars in the right way for companies that are going to create good-paying jobs here, making sure that when we send taxpayers' dollars to a company, that the jobs are actually being created and folks are actually employed for the long term and not the short term, is another way to create a better business environment. He's also looking at different ways to streamline the process to start a business in Pennsylvania. He's looking at investment in apprenticeship programs so we have a well-trained workforce, that companies want to come to Pennsylvania because we have -- we are meeting the demand, which is another thing that we hear. And he's also looking at wages, and one of the biggest growing sectors is home and community-based care. He's investing and has a long-term strategy around that and helping to have a better

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trained workforce and really in that emerging area. And across the board, as I said, not be it how we spend our economic development money, how we hold folks accountable, how we expand the manufacturing program that we have in this Commonwealth, as well as looking at ways in which we can streamline processes and take a balanced approach on various industries that are coming to Pennsylvania, he thinks that we can get to a good place.

Since the Governor took office -- and one person without a job is one too many, but 82,000 more Pennsylvanians are employed and have jobs and more are seeking work than when he first took office. There's more that we have to do. That is not enough to just say, okay, we're all set. But more people are entering the workforce looking for work. More people are working than when he first took office, and some of the initiatives that he's put together to

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partner with businesses and invest in different types of education and training, vocational-technical programs, et cetera, over the course of his first two years and what he's proposed in this budget, which is really accountability, fairness, as well as economic investment strategies, he thinks can continue to move Pennsylvania forward.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Okay. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Domb.

COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you for your testimony today. Just a quick one for you. The Navy Yard was shuttered 20 years ago. Today there's 12,000 jobs. It's a Keystone Opportunity Zone. And I know that we sent up some sites for KOZs and they were turned down, I believe. But I'd like you to take the message back to the Governor that the KOZs for Philadelphia worked really well and we need them approved. So maybe you can

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2 bring that back for us.

3 MR. BRUNELLE: I'm happy to let
4 him know that you raised it. I think he
5 was -- he looked at the request. There's
6 a balance right now the Governor is
7 trying to make sure that he hits, in that
8 we do have a very large structural
9 deficit and we do not have enough
10 revenues to meet the need. However, I
11 think that he's shown his willingness,
12 the investments in the Philly port, et
13 cetera, to make sure that Philadelphia
14 has what it needs to create good-paying
15 jobs.

16 On this one, on this -- these
17 two specific cases -- I believe there
18 were two -- the Governor did look at it
19 and, again, that's not that he won't look
20 at it again in the future. It's just
21 given the current physical situation, it
22 was difficult to imagine moving forward.

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: One of the
24 detail to take back to the Governor, the
25 Urban Land Institute in April recognized

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2 the Navy Yard as the number one in the
3 country adaptive reuse of space in the
4 country in Philadelphia from a Keystone
5 Opportunity Zone. So I think they work
6 and I just hope you guys reconsider it.

7 MR. BRUNELLE: I will
8 definitely take that back to him.

9 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
11 Thank you, Councilman.

12 Mr. Brunelle, I want to thank
13 you so much. That concludes our
14 questioning. Thank you so much for
15 coming down. We look forward to seeing
16 you up in Harrisburg.

17 MR. BRUNELLE: Sounds good.
18 Invite me back any time you'd like.

19 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
20 Probably sooner than later, but we really
21 appreciate it.

22 MR. BRUNELLE: Thank you,
23 Mr. President, and thank you to all the
24 members.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

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Thank you.

Next up we will have our local
team led by Mr. Dubow.

(Witness approached witness
table.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh,
Mr. Brunelle, real quick. I asked the
Congressman and I'm assuming the answer
is going to be in the positive, the
affirmative, that would your office be
prepared to participate in a -- Stitt,
what do we call this thing, a rapid
response team, given the significant
changes and the pace of those changes, so
we can have somebody identified so they
can work with the federal, state, local
individuals, just kind of work our way
through some of the challenges associated
with some of these proposals. So it
would be helpful if you can give them.

MR. BRUNELLE: Absolutely.
Absolutely.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you. Thank you, sir.

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MR. BRUNELLE: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Good
afternoon.

MR. DUBOW: Good afternoon.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Mr. Dubow, how you doing, my friend?

MR. DUBOW: Okay. How are you
doing?

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Good, good, good.

MR. DUBOW: Good afternoon,
Council President Clarke and members of
the Committee. I'm Rob Dubow, Finance
Director for the City of Philadelphia.
I'm here to testify on Resolution 170038.
You've heard a lot already today, so I'll
be brief.

The resolution covers the
crucial issue of federal and state
funding in the wake of the presidential
election and in preparation for budget
season in Harrisburg.

Unfortunately, there is much
more that we don't know about the threats

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2 to the City's funding from Washington and
3 Harrisburg than we do know. What we do
4 know is that both the Trump
5 Administration, through an Executive
6 Order, and legislators in Harrisburg,
7 through proposed legislation, have
8 threatened to take substantial amounts of
9 funding from the City.

10 We also know that the
11 implications of such action could be
12 devastating. The City receives
13 substantial funding from the state and
14 the federal governments. Those dollars
15 help fund everything from services to
16 abused and neglected children to housing
17 to library services. They touch almost
18 every area of City government. The
19 fiscal note attached to SB10, state
20 legislation that would deny funding to
21 jurisdictions classified as refuge
22 cities, estimated that the City would
23 lose over \$630 million in revenue.

24 What we don't know is what
25 funds the federal and state government

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can actually withhold and what processes they will undertake to determine what funds will be withheld. The Administration has regular internal meetings to plan for how to respond to potential state and federal actions, but until there's more clarity around what those governments will attempt to withhold, we cannot provide more specifics.

That concludes my testimony.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have, and there are other members of the Administration who will testify in more specifics in areas like the ACA repeal.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Is there testimony or are they here in response to questions?

MR. DUBOW: There's testimony.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: Oh, there is?

MR. DUBOW: Yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: All right. We'll bring them up. We have Tom

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Farley, David Jones. Does everyone have
testimony? Ms. Fadullon and --

MR. DUBOW: We have a special
guest star in Mr. Jones' place.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Special guest, okay.

(Witnesses approached witness
table.)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I'm
sorry. Councilman and Councilwoman, you
have questions for Mr. Dubow?

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Yes.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Okay. Can we like briefly -- you want to
do it first, Mr. Dubow?

MR. DUBOW: However you want to
do it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
want to do that and then we'll hear the
testimony?

COUNCILMAN GREEN: I only have
one or two questions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Okay. Mr. Dubow.

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Go ahead.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,
Council President.

Mr. Dubow, I just wanted to
just briefly -- I saw the -- I believe
this is a sheet that you have offered to
put together regarding some of the
federal and state impacts, or maybe it
was done by the Council President's
staff. But regardless, my point is in
looking at your testimony, one of the
questions that we've had some
conversation regarding this issue was the
financial impact of some of the state
initiatives, in particular SB10 and
others. From my understanding, there was
a fiscal note attached to that
legislation, and from your calculations,
you had a different number than what was
identified in the fiscal note. Has there
been any type of perspective in reference
to your number versus where the fiscal
note was?

MR. DUBOW: So the number that

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we talked about previously was all state funding. We hadn't made an attempt to figure out what would and wouldn't be subject to SB10. Their number I think is what they think is subject to SB10, and we haven't seen detailed backup what's behind their number.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: And I think we both were discussing this as well as other individuals, that a lot of the dollars that we receive at the local level is based on a formula, and so it's kind of hard to see how -- those dollars are not discretionary like some of the other dollars would be discretionary. And I think the bulk of our dollars that we receive at the local level come by way of a block grant to the City of Philadelphia, which is less discretionary.

MR. DUBOW: Yeah. I think there's a lot of money received from the state that's formula or legislatively derived but, again, we don't know what

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they have in mind.

COUNCILMAN GREEN: Right.

Thank you.

Thank you, Council President.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilman.

The Chair recognizes

Councilwoman Gym.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you

very much, Council President.

Thank you, Mr. Dubow, for your

testimony. So one quick thing about

SB10, and I appreciate the fact that it's

hard to tell, because I think part of

this issue is that there's so much

uncertainty around it that contributes a

lot to the fear mongering around bills

like SB10 and the presidential orders

around broadly waving vague threats that

may or may not be able to be executed.

But SB10 does have a very unique kind of

condition, which was one of a number of

the things that they kind of laid out.

So one of them opens up municipalities to

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an unprecedented wave potentially of lawsuits, because it argues that if a municipality intentionally are not -- were to have an undocumented immigrant commit a crime, for example, they could sue the municipality. The victim of that crime could allegedly sue the municipality and hold that municipality liable. That could range anything from a fender-bender all the way up to whatever other kinds of crimes that might occur.

In your experience, has there ever been anything like that proposed that would so blanket open up municipalities to massive numbers of civil lawsuits?

MR. DUBOW: Just in my experience, nothing broader than that, I don't remember anything like that.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: You don't remember anything like that?

MR. DUBOW: But you're asking my experience particularly. I don't remember it.

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COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Other than
like that proposal that's in SB10.

MR. DUBOW: Right.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Right.

And in part that would mean
that SB10 would have unlimited levels of
liability for municipalities because
there would be no end potentially to the
kinds of lawsuits or conditions to the
kinds of lawsuits that municipalities
could be confronted with.

MR. DUBOW: I don't want to
speculate on that, so I don't want to...

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: I just think
that in particular, this opening up of
municipalities to civil lawsuits is
alarming for any city in the Commonwealth
or any municipality in the Commonwealth
and should not be just based around
similarly refugees, you know, sanctuary
cities or ones that are deemed to be
such, whether explicit or not. There are
a number of cities that simply don't do
this.

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So I think in the overall review of something like this, I think that that level of uncertainty is a big issue with laws that don't have any level of contained consequence, no projections, no real analysis of what the financial burdens can be on municipalities and really no protections of sorts.

MR. DUBOW: I completely agree.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

The Chair recognizes Councilman Henon.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you, Council President.

Strictly a process kind of question. I'd like to clarify for the public.

God forbid we are faced with any sort of reductions in our federal funding or our funding by the federal government in the state. So how will the City go about passing a budget that

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reflects those cuts, with the fiscal calendar I think being the challenge for us? We're before the state, and God knows when the federal government will pass its budget. It could go on to the end of the summer or the fall.

How are we going to balance a budget according to state law and our PICA requirements?

MR. DUBOW: So under the PICA Act, our Budget and Five Year Plan are supposed to be consistent with existing law. So in framing our budget, that's what we have to do. We have to make it consistent with the existing state law. So we're not going to speculate about what might happen as we put the budget together. It will be consistent with what's already law. And then as to how we'd react, it really depends on the timing of when something happens and what it is that happens, and since there's so much uncertainty, there are infinite number of scenarios for how we would do

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2 that.

3 COUNCILMAN HENON: Okay. Thank
4 you. I have no further questions.

5 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
6 Thank you, Councilman.

7 Mr. Dubow, you may want to hang
8 up here with the other individuals at the
9 table.

10 MR. DUBOW: Okay.

11 COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: You
12 have brief testimony? If you can kind of
13 summarize, it will be helpful. Thank
14 you. We still have another panel.

15 DR. FARLEY: Good afternoon,
16 Council President Clarke and members of
17 the Committee. My name is Dr. Thomas
18 Farley and I serve as Philadelphia's
19 Health Commissioner.

20 There are many policy actions
21 that are under discussion in Washington
22 that may have an adverse financial impact
23 on Philadelphia. I'll address the impact
24 of a repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

25 We do not know whether Congress

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will repeal the ACA and, if it does, what support for healthcare they would provide in its place, so I can't predict what will happen to Philadelphia. But I can speak about the successes of the ACA and the general impact of repealing it.

The ACA has succeeded in many ways. It has helped to slow the increasing cost of healthcare. It has encouraged people to seek care when they need it instead of waiting until their health is in crisis. And the ACA has made investments in public health and prevention.

But the ACA's greatest impact has been on increasing access to healthcare services. In Philadelphia alone, over 220,000 people now have health insurance as a result of the ACA. That's about one in six adults in Philadelphia. The law has accomplished this primarily through two mechanisms. The first is the expansion of the Medicaid program, which provides health

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insurance for people with low incomes.

Before the ACA, many people were too poor to afford private health insurance, but did not qualify for Medicaid. Under the ACA, Pennsylvania was able to expand Medicaid eligibility in 2015. By the end of 2016, over 160,000 more people in Philadelphia had coverage through Medicaid because of the ACA. This was in addition to the 483,000 people who already were enrolled in Medicaid before the ACA.

The second way the ACA increased access to healthcare was through the federal health insurance marketplace. As of last summer, nearly 60,000 Philadelphia residents purchased their private health insurance through this mechanism.

These Philadelphians were able to benefit from the greater affordability of a larger pool of people purchasing private health insurance together and from federal subsidies to make insurance

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more affordable.

If the ACA is repealed, these 220,000 Philadelphians who finally gained access to the benefits of health insurance will have it taken away. Some of these people will seek care in the eight primary care clinics operated by my department, which will stress those clinics. But many others will simply avoid healthcare because of the cost until their health problems hit crisis levels, at which point these people will seek care in hospital emergency departments. The hospital emergency departments will become packed with sick uninsured people, many of whom will have health conditions that have progressed too far to treat effectively. These hospitals will be obligated to treat them without being reimbursed, which will cause financial pressure for hospitals that serve as the City's safety net. The end result will be sicker people, higher mortality rates, and financial strain on

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the healthcare providers who serve the
people in greatest need.

And this is just the effect of
the ACA repeal on physical health
services. A repeal would also have
severe effects on treatment of mental
illness and substance use and place a
severe financial burden on the City. My
colleague in the Department of Behavioral
Health and Intellectual disAbility
Services will talk more about this.

Finally, as part of the repeal
of the ACA, Congress is considering
broader change to the Medicaid program,
including the parts of the program that
serve children, individuals with
disabilities and seniors. A key proposal
in the House would turn Medicaid into a
block grant or cap the funding for it.
This proposal would inevitably lead to
cuts in Medicaid funding for services in
Philadelphia. It will hurt the entire
group of over 600,000 Philadelphians
covered by Medicaid. If the federal

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government reduces its commitment to fully funding the program, the City will bear the brunt of the impact and have to consider diverting money from elsewhere in the City's budget to help those most in need.

Next I would like to describe a little known part of the ACA, the Prevention and Public Health Fund. This fund supports prevention of chronic diseases and, because of budget cuts to the CDC, also supports longstanding public health programs. These funds enable Philadelphia to ensure that infants and children are immunized against diseases like measles and meningitis. The Prevention and Public Health Fund helps to prevent lead poisoning in children. It allows our staff to investigate and contain outbreaks of infectious diseases, including Ebola, Zika, and antibiotic-resistant bacteria that causes infections in hospitals. It also

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supports our work to prevent the leading
cause of death - heart disease, stroke,
diabetes, and cancer.

If this fund is eliminated as
part of the repeal of the ACA, it will
put the health of Philadelphia residents
at risk by cutting funding to
Pennsylvania by 22 million per year and
cutting funding to the Philadelphia
Department of Public Health by
approximately 7.7 million per year.

But the Prevention and Public
Health Fund is not the only way the
repeal of the ACA could financially
impact City government and the Department
of Public Health. Because more
Philadelphians are insured through the
ACA, the City is able to recoup its costs
by providing care for more people. In
Fiscal Year 2018, the City expects to
receive about 15 million in Medicaid
service reimbursements for patients seen
in the City's health centers. Before the
ACA, more than half of the patients

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served in the City's eight centers were uninsured. Today that number is less than 40 percent and falling.

If the ACA is repealed, I expect the City will be less able to continue its trend of collecting more revenue to offset its investment in providing safety net healthcare services. This will place a greater burden on the City's General Fund, just when people are losing the other safety net supports the ACA offered.

The Department of Public Health strongly supports the Affordable Care Act in the ways it has benefited Philadelphians.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you and be happy to answer any of your questions.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you.

If you state your name for the record and then proceed with your testimony, please.

MS. ERNEY: My name is Joan

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Erney. I am the CEO of Community Behavioral Health. I am here on behalf of Acting Commissioner David Jones, who did intend to be here today but really due to family circumstances asked me to sit in on his stay.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services really is impacted tremendously, both positively through the ACA and will be very challenged if the ACA goes away without a replacement. As you've heard, there really is uncertainty, but what I'm going to try to lay out for you very briefly is really what the ACA has offered us for mental health, substance use, and intellectual disability services, some of what the impact could be if it went away, and some ideas about what we really should insist on on any replacement.

First and foremost, people with serious mental illness had been discriminated in their ability to be able

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to get health insurance on the commercial side for many, many years. The advent of the behavioral health parity and then with the ACA, the insistence of essential benefits, recognizing the importance of mental health and substance use services, as well as eliminating pre-existing conditions, has made a significant impact on the ability of individuals with diagnosis of serious mental illness to then achieve healthcare.

In the past prior to that, they all defaulted to our public sector and really, again, had stress on our Medicaid and on our uninsured resources. This has allowed those individuals to be now covered and to be able to actually continue in private health insurance.

Also for young adults, which is often the advent of serious mental illness, they are able to stay on their parents' insurance up until age 26, another opportunity for commercial insurance to pay their fair share and not

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have these individuals have to default
into the public sector.

So those have all been
extraordinary, positive implications of
the ACA.

Obviously coming from the CBH
side, the influx of individuals who are
now covered through the expansion has
been really mission critical. We now
have over 600,000 individuals who are now
covered by Medicaid in Philadelphia.
That's a startling number. And of those,
over 100,000 are really related to --
160,000 really have come in through the
Medicaid expansion. About 25 percent of
those individuals are using mental health
and substance use services. We see an
amazing use of substance use,
particularly in the terms of non-hospital
rehabilitation services, IOP, which is an
intensive outpatient program for
substance use. We also see use of
psychiatric inpatient and other community
services. So these are not folks who are

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not utilizing services. We suspect they were sitting out there and had high needs, but they now are able to access services.

The other thing that the ACA has really given us the opportunity to do is allow for individuals to become and be part of their communities through permanent supportive housing. These tend to be all single adults who otherwise would not be insured. The housing -- our housing partners provide that underlying housing unit, and we provide the treatment services that allow that individual to be able to live more independently.

Clearly we've also been with Dr. Farley participating in the Mayor's task force around opioid use and abuse, and, again, these are individuals who really are getting their insurance through now the Medicaid expansion, otherwise either uninsured or drawing on our really very limited resources for the

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2 uninsured.

3 And then, finally, the ACA has
4 given us this opportunity to really
5 support the closure of the Norristown
6 civil side as well as work on the
7 forensic issues that have emerged with
8 Norristown State Hospital.

9 So really, in essence, the loss
10 would be devastating. Not to suggest --
11 I mean, first to suggest that we would
12 lose -- or 160,000 individuals would lose
13 Medicaid coverage is obviously first and
14 foremost. Again, 25 percent of them are
15 using mental health and substance use
16 services. But we would have to then roll
17 back our investments into the other
18 opportunities around supportive housing,
19 for persons in the core services that --
20 the core services that they're receiving
21 would no longer be available to them
22 under the Medicaid program, and obviously
23 the other resources we have are capped
24 and limited.

25 So just in conclusion, if we

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would have an alternative to the current ACA, things that we think are absolutes, that shouldn't be negotiated. First off, Medicaid expansion needs to stay in place and available to those individuals who qualify; really a commitment to parity and the essential benefit package; again, first-time recognition of mental health and substance use as critical components of any healthcare system; coverage option for young persons up to age 26. That again has really allowed for individuals to stay part of their commercial plan. And the elimination of pre-existing conditions. Again, that has been something that has been incredibly important for people with serious mental illness.

Thank you very much for allowing me to testify. I'm open for any questions.

COUNCILMAN HENON: I will make sure that Mr. Jones knows that you did a fantastic job here today. So thank you.

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Good job.

Can you state your name for the
record and proceed with your testimony.

MS. FADULLON: Good afternoon,
members of the Fiscal Stability and
Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee.

I'm Anne Fadullon, Director of the
Department of Planning and Development.
I'll present testimony on behalf of the
Administration pursuant to Resolution No.
170088 -- 038. Sorry. I should have
printed this out in a larger font.

In Planning and Development,
federal and state funds primarily flow to
the Division of Housing and Community
Development. And so my testimony will
focus on the impact of funding cuts for
whatever reason to DHCD.

It must be noted that all of
this is speculative given that we have
received no notice of any specific
finding cuts at this time.

Most of DHCD's funding comes
from the federal government as the

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Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, or HOPWA, and Emergency Solutions Grant. Our state funding comes through the Department of Community and Economic Development's Keystone Communities program. As you know, the City of Philadelphia and this Council have made a significant commitment of local dollars by creating and then expanding the Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund.

In the current fiscal year, DHCD received \$38.8 million in CDBG, 8.4 million in HOME funds, 7.3 million in HOPWA funds, and 3.5 million in Emergency Solution Grant funds. DHCD is also currently implementing \$2.6 million in state funds. The Housing Trust Fund contributes approximately \$11 million annually to DHCD's activities.

I want to note that Philadelphia has already seen significant cuts over the last 15 years.

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Philadelphia in 2017 receives barely half of the CDBG and HOME funds it received in 2002, \$47 million instead of \$88 million. Over those 15 years, Philadelphia lost a total of more than \$350 million in federal funds. Given our average leveraging factor of four, this has resulted in a loss of over a billion dollars in housing funds coming to Philadelphia over this period of time, not adjusted for inflation.

Our goal with any reduction in funding will be to maintain our rental production, home improvement, housing counseling, and tenant-based rental assistance programs. These programs produce new homes, keep people in existing homes, and leverage non-City dollars. Focusing on these programs is a priority for us.

We will also continue to implement the goals and strategies identified in the Assessment of Fair Housing prepared by the City and the

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2 Philadelphia Housing Authority.

3 I just want to note that today
4 we got official recognition from HUD that
5 our plan has been accepted and adopted.
6 We are the first major city to do this.

7 Improving housing options and
8 access to opportunities is a core value
9 of the City, and we remain committed to
10 achieving those goals.

11 In addition to federal funding,
12 the state provides approximately \$2.5
13 million annually to DHCD that assists
14 both people with disabilities and people
15 with high utility payments.

16 DHCD uses this state funding to
17 make homes accessible for people with
18 disabilities through the Adaptive
19 Modification Program and to make energy
20 efficiency improvements to homes with
21 high energy bills under the
22 Weatherization Assistance Program.

23 Philadelphia and its residents
24 have already been negatively affected by
25 substantial funding cuts of the past 15

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2 years. Additional cuts will have a
3 serious impact.

4 I'm happy to answer any
5 questions that you may have.

6 COUNCILMAN HENON: Well, thank
7 you for your testimony.

8 The Chair recognizes
9 Councilwoman Gym.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yes. I just
11 wanted to thank everybody for your
12 testimony and especially it's good news
13 to hear that the housing plan was
14 accepted in this day and age. So it's
15 important for folks to know that we are
16 still able to move forward on a handful
17 of things and that we shouldn't let kind
18 of the fear mongering and uncertainty of
19 all these threats to paralyze us in terms
20 of going forward and keeping on a path
21 that we believe to be the right one for
22 our residents in particular.

23 I did want to bring up one
24 thing with regard to Mr. Dubow's
25 testimony, because it is really important

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to me that people understand the fullness of why Philadelphia has the policies that it has in place in particular. And in particular I think that there's just sensible things that we do here. There are only two things that may actually qualify us as a sanctuary city. One of them being that we simply do not request that our police officers ask residents questions about their immigration status in the due course of their duties. And for the federal government to require police officers or our state to require police officers to ask those kinds of immigration questions could be a violation of how we look at federal and state powers and why we're doing these things also that police don't have access to all of this information.

But the second one is also that we simply do not comply with ICE requests to detain residents just simply based on a suspicion of whether someone may have violated immigration laws without a

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2 warrant. And I don't know, Mr. Dubow,
3 whether you have looked at the case of
4 Galarza in 2014 from the federal Third
5 Circuit, which ruled that Pennsylvania
6 municipalities -- localities rather can't
7 hold individuals any longer based on an
8 ICE detainer request without a warrant
9 and that because Lehigh County chose to
10 do that with, it turned out to be, a U.S.
11 citizen, Puerto Rican born, that locality
12 was sued by that individual, \$95,000 for
13 that individual for being held for only
14 three days at the county level, \$25,000
15 against Allentown, the City of Allentown.
16 And it is important for us to understand
17 that SB10 and the President's Executive
18 Order or whatever threats that are out
19 there potentially again opens up
20 municipalities not only to just -- it's
21 just an unprecedented level of civil
22 lawsuits that I don't think any
23 responsible legislative body should ever
24 want to voluntarily assume. Is that
25 fair?

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MR. DUBOW: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

Councilwoman.

Any other questions for the
panel that's here today?

(No response.)

COUNCILMAN HENON: Well, thank
you. Thank you so much for your
testimony.

We will now move on to our next
panel. Is Harvey Rice here? I thought I
seen Harvey Rice. If you want to come
up. And you're going to be joined by
Jeff Garis, Carol Rogers, and Kusema.

(Witnesses approached witness
table.)

COUNCILMAN HENON: And before
we get to our actual third panel,
Mr. Rice, I want you to go first because
it's kind of a continuing of the
conversation on our last panel, and then
we will start with our next speakers.

So if you state your name for

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the record and proceed with your
testimony, please.

MR. RICE: Harvey Rice.

Good afternoon, Councilman
Henon and members of the Committee. My
name is Harvey Rice. I'm the Executive
Director of the Pennsylvania
Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority,
known as PICA. I am here to speak on
Resolution 170038 relating to federal and
state funding to the City of
Philadelphia.

PICA was created by the
Commonwealth in 1991 as an independent
authority to oversee the finances of the
City of Philadelphia, create a long-term
financial planning process, and assist
the City out of a financial crisis
through a \$1 billion bond issuance.
While PICA bonds remain outstanding, PICA
exercises an oversight and advisory role
on the fiscal and budgetary affairs of
the City.

PICA was created not only to

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ensure that the City maintain a balanced budget and a responsible financial planning process, but also to foster sound budgetary practices. In accordance with this mandate, PICA has issued reports examining major challenges to the City's long-term financial stability.

The resolution at hand seeks to assess the financial impact of state and federal funding on the City of Philadelphia based on immigration policies and others at both levels of government. Unfortunately, PICA does not have sufficient details or specifications on how the federal or state governments intend to pursue their proposed actions of withholding funding from the City. PICA is only aware that an Executive Order at the federal level and a proposed bill passed by only one house of the Commonwealth Legislature seek generally to limit funding to the City based on broad policies, including immigration.

The assessment of the exact

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amount of funding that either the state or the federal government may withhold is a complex question that will require input and clarification first on the part of federal and state officials, followed by legal consultations regarding the requirements of each grant in question to determine what funding may be withheld. To date, there has been very limited information communicated by government officials disclosing which grants may be affected. As a result, currently there is not sufficient basis to determine the amount of money the City of Philadelphia may lose based on the proposed federal or state actions.

However, PICA advocates that the City convene finance and budgetary professionals, as they have previously done on other fiscal matters, to regularly assess the potential financial impact as federal and state actions develop and to create a contingency plan as needed.

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In the event of a financial variance or a material change, such as a loss of revenue, PICA would require the City to plan accordingly and submit a budgetary action plan that would restore the City's overall compliance with the Five Year Financial Plan.

This concludes my testimony.
I'm happy to answer any questions.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you, sir.

Councilwoman, do you have a question for Mr. Rice before we move to the next panel?

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Yes.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.
Councilwoman Gym.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you so much, Mr. Rice, and I appreciate PICA's work. In particular I've often felt that it's been an important aspect for PICA to be not only helping the City of Philadelphia become more financially responsible, but also to be a conduit

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about our finances out to the broader
public and particularly to the state.

I think you heard me, though,
speak earlier to concerns about SB10 in
particular and about the federal
government, and in particular what I
think is important for PICA to do is not
simply to punt on an issue that is too
vague. I actually think that there are
things that are happening within the bill
that are absolutely unprecedented in
terms of opening up municipalities to
unprecedented waves of civil lawsuits
that simply make it impossible for any
municipality to actually consider itself
to be even remotely financially viable if
those were to go through. And in part it
has been really vague areas where people
who become victims of any kind of crime
could then sue the municipality in which
that crime took place, including the fact
that we already have precedent at the
federal level in which people who are
held without detainers are able to then

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sue the county and the municipality for
punitive damages incurred at the cost of
unconstitutional detention and illegal --
I don't know what you call it. Like
illegally holding somebody without any
kind of a warrant. And because of that
and because we actually have figures
associated with the Galarza case, do you
not feel that PICA should be making a
statement?

I think that in part Rob Dubow
made it very clear that he's never seen
legislation that opens up municipalities
to the kind of wave of civil lawsuits
that SB10 very clearly -- even if it is
very vague about what could actually be
projected, the threat to a city like
Philadelphia and to any other
municipality in the state is that it is
unlimited. And in part I am asking
whether PICA would take a stand and say
that it is, one, completely unprecedented
to open up municipalities to this kind of
level of civil lawsuits and threats

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2 without regard for boundaries or anything
3 like that and, second, that it's
4 irresponsible for -- it just cannot be
5 responsible state action for them to
6 allow to do that. And rather than simply
7 tell us to make contingency plans on
8 things that we think are absolutely
9 financially devastating doesn't
10 necessarily seem to be the role that I
11 hope PICA would play. Like I hope PICA
12 would play a strong role in telling the
13 state like you cannot allow particular
14 selective municipalities to be singled
15 out in this particular way to
16 unprecedented and certainly, in my
17 opinion, ungrounded levels of this kind
18 of lawsuits. I think we would limit that
19 and that PICA would issue a statement
20 around that if that were to be the case
21 in other areas.

22 So I am wondering why not say
23 things like that and make that clear to
24 the state, that this is particularly
25 dangerous to Philadelphia's financial

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health, and as a steward of the state,
you need to let the state know that this
kind of exposure simply is unprecedented
and exposes us to a level of civil
litigation that we cannot really -- we
can't protect ourselves from essentially.

MR. RICE: No. That's a fair
question. I don't know if you realize,
Councilwoman Gym, that PICA has been
concerned not on this issue of civil
lawsuits but on the rise of the City's
exposure over the years, indemnifications
and lawsuits. So this is something that
we should look at and we will look at,
because it's just an extension of our
concern how those costs have been rising
and how that money to pay for them is
taken from other services.

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: And I think
you've been particularly good on that,
and that's why I would ask if you could
in particular take a look at those
elements of SB10 that expose
municipalities to that kind of thing,

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because you have been good on that in other areas. I was surprised that that would not be included, but if you could take a look at that, I think that that would be appreciated and that we need that to ensure that our city and the state acts responsibly.

MR. RICE: Anything we could do to put this bill -- stop it, we would be able to --

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: How about putting it on ice?

COUNCILWOMAN GYM: Thank you very much, Mr. Rice.

COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank you.

No other questions. Thank you, Mr. Rice. Thank you for hanging in there.

Why don't we have the panel -- speaking about hanging in there, you've been here for about three hours. Thank you. As you can see, we're getting late in the day, so any comments you have and

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then any questions we might have, I
appreciate it.

Please, whoever would like to
go first. Don't be bashful now. Please
identify yourself and proceed.

MR. GARIS: Sure. I want to
first say thank you to President Clarke
and also to members of Council for this
opportunity. My name is Jeff Garis and
I'm the Outreach and Engagement Director
for the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy
Center.

The Budget and Policy Center
fosters broadly shared prosperity,
economic, racial, and gender equity, and
environmental sustainability in
Pennsylvania by means of non-partisan
research, policy analysis, public
education and advocacy, and coalition
building.

Since January, Congress has
been moving slowly to repeal the
Affordable Care Act of 2010, sometimes
referred to as Obamacare. That effort

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2 has been slowed by substantial opposition
3 to this action, opposition that has been
4 encouraged by a detailed look at the
5 impact of repeal on the lives of
6 Americans.

7 There is much that is uncertain
8 about the repeal effort. We do not know
9 whether any repeal legislation will
10 actually be enacted this year. We don't
11 know which parts of the ACA Congress may
12 keep and which it may repeal. We do not
13 know whether Congress will enact some
14 kind of replacement for the ACA either at
15 the same time as repeal or later. We do
16 not know what that replacement could look
17 like.

18 In light of that uncertainty,
19 what we as policy analysts can do is put
20 forward our analysis of the costs of
21 repeal based on our best guess of what
22 repeal will look like. PBPC produced an
23 analysis of the impact of repeal in
24 Pennsylvania last month. Our analysis
25 was based on the most recent repeal

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legislation that passed Congress but was
vetoed by President Obama in 2016.

Because there is almost total uncertainty
about what a replacement would or could
look like, we did not analyze any
replacement, but simply looked at what
happens if central parts of the ACA that
enable people to secure insurance are
repealed.

What we found is simply
horrifying. Repeal of two key parts of
the ACA, the Medicaid expansion and the
tax credit subsidies for insurance on the
healthcare exchanges, would cause more
than 1.1 million Pennsylvanians to lose
the health insurance they receive through
these programs. An additional 3,525
premature deaths will occur each year as
a result.

Our best estimates is that over
200,000 Philadelphians will lose health
insurance as a result of repeal of the
ACA. About two-thirds of them will lose
their health insurance as soon as the

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repeal of Medicaid expansion takes effect, with the remainder becoming uninsured by the end of the second year after repeal. An additional 778 people will die prematurely each year in Philadelphia.

Most of those who lose insurance will be people who have recently secured it through either expanded Medicaid or through receiving tax credits to purchase health insurance on the new health exchanges or marketplaces. However, the kinds of repeal contemplated by Congress will likely throw the entire individual health insurance market into chaos. Among the over 200,000 Philadelphians who will lose their insurance will be some who have purchased health insurance in the individual marketplace for years and without any subsidy. We estimate that over 10,000 of those people will find their current health insurance unaffordable due to the effects of the

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ACA repeal.

Hospitals statewide will see their revenues decline by almost 1.6 billion annually. Doctors will see a drop of 500 million in yearly revenue. Some hospitals and physicians' practices, especially in urban centers and rural areas, may not survive.

Philadelphia hospitals bring in about 25 percent of all hospital revenues statewide. Between 2013 and 2015, the revenues of Philadelphia hospitals increased by 900 million. If their loss of revenues due to ACA repeal is proportionate to loss of revenues statewide, they will lose \$400 million annually. But Philadelphia hospitals may suffer more because they care for many patients with low incomes. Under the ACA, the rate of uncompensated care provided by Philadelphia hospitals declined from 2.8 percent in 2013 to 2.4 percent in 2015.

Repeal of the ACA will cost

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over 50,000 Pennsylvanians their jobs,
reduce the state's gross domestic product
by over 30 billion, and cut state and
local tax revenues by \$1 billion over
five years.

We at PBPC have only a limited
capacity to make projections about the
impact of ACA repeal on the economy and
tax revenues in Philadelphia. We can
only estimate the proportional impact of
ACA repeal on the City based on its share
of the state's population and total state
and local tax revenues. On that basis,
we believe that repeal of the ACA will
cost Philadelphia in the neighborhood of
5,000 jobs and \$50 million in tax
revenues over five years.

Repeal of the ACA will add over
\$1.4 billion to the state's structural
deficit. Unless taxes are increased to
cover that debt, the result will be
reduction in state expenditures, mainly
in the areas of education and human
services. Philadelphia will suffer

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2 greatly in any general reduction in such
3 spending.

4 We do not make any projections
5 based on any replacement of the ACA by
6 another proposal because we know little
7 or nothing about what such a proposal
8 would look like.

9 That's my testimony. Thank
10 you.

11 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
12 you. It puts it in stark terms; does it
13 not?

14 MR. GARIS: That's why we
15 entitled it "Devastation, Death, and
16 Deficits" as the name of the report.

17 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: I won't
18 disagree with that.

19 Who would like to go next?
20 Carol, you want to go after that
21 uplifting testimony?

22 MS. ROGERS: We're going to
23 give joint testimony.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: However.
25 Just please identify yourself and

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2 proceed.

3 MR. WARRAKAH: Thank you for
4 the opportunity to testify today. My
5 name is Kusema Warrakah. I'm President
6 of the Board of Directors for the City
7 centers.

8 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Maybe a
9 little closer to the microphone, if you
10 could.

11 MR. WARRAKAH: Sure.

12 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
13 you. Go ahead.

14 MR. WARRAKAH: My name is
15 Kusema Warrakah, President of the City
16 health centers.

17 MS. ROGERS: And my name is
18 Carol Rogers. I'm the Vice President of
19 the Board of Directors of the City health
20 centers.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Okay.

22 MR. WARRAKAH: We are
23 testifying today on behalf of the Board
24 of Directors of the City health centers
25 made up of patient representatives from

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eight health centers and seven at-large
members from Philadelphia.

As members of the Board, we
know how important the health centers are
to the health of the people of
Philadelphia. Each year more than 70,000
Philadelphians depend on our health
centers for their healthcare, making
about 300,000 visits per year. The
health centers provide high-quality
healthcare to any Philadelphian
regardless of insurance status or money
to pay. We provide care to women, men,
and children of all ages, ranging from
primary care, internal medicine,
preventive care, pediatrics, dental care,
prenatal care, family planning, HIV care,
and mental healthcare. These really are
patients who are largely poor and highly
unrepresented.

Patients at the health centers
value their care. In a 2015 survey of
the health centers, 92 percent stated
that they would recommend the health

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centers to their families and friends.

MS. ROGERS: During the first year of the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act, the increase in insurance for patients at our health centers was modest. Because their incomes are low, only 1,500 health center patients were eligible to enroll in the federal marketplace during the first year. We were deeply disappointed that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not take up the offer of the ACA to expand medical assistance in 2013 when it was first available. Yet still, the health centers were here to provide services to those regardless of insurance status or money to pay.

In January 2015, when Governor Wolf took office, among the first things he did was to expand medical assistance to the full extent allowable by the ACA. We were overjoyed. Finally, the people were able to get health insurance, enabling them to get the care that they

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need.

And just to put this in context, 167,000 Philadelphians have enrolled in medical assistance as of January in Philadelphia.

Before the expansion of medical assistance, medical assistance was only available in Pennsylvania to those with disabilities, parents of young children, and those very low income. The expansion of medical assistance has made it possible for those living up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, approximately \$16,600 a year for an individual or 33,000, close to 34,000 for a family of four.

Since the expansion of medical assistance to Pennsylvania, the uninsured rate in the health centers has gone from more than 50 percent before 2015 to its current level of less than 40 percent uninsured. While at first glance this may not seem like a lot, understand that many new patients present to the health

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centers without insurance before they
have enrolled in the program. In
addition, significant numbers of health
center patients do not meet the
requirements of the ACA.

Through the work of benefits
counselors located in each health center,
all eligible persons are assisted in
applying for health insurance. This work
has resulted in approximately 10,500
additional insured patients through
HealthChoices, Pennsylvania's medical
assistance expansion program, for a total
of nearly 30,000 additional reimbursed
visits to the health centers.

Before the medical assistance
expansion, the City health centers
provided care to approximately 17,000
people with traditional medical
assistance insurance. With the
additional coverage of medical assistance
expansion through the Affordable Care
Act, the health centers provide care to
25,500 people covered by medical

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assistance, for a total of nearly 76,000 visits each year.

A repeal of the Affordable Care Act, especially its provision of medical assistance expansion, will have dire effects on the reimbursement levels of care provided by the City health centers. One of the republican-sponsored replacements for the ACA, Medicaid block grants, would have crippling effects on the care of not only those 10,500 patients who have gained coverage through the ACA, but on all of the people covered by medical assistance, those with disabilities and very low incomes. Per capita caps would maintain access to insurance but not adequate insurance, and everybody would go back to being underinsured.

Health improvement improves the quality of lives for those who have it and reduces their chances of dying prematurely. We hope that the ACA is not repealed but instead is improved.

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2 The ACA has provided peace of
3 mind and great healthcare to so many
4 people, and we've worked very hard to
5 make sure that every eligible person
6 knows how to apply for insurance. We
7 finally started to see improvements in
8 insurance coverage and access to needed
9 care in Philadelphia.

10 The City health centers are
11 needed now more than ever. In our city,
12 nearly 24 percent of us are in fair or
13 poor health, 15 percent of us have
14 diabetes, 38 percent of us have high
15 blood pressure, and we are home to
16 shocking racial disparities in premature
17 deaths, life expectancy, and preventable
18 hospitalization. More than 13.4 percent
19 of us, lowest in the nation, have stated
20 that we were unable to get healthcare
21 when we need it because we were unable to
22 pay for it, the lowest rate of any of the
23 largest US cities, in part because our
24 City health centers have been there to
25 provide high-quality care. The health

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centers have meant so much to thousands of Philadelphians, the difference between good health and suffering from complications, complications all the more tragic because they are preventable.

Regardless of what happens to the Affordable Care Act and the medical assistance expansion, we know that we can depend on you to provide adequate support for the City health centers, and we are counting on it.

Thank you.

MR. WARRAKAH: I'd just like to add also that the ACA has made guarantees for our patients. There are ten categories that are essential for their health, including outpatient care, hospitalization, prescription drugs, preventive services, and rehabilitation, lab services, maternity care, pediatrics. Furthermore, they are prohibited from putting lifetime on annual payment limits of these benefits, the health insurance companies.

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There's also cost-free preventive services for patients, and this covers, as you know, a lot of things that our patients need. These include colonoscopies, mammography, vaccines, diabetes screening, wellness visits. There are 15 such services for men, 32 for women, 26 for children, 120 for -- the ACA is such an important program that our patients cannot afford to lose.

MS. ROGERS: Thank you so much for the opportunity to present testimony today.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you. Thank you so much. So I guess we can pretty much sum up today's hearings by saying the old saying in NASA, Houston, we have a problem, and I guess we could say, United States, we have a problem.

I want to thank you all for your role outside of government, so to speak, in terms of providing the necessary support and advocacy. It is

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clear that we need to educate people outside of our normal group. We kind of talk to ourselves, but I think that when you look at what's happening across the country in different forms, people are coming to the realization that some of the approaches towards radically changing the way that services are delivered, that people are kind of looking and saying, You know what, they're talking about me. They're talking about taking away my healthcare and all the other services that I'm used to that I'm happy to be able to have. And I think people like yourselves, probably more than elected officials, because sometimes politicians, according to some, we kind of speak out of both sides of the mouth, but people that are in the trenches are people that do the hard work every day and I think the average citizen will feel more comfortable and more accepting of your perspective.

So if we can as a government,

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because we do have resources, put you in a better position to get your message out, you know, we have these websites and all the other things that we do, stuff that I had no clue about, but fortunately I hire smart people that can do that, or setting up forums where you can speak and talk to the broader public, we really would like you to let us know.

MS. ROGERS: We will. You'll hear from us very soon. Yes. Thank you for the offer.

MR. WARRAKAH: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: I had a feeling that was going to be a positive response to that. But this is some scary stuff and, as I said earlier, we're in unprecedented times and the simple reality is that this can change the face of our country significantly if all of these drastic measures get enacted. So we're hoping for the best, but at the end of the day, we do have to prepare for the worst.

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So I want to thank you so much
for your support, and thank you for being
here today. Sorry for the long delay,
but as you can see, this is a very --

MR. WARRAKAH: We appreciate
the opportunity.

MS. ROGERS: We're totally used
to it.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you.

MR. ROGERS: We're used to
being at the end.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE:
Thank you so much. We really appreciate
your testimony.

MR. WARRAKAH: Thank you very
much.

MR. GARIS: Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CLARKE: This
completes our witness list for today.
There being no one else in the Chambers
to testify on this resolution, there
being no other questions and comments,
this Committee will stand in recess to

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2 the call of the Chair.

3 I want to thank you all very
4 much.

5 (Committee on Fiscal Stability
6 and Intergovernmental Cooperation
7 concluded at 4:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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