

Boscola Offers Amendments to Give Voters a Voice on Reproductive Freedom, School Property Tax Elimination and to Expand Non-Discrimination Protections in State Constitution

By Joe Kelly

HARRISBURG, PA – State Senator Lisa M. Boscola today offered amendments to Senate Bill 1 that would give voters the opportunity to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to protect an individual's right to reproductive freedom, eliminate the local school property tax and to expand the classes of individuals protected under the Constitution's non-discrimination clause.

"I have always favored hearing from the people," Senator Boscola stated. "Our power in this body emanates from them, it is the basis of our Constitution. I trust the voters."

As part of the consideration of Senate Bill 1, which would place 3 constitutional amendments before the voters of the Commonwealth, Boscola offered separate amendments to the bill that would allow the voters to amend the State Constitution.

First, Senator Boscola offered an amendment in response to the US Supreme Court's decision that placed abortion rights in the hands of the states. Specifically, the Boscola amendment would protect an individual's right to reproductive freedom in Pennsylvania including the right to an abortion, prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, miscarriage management and infertility.

"Depending on the situation, citizens of this Commonwealth face these reproductive choices alone or with the support of family or friends," Boscola stated. "Under this amendment, an individual making these decisions will not have our legislature make that for them."

Second, Senator Boscola offered an amendment to amend the Constitution to eliminate real property taxes for homesteads and farmsteads after June 30, 2028, and require the legislature to come up with a plan to replace those revenues.

"Here we are, with the so-called purpose of moving these constitutional amendments so early in the session to meet the "priorities" of the people," Boscola stated. "To me, there is no g□

"It is time we modernize the way we pay for our schools," Boscola added. We all talk about how student's zip codes shouldn't determine the quality of a student's education. The only way we will fix this broken, antiquated system is if we are required to. This session we seem to have several constitutional amendments that are high priorities for members of the legislature. This amendment would be a high priority for every homeowner and farm owner in this Commonwealth."

Finally, Senator Boscola offered an amendment to amend the Constitution to expand the number of classes that would be protected under the Constitution's non-discrimination clause to include sexual identity, sexual orientation, identity or expression, national origin, the color of one's skin, age, ancestry, religious creed, familial status, or disability. Boscola noted that the Commonwealth's voters are supportive and familiar with providing these protections based on the fact that in 2021, voters approved an amendment to prohibit discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

"It is equally important that this chamber give Pennsylvanian's the ability to answer this question as well, and prohibit discrimination based on these classifications," □ . This amendment aims to do exactly that."

Unfortunately, the three amendments were tabled by a vote of 27-21. The Senate Democrats once again stood together to try and move forward issues of impor-
tance□

"Anyone who knows me knows that I will never give the up to fight to protect reproductive freedom, eliminate the local school property tax and prohibit discrimination against our residents," Boscola stated after the votes to table her amendments. "I believe in the voters of the Pennsylvania to do the right thing. It is why I support ballot initiatives and referendums to give the po□



BROOK HOLLOW
WINERY & EVENT FACILITY

Quilts in the Vineyard

EVENT DETAILS:
May 20-21, 2023 from 12-6pm
Brook Hollow Winery, 594 State Route 94, Columbia, NJ
Enjoy a day at the vineyard featuring an exhibit and boutique by the Evening Star Quilters Guild! Handmade quilts and wine gifts will be available for purchase. Live music along with a beautiful landscape while supporting the arts!

ADMISSION INCLUDES:

- Charcuterie board with cheese, nuts, meats and crackers
- Guided Wine Tasting including 12 wines
- Etched wine glass to keep and bring back for free tastings.

SCAN FOR TICKET PURCHASE

Two Healthcare Offerings at NCC Helping rebuild our healthcare workforce

By NCC

BETHLEHEM, PA - Northampton Community College (NCC) is offering Nursing Reactivation and Review Programs to help RNs and LPNs get back into the field. NCC's reactivation programs are designed for nurses who want to reinstate their licenses, international nurses looking to practice in Pennsylvania and nurses who have been away from practice and want to update their skill-set. The program includes classroom and clinical labs. Practice Review programs are designed for graduate nurses preparing for the NCLEX or for nurses to review basic nursing knowledge and incorporate information on more recent technological advancements.

Each of the programs run this spring from January 30 – May 8. The location for elements within the programs will vary from distance learning, on-ground portions at the Fowler Family Southside Center in Bethlehem, and/or offsite locations. To enroll, please visit the course catalog on www.northampton.edu/nursingce or call 610-332-6585.

NCC is also offering a comprehensive Phlebotomy Technician course in the fundamentals and practice of phlebotomy (blood specimen collection), at both their Monroe and Fowler Campus, to prepare students for the national certification exam. This course will start February 13 at the NCC Monroe Campus in Tannersville, and February 14 at the NCC Fowler Family Southside Center in Bethlehem.

Lecture topics include venipuncture, capillary collection, safety, medical terminology, orientation to the clinical laboratory and health care, specimen handling and processing as well as vital signs (T, P, R, BP, pulse ox). Students spend 120 hours practicing blood collection techniques under supervision. The student then must complete 100 successful venipunctures in a minimum of 80 hours at a clinical site.

Upon completion of the course, students are eligible to sit for national certification examinations and may seek employment as phlebotomists. To enroll, please visit the course catalog on www.northampton.edu/healthcarecerts or call 610-332-6585.