

## **January 2020 Community Strengthening Archives:**

### **PA 211 Day: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

February 11th is PA 211 Day! This year we achieved statewide access and launched PA 211 Counts, a real-time tracker of the community-specific needs Pennsylvanians are seeking.

The PA House and Senate also proposed resolutions designating February 11th, 2020 as “PA 211 Day”!

[211 Day Toolkit.](#)

[Rep. Culver’s House Resolution 701](#)

[Sen. Browne’s Senate Resolution 289](#)

### **1/29/20: Public Charge Rule Can Now Go Into Effect Nationwide:**

The Supreme Court lifted the temporary stay on the public charge rule this week, allowing the Department of Homeland Security to begin using the new public charge rule while processing green card and visa applications in the U.S. The public charge rule pertains to some people who apply for a green card (lawful permanent residence) or a visa to enter the U.S.. These people must pass a “public charge” test – which looks at whether the person is likely to use certain government services in the future. In making this determination, immigration officials review all of a person’s circumstances, including their age, income, health, education or skills (including English language skills), and their sponsor’s affidavit of support or contract. They can also consider whether a person has used certain public programs

The Department of Homeland Security [announced](#) that it will begin implementing the rule on February 24, 2020. This means that the new public charge rule will be applied to green card and visa applications submitted on or after February 24, 2020 by applicants subject to the public charge grounds of inadmissibility and whose applications will be processed in the U.S.

Most people who are eligible for public benefits can continue to receive public benefits without any risk to their immigration status. Lots of people are exempt from public charge entirely. Even those who are potentially subject to public charge can safely receive almost all of the benefits they are eligible to receive. Medicaid, SNAP (“Food Stamps”), HUD public housing, and “Section 8” housing benefits received before February 24, 2020 will not be considered in the public charge determination.

[Information Resource:](#)

### **1/17/20: Human Trafficking: House panel advances Senate human trafficking bill.**

A house panel on Tuesday voted unanimously to approve the Senate-passed bill aimed at curbing consumer demand for the services of human trafficking victims.

The House Judiciary Committee approved Senate Bill 60 which seeks to sharply increase penalties for both those who traffic victims and solicit those victims.

United Way of Pennsylvania has sent a letter of support to Senator Phillips-Hill and Representative Grove for this legislation. Fighting human trafficking has become a UWW priority and is apart of the UWP agenda.

### **1/28/20: State Housing Tax Credit SB 30 Passed the Senate.**

On Tuesday 1/28, the PA Senate passed SB30. The State Housing Tax Credit (SB30) is modeled on the highly successful federal low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) program. The LIHTC program is responsible for 90% of affordable rental construction and renovations in the country. In Pennsylvania, LIHTC is oversubscribed: for every three applications received, only one is funded. Combining federal and state programs creates efficiencies by aligning these limited resources.

### **1/27/20: Human Trafficking: PA House Passes Anti-Human Trafficking Bill Package**

A seven bill package was approved on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to combat human trafficking. This included Senate Bill 60, the so-called “buyer beware” measure which seeks to curb consumer demand for human trafficking victims.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness month and this anti-human trafficking bill package is a victory for UWW priorities and the UWP agenda.

Please remember to thank your legislators on social media!

Example: Thank you Senator/Representative for your vote to #EndHumanTrafficking.

#LiveUnited #UnitedWayPA #UnitedWay(local)

[Human Trafficking Awareness Month Social Media Images](#)

State House Representatives that did not support or were absent during the Anti-Human Trafficking Bill Package vote.

#### **NAYS – 4**

Innamorato, Sara (F)(D); Lee, Summer (F)(D); McCarter, Steve(D); Rabb, Christopher(D)

#### **PRESENT-NOT-VOTING – 0**

#### **ABSENT – 12**

DeLuca, Anthony(D); Everett, Garth(R); Gainey, Ed(D); Galloway, John(D); Gleim, Barbara (F)(R); Kim, Patty(D); Kortz, Bill(D); Kosierowski, Bridget (F)(D); Mako, Zachary(R); Millard, David(R); Miller, Daniel(D); Sims, Brian(D)